

APPG ON HYDROGEN PANEL SESSION TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

MEETING MINUTES

Date	Wednesday 1 st July 2026
Chair	Gurinder Josan MP (Labour, Smethwick)
External Witness Panel	Chris Wright, Hydrogen Senior Development Manager, Centrica Guy Phillips, Team Lead Business Development Hydrogen (UK), Uniper Dr Angela Needle, Director of Strategy, Cadent Antony Miller, Commercial Lead, Hydrogen, Equinor Helen Foord, Principle, International Advocacy, Valterra Platinum
Parliamentary Panel	Gurinder Josan MP (Labour, Smethwick) Henry Tufnell MP (Labour, Mid and South Pembrokeshire)
Context background information	The latest APPG on Hydrogen evidence session highlighted broad consensus that hydrogen transportation and storage will play a critical role alongside electrification in delivering the UK's net zero ambitions, particularly for sectors that cannot readily electrify, which includes some of the UK's most important, such as glass. Panellists argued that the UK possesses many of the fundamental advantages needed to establish a globally competitive hydrogen economy, including existing gas infrastructure, skilled workforces, industrial clusters, renewable energy resources and geological storage capacity. However, there was widespread concern that continued delays to policy decisions, commercial frameworks and infrastructure deployment were undermining investor confidence, slowing private investment and placing the UK's industrial competitiveness at risk, particularly as international competitors continue to make faster progress. A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the need for greater policy certainty, strategic infrastructure planning and a more integrated approach to energy system development. Participants emphasised that hydrogen production, transport, storage and end-user demand must be developed in parallel to create a viable market and argued that existing gas infrastructure could play an important transitional role while dedicated hydrogen networks are established. The panellists also highlighted the importance of adopting a balanced approach to decarbonisation, recognising hydrogen as complementary to electrification rather than an alternative, while ensuring that future policy supports industrial resilience, energy security, regional economic growth and lower whole-system energy costs.

Hence the APPG urges the Government to publish the Hydrogen Strategy as soon as possible and meet industry's demand for more strategic certainty.

Gurinder Josan MP welcomed the panellists and asked them to introduce themselves and their organisation's views on hydrogen transportation and storage.

Chris Wright said that Centrica viewed hydrogen infrastructure as a critical component of a future integrated energy system. He argued that a national approach to hydrogen transport and storage, alongside investment in industrial clusters and improved electricity transmission, would reduce costs, strengthen energy security and support industrial decarbonisation. He added that hydrogen infrastructure should be recognised as a strategic national asset capable of delivering long-term benefits for both consumers and businesses.

Guy Phillips introduced Uniper's role as a major European energy company investing in hydrogen, renewables and other low-carbon technologies. He highlighted the company's hydrogen production and storage projects in the UK, explaining that both would support industrial decarbonisation and energy security. He argued that continued delays to government policy and business models were undermining investor confidence and slowing progress towards final investment decisions.

Dr Angela Needle said that hydrogen would be an essential complement to electrification in achieving net zero, particularly for sectors that could not readily electrify. She argued that the UK possessed the skills, infrastructure and industrial demand to become a leader in hydrogen but warned that slow decision-making risked losing that advantage. She stressed that hydrogen infrastructure should be delivered as a national strategic priority rather than through competition between regions. Dr Needle also outlined progress on HyNet, explaining that the proposed network would support industrial users across the North West and North Wales. She also argued that hydrogen would protect strategically important industries while safeguarding skilled jobs and emphasised that it was both an industrial competitiveness and decarbonisation policy.

Antony Miller outlined Equinor's investments across offshore wind, carbon capture and hydrogen, describing the Humber as a major opportunity for industrial decarbonisation. He argued that hydrogen infrastructure would support economic growth, protect skilled employment and strengthen long-term energy security.

Mr Josan thanked panellists and invited participants to compare the UK's approach with developments overseas.

Mr Phillips said that Germany had adopted a clear long-term strategy for hydrogen deployment, supported by substantial investment in infrastructure and industrial clusters. He noted that Germany was significantly ahead of the UK in pipeline development and electrolyser deployment.

Dr Needle said that Germany had planned hydrogen infrastructure strategically before inviting investment, creating confidence for industry. She argued that the UK's market-led approach had delayed delivery and increased uncertainty.

Helen Foord of Valterra Platinum said that China was investing heavily across the hydrogen value chain and treating hydrogen as both an industrial strategy and an energy security priority. She warned that Europe and the UK risked falling behind.

Mr Wright agreed that international competitors were moving more decisively and argued that the UK should identify nationally significant projects and provide greater investment certainty. Mr Wright added that Europe had first identified strategic hydrogen projects before determining funding mechanisms. He argued that the UK had spent too long testing business models instead of delivering infrastructure.

Dr Needle suggested that limited hydrogen blending into the existing gas network could create an immediate market while dedicated infrastructure was developed.

Mr Josan then asked participants whether engagement with government was proving effective.

Mr Miller said that repeated government requests for information had not been matched by meaningful progress or feedback. He called for a more collaborative approach to developing commercial frameworks.

Dr Needle said that relationships with hydrogen officials were constructive but suggested that wider government concerns about public spending were delaying decisions. She argued that greater transparency would allow industry to respond more effectively. She also emphasised that hydrogen should be viewed as complementary to electrification rather than competing with it.

Mr Miller argued that hydrogen infrastructure should be regarded as a long-term strategic investment rather than a short-term cost.

Dr Needle said that regional leaders strongly supported projects such as HyNet because of their economic and employment benefits. She emphasised the importance of local engagement throughout project development.

Mr Phillips outlined that regional organisations in the Humber were also actively supporting hydrogen infrastructure.

Dr Needle highlighted that sectors including bricks, glass, chemicals and salt processing regarded hydrogen as their principal route to decarbonisation, although many businesses had become frustrated by repeated delays.

Mr Phillips argued that businesses needed confidence that hydrogen supply and supporting infrastructure would be delivered before investing.

Mr Wright pointed out that many industrial processes could not be electrified and that transport and storage infrastructure remained the principal barrier to investment.

Mr Miller said that industrial demand existed, but prolonged uncertainty had created fatigue among potential users.

Henry Tufnell MP asked whether a higher UK Emissions Trading Scheme carbon price would encourage hydrogen adoption.

Mr Miller said that carbon pricing alone would not unlock investment without confidence that hydrogen infrastructure would be available.

Mr Phillips said that production, transport and end-user demand needed to develop together if investment was to proceed.

Mr Wright said that hydrogen infrastructure would reduce commercial risk by providing industry with reliable energy supply.



Dr Needle argued that existing gas infrastructure could provide an immediate route to market through hydrogen blending and certification.

Matt Barney (Geopura), an external invitee, intervened and outlined that Geopura was already supplying commercial hydrogen customers and that the next challenge was scaling deployment through permanent infrastructure.

Mr Phillips said that delays to Hydrogen Allocation Round 2 had significantly affected investor confidence.

Dr Needle argued that repeated policy delays were undermining investor confidence despite relatively straightforward commercial models.

Mr Miller argued that government now needed to move from policy development to implementation.

Mr Tufnell outlined in his view that high UK energy prices, caused by Government policy, were damaging industrial competitiveness and expressed concern about an excessive policy focus on electrification.

Mr Josan said that lowering energy costs would require a balanced energy system using multiple technologies and place-based solutions.

Dr Needle agreed and warned that continued delays were already contributing to industrial decline.

Mr Wright argued that hydrogen, electricity and natural gas should be treated as complementary energy vectors within an integrated energy system.

Mr Tufnell called for a more technology-neutral energy policy.

Helen Foord said that governments should support multiple technological pathways rather than favouring individual technologies too early.

Mr Josan agreed. He then closed the session, thanking panellists for their time.