



Annual Report 2008 – 2009



Group Membership

(as at December 2009)



Chairman

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP

Vice Chairmen

Lord Chidgey
Nigel Evans MP

Treasurer

Lord Berkeley

Secretary

Graham Brady MP

Secretariat

Secretariat services are provided by the Institution of Civil Engineers, at their own cost. The ICE lead for the APPGI is Vernon Hunte, Senior Public Affairs Executive.

Members of Parliament

David Amess MP
Clive Betts MP
David Borrow MP
Tim Boswell MP
Christopher Chope MP
Stephen Crabb MP
Claire Curtis-Thomas MP
Mark Field MP
James Gray MP
Patrick Hall MP
Stephen Hammond MP
Kelvin Hopkins MP
Bernard Jenkin MP
Robert Key MP
David Lepper MP
Kerry McCarthy MP
Rt Hon Elliot Morley MP
Edward O'Hara MP
Mark Oaten MP
Paul Rowen MP

Members of the House of Lords

Lord Boyd
Lord Browne of Madingley
Lord Davies of Coity
Lord Evans of Parkside
Lord Gordon
Lord Grocott
Lord Howie of Troon
Lord Jenkin of Roding
Lord MacDonald
Lord Mawhinney
Lord Methuen
Lord O'Neill of Clackmannan
Lord Tanlaw
Lord Taylor of Holbeach
Baroness Valentine
Lady Wilkins
Baroness Young of Old Scone

Foreword by the Chairman

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP



Welcome to the first annual report for the All Party Parliamentary Group on Infrastructure (APPGI). The group was formed on November 17 2008 “to highlight the importance of infrastructure to the economy and to society, and to hear expert speakers and discuss matters arising.”

With a diverse, cross-party membership, consisting of Members of both Houses of Parliament, the All Party Parliamentary Group on Infrastructure is united by a belief that our national infrastructure is key to ensuring the country’s economic, social and environmental wellbeing.

During our first year, the Group has held an active programme of meetings and events to highlight the importance of infrastructure. These have included a tour of the Crossrail route, a debate on the future of airport infrastructure and a visit to the Olympic site in Stratford. Further details of all of these activities can be found later in this report, as well as on our website at www.infrastructuregroup.org.uk.

We also held a joint meeting with the former All Party Group on Construction Skills with a view to closer working between Parliamentarians concerned both about construction and related skills training.

Finally, on behalf of all Members, I would like to say how grateful we are for the help and support of the organisations and individuals who have worked with us during the past year, and in particular the Institution of Civil Engineers. We hope that they will continue to support the group.

The All Party Parliamentary Group on Infrastructure will be reformed after the General Election with current and new Members of Parliament and Peers. However, until then, we have much work to do and I look forward to having your support during the coming year.

Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP



Members visited the Olympic Stadium at Stratford. The new 80,000 capacity venue will form a key part of the 2012 Olympic legacy.

Review of 2008 – 2009 for the APPGI



Inaugural Meeting

17th November 2008

The inaugural meeting of the APPGI dealt with the procedural aspects of forming the Group, in accordance with the requirements of the Registrar of All Party Parliamentary Groups. This included the election of the Group's officers, confirmation of the secretariat arrangements and discussions surrounding the potential programme for the coming year.

Following a short discussion between the Members present it was agreed that the focus of the Group would include transport, water, energy and the 2012 Olympics as well as the wider national infrastructure.

Inaugural Parliamentary Reception

14th January 2009

With over 65 attendees, including parliamentarians and industry representatives, this reception was the first opportunity for the APPGI to meet following its formation. Issues surrounding infrastructure investment, planning and delivery were discussed.

Dr Scott Steedman, Vice President of the Institution of Civil Engineers spoke, welcoming the formation of the Group and using the opportunity to reveal the findings of a new survey into the public's perception of infrastructure and what they see as investment priorities. The Chair of the Group provided those attending with a short presentation on the importance of civil engineering as the profession delivering the infrastructure needed for the 21st century.

Conservative Shadow Transport Minister, Stephen Hammond MP, talks with Nelson Ogunshakin, Chief Executive of Association for Consultancy and Engineering



Tour of the Crossrail Route

16th March 2009

Keith Berryman, Land and Property Director of Crossrail, briefed Members on the progress of the project, as well as the challenges and benefits of Crossrail during a tour of the route through Central London. The Group visited several London Underground stations during the tour, to see how they would be developed as a result of Crossrail.

As the most significant addition to the transport network in London and the South East in recent years, Crossrail will be one of the world's largest civil engineering projects. When fully operational, it will bring an additional 1.5 million people within a 60 minute commute of the capital's financial district.



Keith Berryman, Land and Property Director of Crossrail (left) with Members outside Farringdon Station, which will be redeveloped as part of the Crossrail project

Airport Infrastructure Debate

30th March 2009

This meeting of the Group focused on some of the technical and operational considerations for airport infrastructure, including location, ground access and compliance with environmental requirements.

Presentations were made by Peter Budd, Global Aviation Leader at Ove Arup and Laurie Price, Director of Aviation Strategy at Mott MacDonald to a select audience from industry and other interested parties, as well as Members of the APPGI.

Annual Summer Reception

14th July 2009

With a theme of 'Construction Skills for the Future', the annual summer reception for the APPGI was hosted by the Institution of Civil Engineers at their Westminster Headquarters. This event provided an opportunity for informal discussions around a wide range of infrastructure issues, with a particular focus on skills.

Speakers at the reception included Tom Foulkes, Director-General of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Mark Farrar, Chief Executive of Construction Skills and the Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP, Chair of the APPGI and Vice Chairman of the Construction Industry Council.

This event also marked the occasion where the APPGI took over the focus and legacy of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Construction Skills. Given the importance of construction skills in creating and maintaining an effective national infrastructure, we believe that this was a sensible approach for both Groups, and one which will ensure that such issues are coherently and consistently addressed in a single forum in the future.

Visit to the Site of the London 2012 Olympics

16th July 2009

Members of the APPGI visited Stratford to see the progress of the work taking place at the site of the London 2012 Olympics. The tour, led by Howard Shiplee, Director of Construction at the Olympic Development Agency, included visits to the Olympic Stadium, the Olympic Village and the Aquatic Centre.

The London 2012 Olympics will leave a lasting legacy both in terms of actual infrastructure improvements and with respect to the maintenance and development of the skills and abilities required to undertake large scale infrastructure projects in this country in the future.



Members visit the Olympic Site in Stratford



Tom Foulkes, Director General of the Institution of Civil Engineers, welcomes guests at the summer reception

Review of 2008 – 2009 continued



Party Conference Receptions: Building a Low Carbon Economy

September and October 2009

During the party conference season, the APPGI, with the support of the Institution of Civil Engineers, Construction Industry Council and ConstructionSkills hosted receptions at all three major party conferences. The main speakers were Dr Vince Cable MP at the Liberal Democrat event; David Kidney MP, DECC Minister and Rt Hon Nick Raynsford MP at Labour; and both Peter Luff MP and Stephen Hammond MP at the Conservative event.

All three receptions provided an opportunity for politicians to come together with policy makers, party activists and professionals from within the industry to have informal discussions on many of the topical infrastructure issues that we are faced with today.



At Labour conference in Brighton, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change David Kidney MP speaking about the UK's responsibility to meet carbon targets.



Chairman of the Commons Business and Enterprise Committee, Conservative MP Peter Luff, speaking regarding the need to invest in engineering skills and the important role of the construction sector during his remarks in Manchester.



Deputy Leader of the Liberal Democrats and Shadow Chancellor Vince Cable MP addresses the Bournemouth reception, calling for proposals for a UK national infrastructure investment bank to be examined.



Meeting with Sir Michael Pitt, Chair of the Infrastructure Planning Commission

1st December 2009

The Infrastructure Planning Commission (IPC) began its work on 1st October 2009. Sir Michael Pitt spoke to the Group and invited guests about the role and responsibilities of the IPC and the challenges and opportunities it faces regarding planning applications for major infrastructure projects.

Politicians, engineers and built environment professionals attended the meeting to hear how the IPC and National Policy Statements (NPS) will change infrastructure planning in the UK.

The head of the newly formed independent organisation told MPs and Peers that the IPC would make significant savings in the planning costs for major national infrastructure projects, with civil servants estimating this to be anything up to £300m per year.

The Commission would also significantly reduce the time it takes for such projects to go through the planning process, Sir Michael said, with legislation requiring a complete evaluation of projects within 6 months, and an announcement and statement of reasons within the following 3 months. This would therefore cut down the process and limit it to 9 months, compared to the previous system, where planning consent could take well over a year.

Proposed Activities for 2010

Tour of the Sewers in London

TBC: Spring 2010

The Secretariat of the Group is currently looking into arranging a tour of this essential piece of London's infrastructure. Further details will follow when they have been confirmed.

Beyond the General Election

The APPGI will reform following the General Election, and the new membership will agree the future agenda. There will be opportunities for new and existing Members of the Group to meet informally with policy makers and representatives from industry and experts during the summer months.

Furthermore, we will engage with both new and existing partner organisations to ensure a relevant and interesting series of events and activities.

As during the previous year, the APPGI values variety and diversity in its activities, and therefore if you would like to suggest an issue for the APPGI to look at, either through a presentation, briefing or debate, or with arrange a site visit, then we would be very pleased to hear from you. Please contact Vernon Hunte of the APPGI Secretariat.



**All Party Parliamentary Group
on Infrastructure**

Vernon Hunte
APPGI Secretariat

t +44 (0)20 7665 2265
f +44 (0)20 7222 0973
e vern.hunte@ice.org.uk

c/o Institution of Civil Engineers
One Great George Street
Westminster
London SW1P 3AA

infrastructuregroup.org.uk

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