

Alan Lovell announced as preferred Environment Agency Chair candidate

News story

The Environment Secretary has selected Alan Lovell DL as the Government's preferred candidate for Chair of the Environment Agency.



Environment Secretary George Eustice has selected Alan Lovell DL as the Government's preferred candidate to succeed Emma Howard Boyd as the Chair of the Environment Agency.

Mr Lovell's selection followed a rigorous process conducted in accordance with the Ministerial Governance Code on Public Appointments. The Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee and the Environmental Audit Committee (EAC) will now hold a joint pre-appointment hearing on Tuesday 5 July and report on Mr Lovell's suitability for the post.

Pre-appointment scrutiny is an important part of the appointment process for some of the most significant public appointments made by Ministers to verify that the recruitment meets the principles set out in the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Pre-appointment hearings are held in public and allow a Select Committee to take evidence from a Minister's preferred candidate before they are appointed. The EFRA and EAC Select Committees will publish a report setting out their views on the candidate's suitability for the post, which will be considered by Ministers before deciding whether to proceed with the appointment.

Subject to the EFRA and EAC Select Committees' report and the final decision being made by the Environment Secretary, Mr Lovell will take up the post in September 2022. Emma Howard Boyd CBE second term as Environment Agency Chair will end in September 2022.

Biographical details of Alan Lovell

- Alan is an experienced Chair of both commercial and not-for-profit enterprises. He is currently Chairman of the Interserve Group Ltd, and is Senior Independent Director of SIG plc and Chair of Safestyle UK plc.
- His executive career included time as a Chief Executive of six companies, including Infinis, Jarvis, Costain and Dunlop Slazenger.
- Alan was also Chair of the Consumer Council for Water for four years and has chaired the University of Winchester and the Mary Rose Trust.

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[Homes England agrees Strategic Place Partnership pilot with Greater Manchester](#)

Homes England and Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) have entered into a Strategic Place Partnership (SPP), piloting a new model for partnership working between the government's housing and regeneration agency and local authorities. Homes England is also testing the pilot programme with the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA).

The model – which is just one of the ways that Homes England is working with places to support the government's levelling up agenda – is aimed at sub-regions with the most ambitious proposals for housing growth as part of their broader social, environmental and economic vision for the area. Importantly they must also have a strong pipeline of potential opportunities to deliver these ambitions. The SPP is then centred around a shared business plan that sets out special and thematic priorities.

In Greater Manchester, this means a shared focus on the delivery of growth locations, affordable housing and town centre regeneration. Through the SPP, the partners have set out how they will work together to progress their pipeline of homes and regeneration projects to achieve this, working with both private and public sector partners across the sub-region.

Peter Denton, Chief Executive of Homes England, said:

This new model of partnership is our way of responding to the most ambitious places where there is significant opportunity and a need to partner more closely. Greater Manchester is a mature, well established partner, with huge ambition and the ability to deliver. Together, we can pool our resources to support place-based growth

and regeneration, including the supply of well-designed new homes.

Mayor of Greater Manchester Andy Burnham said:

This partnership will give a major boost to the work we're already doing across Greater Manchester to address the national housing crisis.

Right now we have to be creating homes and infrastructure that are fit for a better future, and our ambition is to deliver 30,000 good quality, truly affordable net zero carbon homes by 2038. This means unlocking brownfield land for regeneration, and ensuring that development supports sustainable growth throughout the city-region. With the expertise, capacity, and funding tools at their disposal, and working alongside the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and local council teams, Homes England has a vital role to play in this collective effort.

With ASELA, the Partnership aims to transform housing and regeneration in the region – there is a recognised need for, and commitment to, a programme of strategic and tactical interventions that would significantly increase delivery rates. The ambition is to embed outstanding place making principles in every project so local communities can thrive and see a step change in employment and skills, life chances and health and wellbeing.

Cllr Chris Hossack, Chair of the Association of South Essex Local Authorities (ASELA) and Leader of Brentwood Borough Council, said:

We welcome the partnership with Homes England. It will support our vision for south Essex as a place where communities can thrive and where new homes come hand in hand with new jobs and regeneration of our town centres and high streets.

The SPP pilot is just one of the tools Homes England is exploring as part of the Agency's broader efforts to reshape the way it works with places, and will not be suitable for every sub-region. In line with the commitments set out in the government's Levelling Up White Paper, Homes England is adopting a place-first approach to transformational regeneration, responding to the individual circumstances, aspirations and needs of each place, and working with local leaders to unlock barriers.

For example in Sheffield Homes England is developing a bespoke housing solution in collaboration with local stakeholders and have formed the Housing Growth Board to implement this. In Blackpool, the Agency is conducting a study with Blackpool Town Council that will underpin the development of opportunities for investment for reshaping inner Blackpool. While in Wolverhampton, Homes England is working with the City of Wolverhampton Council and the West Midlands Combined Authority to utilise collective

expertise and investment tools to unlock new homes.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

For more information on Homes England's approach to working with places, Homes England is hosting a webinar on Place-Based Approaches to Delivery on Thursday 14 July, as part of the Agency's Summer Learning Programme for local government. You can register [here](#) and find out more about the Summer Learning Programme [here](#)

UN Human Rights Council 50: UK statement on the nexus between climate change and violence on women and girls

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the panel discussion on the nexus between climate change and violence against women and girls through a human rights lens, as part of the annual discussion on women's rights.



Thank you, Mr Vice-President.

Stopping violence against women and girls is one of the most urgent human rights challenges of our time. It is rooted in discrimination and inequality, and the issue is widespread: one third of all women worldwide will experience physical and/or sexual violence during their lifetime.

The UK recognises that climate change can have implications for the full enjoyment of human rights and have a particularly devastating impact on women and girls, who are more likely to die or be displaced, or suffer from intimate partner violence during climate change-induced crises and disasters. Gender responsive climate action is essential to addressing these global challenges.

Putting women and girls at the forefront of policy-making processes and supporting organisations led by and focusing on women and girls is critical if we are to ensure response and recovery strategies respect, protect and promote women and girls' human rights.

It is for this reason that, last July, the UK joined the Action Coalition on Feminist Action for Climate Justice, affirming our commitment to championing women and girls' climate leadership, education and decision-making. At the COP26 Gender Day in November 2021, the UK announced £165 million of funding to simultaneously tackle gender inequality and climate change.

Mr Vice President,

We would like to ask the panellists to consider what measures can be

implemented to ensure this critical combination of issues is addressed.

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[UN Human Rights Council 50: UK statement on care and support systems](#)

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during a panel discussion on human rights-based and gender-responsive care and support systems, as part of the annual discussion on women's rights.



Thank you, Mr President.

Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by the economic impacts of COVID19. Not only are they over-represented in some of the worst-hit sectors, but they also undertake a bulk of unpaid care work. Redistributing, recognising and reducing women and girls' unpaid care contributions, and investment that allows women to reach their full potential, protects their

human rights, promotes stronger more inclusive growth, and ultimately benefits everyone.

The unequal division of unpaid care responsibilities in the home and low pay for paid care work also limits women's empowerment, social and economic participation and leadership. The UK works with partner governments, multilaterals, and the private sector to address care in partner countries. We are encouraging the private sector to create better quality, more flexible work, and investors to seek opportunities to strengthen the care economy. We will join the Global Alliance for Care and share best practice on addressing unpaid care, and paid care for children and the elderly. We will encourage collection and analysis of sex and age-disaggregated data worldwide, with which to better monitor and improve policies, programmes and investments in care. By taking such action employers will reduce time and income poverty, improve working conditions and wages for unpaid and paid care workers, and provide care at all stages of life.

Mr President

We would like to ask the panellists to share evidence of concrete examples at the regional or country level of such actions taken by employers to encourage flexible workplace practices and reduce and redistribute care responsibilities?

Thank you.

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[UN Human Rights Council 50: UK statement on the human rights of migrants](#)

World news story

The UK delivered a statement during the Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants.



UK Government

Thank you, Mr President.

We would like to make some comments in response to the Special Rapporteur's most recent report. The UK is committed to ensuring that all migrants, regardless of their status, are treated with dignity and full respect for their human rights. We are also committed to tackling the heinous crime of modern slavery and to supporting its victims, in line with our international obligations. The UK was the first country to put in place a domestic statute to tackle Modern Slavery, through its 2015 Act.

The UK's Nationality and Borders Act promotes the principle that access to the UK's asylum system should be based on need, not the ability to pay people smugglers. It reflects the widely held principle on claiming asylum in the first safe country reached. Therefore, we respectfully disagree with the assertion in your report regarding the UK.

The UK has offered 310,000 men, women, and children refuge in the UK since 2015. We continue to provide support to the people of Ukraine. Over 130,000 visas have been granted to help bring those caught up in the war to safety. We will continue to build on our work so far – from Syria to Ukraine – to help those in genuine need of resettlement to come to the UK safely and legally.

Thank you.

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