



## **APPG ON HYDROGEN CHAIR RESPONDS TO GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO PROGRESS WORK ON A HYDROGEN TOWN PILOT**

9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

The All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Hydrogen is disappointed with today's decision from the Government to delay work on a hydrogen town pilot until after a 2026 decision on the role of hydrogen in decarbonising heat.

Town pilots would have seen hydrogen used as a replacement for natural gas in up to 10,000 homes, and demonstrate the role hydrogen can play in decarbonising UK heating.

In 2022, the Government invited Cadent, SGN, NGN and WWU to submit applications for funding to develop plans for hydrogen heating village pilots. However, today the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero announced it will no longer progress with plans in light of similar announcement to scrap the hydrogen village trial in Redcar last December.

The DESNZ statement said: *"low carbon hydrogen may have a role to play in heat decarbonisation, alongside heat pumps and heat networks, but in slower time in some locations."* It is unfortunate to see the Department back-track on its previous commitments.

The APPG, now in its sixth year, seeks to raise awareness and build support for hydrogen projects that will enable the UK to meet decarbonisation targets. Under the chairmanship of Alexander Stafford, MP for Rother Valley, the Group champions the benefits of hydrogen – from transport, to energy security, and heavy industry - and works with industry partners and parliamentarians to highlight the positive impact of hydrogen to help achieve the UK's net zero ambitions.

In response to the announcement Mr Stafford said: *"I am deeply disappointed with today's decision to delay work for a hydrogen town of 10,000 homes. In order to meet our net zero targets, we must decarbonise the nation's heating systems and hydrogen is the only viable alternative to natural gas. I fear this repeated delay will only push the UK further behind international partners in the development of clean heating for all."*

*Domestic heating accounts for almost a third of the UK's annual carbon footprint and, as we approach 2050, we must ramp up development of carbon free alternatives that suit our unique housing stock and climate. Without support from the Government, industry does not have the framework it needs to develop such alternatives. Today's decision to delay is only further compounding the problem.*

*While I had previously been pleased with developments towards hydrogen-blending, after much advocacy from the APPG and myself, I am saddened with today's decision and the lack of seriousness to tackle this problem it belies. Nonetheless I am determined to continue to work with the Government to push for the UK to become home for global hydrogen."*