



**ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP  
HOUSING & SOCIAL MOBILITY**



**Title:** All Party Parliamentary Group on Housing and Social Mobility

**Purpose:** To champion social housing providers that support communities to secure sustainable livelihoods. To examine evidence led insights into the role that government, housing providers and stakeholders can play to best support social housing tenants and communities to access long-term, rewarding employment.

**Meeting:** Meeting Minutes of AGM held on Thursday 28th April 2022, 11.30-12.00

**Attended**

Peter Aldous MP	Member, Co Chair
Liz Twist MP	Member, Co Chair
Stephen Timms MP	Member
Jessica Morden MP	<i>Part meeting only - for quorate purposes during Election</i>
Mary Glendon MP	<i>Part meeting only - for quorate purposes during Election</i>
<b>Secretariat</b>	
Lynsey Sweeney	Managing Director, Communities that Work
<b>Guests and Speakers</b>	
Jenny Riddell-Carpenter	Director at Cavendish Advocacy
<b>Observers</b>	
Lindsey De Bartolo	Minute Taker, Torus Foundation (by recording)
Tom Yeldon	Office of Peter Aldous MP
Simon Whelband	Office of Jane Hunt MP

**1.0 Welcome & Introductions**

The Co-Chair, Peter Aldous MP welcomed all and opened the business of the AGM at 11.33am.

Apologies submitted:

1. Lord Kerslake
2. Ian Byrne MP
3. Sally Ann Hart MP
4. Peter Gibson MP
5. Ben Everitt MP
6. Selaine Saxby MP



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**2.0 Co-Chairs Address**

**Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair**

- Thanks to Lynsey Sweeney, Communities that Work and Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, Cavendish Advocacy for the good work that has been done in highlighting the role that social housing can play in improving social mobility.
- It was noted that over the next year or so, as society grapples with the cost-of-living crisis and recovers from the covid pandemic the sector will have a very important role to play.

**3.0 The Year in Review and the Year Ahead: Lynsey Sweeney, Managing Director, Communities that Work and Secretary to the APPG.**

The Secretariat, Lynsey Sweeney began by thanking new member Stephen Timms MP for the support received this year.

Approximately 2 years ago, the APPG ran an Inquiry on housing and employment and one of the things it called for was the devolution and the local stake in employment and skills funding and decision making. Amongst this, there were other calls around infrastructure (supporting travel, childcare etc). In the two years that have passed, through the UKSPF we are seeing devolution of a lot of people and place funding, regeneration support and to some extent the employment and skills plans for local areas.

Whilst we are still in transition during this time, the UKSPF has now been published and there is a role for social housing in delivering those local investment plans in lead areas. The task is now to forge those relationships between lead authorities on the UKSPF and in the housing sector in that broader role, it is beginning to have through Homes England in regeneration.

The Secretariat closed noting that we are now moving into a year where we will try to make good on the opportunities in UKSPF and try to draw social housing ever closer into the regeneration agenda whilst working with lead authorities.

**4.0 The Election of Officials: Chairs and Vice Chairs**

The Secretariat confirmed that there was 11 members of the APPG, all have been contacted to review their position for the coming year.

One member, Ben Everitt MP confirmed he will be stepping down from the APPG, largely due to a primary APPG he is servicing.

Quorate was confirmed and the membership elections were confirmed as below.

**The following officers were unanimously re-elected:**



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Peter Aldous MP  
Liz Twist MP  
Richard Bacon MP  
Bob Blackman MP  
Sally Anne Hart MP  
Jane Hunt MP  
Sir Bob Kerslake  
Kevan Jones MP  
Ian Byrne MP

**The following officers were unanimously elected as new members:**

Stephen Timms MP (Vice Chair)  
Selaine Saxby MP (Vice Chair)

**All members unanimously agreed to re-elect the following officers in Co-Chair roles:**

Peter Aldous MP, Co-Chair  
Liz Twist MP, Co-Chair

**5.0 Housing and Social Mobility: A perspective on the priorities for the APPG in 2022/23, by Jenny Riddell-Carpenter, Director at Cavendish Advocacy**

The Secretariat welcomed, Ms Riddell-Carpenter and handed the meeting over for the keynote address.

- Ms Riddell-Carpenter shared data that had been recently commissioned through Cavendish Advocacy in February 2022. Results were from just under 90 MPs on a range of subjects.
- The first data slide presented the response to the question 'Which, if any, of the following do you think the UK's top three housing and development priorities should be for 2022?'
  - The top three answers selected were 'Building more affordable homes for lower income people'; 'Making existing homes greener and more energy efficient'; and, 'Ensuring that the design of new homes and neighbourhoods are of a high standard.'
  - The question was asked due to an interest in the priority of fire and building safety to apartment blocks – with the result that it was low on the priorities for 2022, with only 25% of respondents indicating it as one of their top three priorities. Notably, this figure rose to 65% for London MPs.
  - Another data slide evidenced that when the responses were broken down by party it shows a slightly different story.
    - Building more affordable homes for lower income people (49% Conservation / 84% Labour)



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- 'Making existing homes greener and more energy efficient', which is something the government are advocating shows less of a support from the government MPs than the opposition (22% conservative / 56% Labour)
- However, when the environmental issue is reframed in 'Protecting the green belt from further housing development' it has much more support from the Government (49% Conservative / 28% Labour).
- CBI / You Gov Public Polling (Feb 2022) – What are your priorities for the Spring Statement?
  - 'Tackling the cost-of-living crisis' and 'Tackling the energy price crisis' came out as priorities across all voters irrespective of their voting preference.
  - Investing in Net zero came out as a low priority.
- Returning to the MP survey, the MPs were given a number of issues to choose from and asked to choose their top three priorities in their ESG approach. Climate change and net zero was chosen as the top priority by the majority of the MPs.

### Questions from Members

- The Co Chair, Peter Aldous MP asked whether re-framing the questions regarding home insulation and fire prevention measures, with regards to saving revenue (with cost of living bills etc) would result in a different response.
  - Ms Riddell-Carpenter agreed and confirmed that there was second piece of polling out around the de-carbonisation and retrofitting agenda for social homes, and the cost saving coupling net zero and fire safety together.
- The Co Chair, Liz Twist MP asked if there were any takeaways for the APPG to refocus the work, in order to get more people to more involved.
  - Ms Riddell-Carpenter noted that keeping employment and social housing, and levelling up right at the fore is a good focus, relating to cost of living. The role that Housing Associations have, knowing their communities, and where investments are best targeted, is critical;
  - The Secretariat noted that the task as a sector was to gain support from the APPG parliamentarians to draw that partnership of social housing, and lead authorities on social funding.
  - The Secretariat discussed changing the name of the APPG to 'Social Housing and Levelling Up' 'Social Housing and UKSPF', or 'Social Housing and Employment'. This could be considered for two reasons:
    - There is a APPG on Social Mobility, and we are very closely named on that.
    - We could be clearer on what we are about.



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- Ms Riddell-Carpenter advised that having a specific 12-24 month focus and clarity on the work and what outcomes it wants to achieve is key to a successful APPG. There is a voice and space for an APPG like this to provide leadership on the cost-of-living crisis and economic prosperity.
- Liz Twist MP agreed with the points made by Ms Riddell-Carpenter and the Secretariat.
- Secretariat and Ms Riddell-Carpenter asked for time to consider the name of the group and suggested lead activities, to feedback to the Co-Chairs by email.

**Action:**

- 1. The Secretariat and Jenny Riddell-Carpenter to review the focus and name of the group and consult with the Co-Chairs and Members with their recommendations and views.**
- 2. Secretariat to submit AGM Minutes and annual form to the relevant Parliamentary office.**

**6.0 AOB & Close**

The meeting was closed at 12 noon.