

## **APPG on Limits to Growth AGM**

6<sup>th</sup> June 2022, 15.00  
Room M, Portcullis House

Notes of the meeting

### **Voting parliamentarians present:**

Caroline Lucas  
Alex Sobel  
Patrick Grady  
Rupa Huq  
Janet Daby  
Robert Goodwill

The group duly re-constituted the APPG and elected the following officers:

Chair - Caroline Lucas MP – Green  
Vice-Chair – Clive Lewis MP – Labour (in absentia)  
Officer – Patrick Grady MP – SNP  
Officer – Sir Peter Bottomley MP – Conservative (in absentia)  
Officer – Barry Gardiner MP – Labour (in absentia)  
Officer - Baroness Claire Tyler MP – Liberal Democrat (in absentia)

### **Report on activities over the last year:**

The APPG was quite active over the last 12 months, largely due to the funding that CUSP received from the Laudes Foundation to support APPG work. This work included several private members briefings, collaboration with other APPG's, various briefing papers and letters to the Chancellor.

### **Upcoming proposed events and members areas of interest:**

2022 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club of Rome's Limits to Growth report which is being followed up by a report and book 'Earth4All' in late summer. This is the ideal opportunity to revitalise the Limits to Growth debate. The Club of Rome are very keen on holding a UK launch in collaboration with the APPG on Limits to Growth. It is agreed by all that a public event will be held as soon as the week commencing 12<sup>th</sup> September. The APPG will invite a minister to respond and seek other high-profile speakers to attend.

Other upcoming relevant items include a review of the system of national accounts with a focus on an international move away from growth as a measurement of GDP. This provides a strong

link to an international agenda of re-thinking measurement and what this means for the ONS and the relationship with government. Members expressed an interest in new measures of GDP to be accepted both across government and internationally across society, therefore, publications and an event around this, either public or a private MP briefing, should be planned by the APPG. Timing of these could be coincided with other events such as G7/G20 and links made to the UN runway to 2025.

Other areas of focus for members which the APPG should explore included the context of global planetary limits within both ecological and climate considerations, how it would look economically to de-couple from fossil fuel reliance and matters around alternative and sustainable housing methods.

### **APPG Personnel**

It has been particularly useful to the APPG having a Policy Officer role in CUSP funded via the 'Bringing Postgrowth into Policy' project funded by the Laudes Foundation. This role is now unfilled; therefore, it would be beneficial to source additional resources to recruit someone to drive the process of supporting APPG members with EDM's, assisting with APPG letters, identifying and supporting organisation of events and finding areas of synergy across parliament.

### **Events since the last general meeting:**

#### **29 Apr 2021, 2.30pm | Rebuilding Prosperity | Annual General Meeting and Private Policy Briefing,**

After private Group business, including the electing of officers, we were joined by experts on the use of alternative economic models and metrics to define, measure, and deliver sustainable prosperity. Our guest speakers were **Prof Henrietta Moore**, Director of the UCL's Institute for Global Prosperity, who will be presenting recent work on the UK's first citizen-led Prosperity Index, and **Christine Corlet Walker** from the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity who set this index in the context of broader frameworks for measuring prosperity. It was an opportunity for MPs to learn about the latest thinking in this area within the UK and internationally, and how it can be applied in public policy.

#### **13 July 2021 | Tackling growth dependency in the welfare system—The case of adult social care | APPG meeting,**

Launch of a new policy briefing on growth dependency in the welfare system, focussing on adult social care. This draws on in-depth interviews with economists, policymakers and practitioners in social care and other parts of the welfare system.

#### **25th Oct 2021 | Beyond the Debt Controversy | Pre-spending review briefing on financing, levelling-up and climate goals**

The roundtable was co-hosted by the *APPG on Limits to Growth* and the *APPG on the Green New Deal* and started with a short presentation of a [new briefing paper](#) prepared by Prof Tim Jackson and Dr Andrew Jackson at the Centre for the Understanding of Sustainable Prosperity (CUSP). *Beyond the Debt Controversy* argues that with appropriate monetary policy and close attention to 'functional finance' there is sufficient fiscal space for the Government to meet its goals of levelling up the UK regions and reaching our climate goals without resorting to austerity. Confirmed respondents include *The Guardian's* senior economics commentator Aditya Chakraborty, and UCL's Emeritus Prof Victoria Chick, one of the world's leading scholars of Keynes and monetary economics. This is a private meeting for MPs and Peers. For enquiries, please get in touch via email at [appg@cusp.ac.uk](mailto:appg@cusp.ac.uk).

### **Publications since the last general meeting**

#### **Tackling growth dependency—the case of adult social care | Briefing Paper**

Jul 13, 2021

On 13 July 2021, the APPG on Limits to Growth launched the fourth briefing in our policy paper series, which provides a framework for identifying, analysing and transforming growth dependencies in the welfare state. Using adult social care as our case study, we explore how growing demand, rising costs and rent seeking can create growth dependencies, and how to tackle them.

## **Placing sustainable prosperity at the heart of the economic recovery – a new Beveridge report | Letter to Cabinet Office minister Michael Gove**

Aug 2, 2021

The APPG has written to the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Minister for the Cabinet Office the Rt Hon Michael Gove MP, to set out recommendations to the Cabinet Office for commissioning a new Beveridge report, to research and consult the public on the innovations required to ensure public policy is fit to address the UK's most important needs for the twenty-first century.

## **Beyond the Debt Controversy—Fiscal and monetary policy for the post-pandemic era | Briefing Paper**

Oct 25, 2021

In the years since the financial crisis, a heated debate has broken out amongst macroeconomists about the appropriate roles of fiscal and monetary policy in managing public sector debt. This briefing introduces the main lines of argument on both sides of the controversy. It finds i.a. that a return to fiscal austerity would be both dangerous and unjustified and that moving beyond ideology is key to the levelling-up agenda.

## **Tackling predatory financial practices in the adult social care sector | Briefing note for second reading of the Health and Care Bill**

Dec 6, 2021

The Health and Care Bill has its second reading in the House of Lords on Tuesday 7 December. Coinciding with a new Panorama investigation, Crisis in Care: Follow the Money, this briefing proposes three ways in which the Health and Care Bill should be amended to tackle the harmful impacts of financialisation in the care home sector.

## **Tackling predatory financial practices in the adult social care sector | Briefing note for Health and Care Bill Committee stage amendments 237, 238 and 239**

Jan 21, 2022

This briefing note covers Health and Care Bill Committee stage amendments 237, 238 and 239. They seek to address the use of predatory financial practices by private sector firms operating in the adult social care sector. They have been tabled by Baroness Bennett of Manor Castle and were discussed on 4 February 2022.

## **Targeting Sustainability—A review of the UK Government's outcome delivery plans | Briefing Paper**

Jan 31, 2022

In July 2021 the UK Government introduced a new system of outcome delivery plans (ODPs), designed to improve its focus on the delivery of key national priorities. This briefing examines this initial collection of ODPs, and holds it up to the findings of previous research on good practice—especially relating to the environment and wellbeing (sustainable prosperity) agenda.