



All-Party Parliamentary Group on Coalfield Communities

House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA

Chair: **Alex Davies-Jones MP**

Telephone: **020 7219 4981**

Email: **alex.daviesjones.mp@parliament.uk**

New inquiry – Levelling Up the Former Coalfields

29 November 2022

Dear stakeholder,

Invitation to submit written evidence

The All-Party Group of coalfield MPs, which I chair, has initiated an inquiry into the next steps in Levelling Up the former coalfields of England, Scotland and Wales. I'd like to invite you to assist our work by submitting written evidence.

We're at an important juncture. There has been progress in regenerating our coalfield communities but on most indicators of prosperity and well-being they still lag behind. We need to work out what still needs to be done and how, and help set the agenda in the run up to the next general election and beyond.

Our call for evidence consists of 14 questions (see below). We'd be grateful for your input on any or all of these. Please don't feel obligated to try to answer questions that may not fall within your sphere. We'll then put together a report that will hopefully help steer future policies.

The deadline for submissions is **Friday 27 January 2023**. Completed submissions should be emailed to appg.coalfields@gmail.com

For more information or to download the questions as a Word document, please visit: www.APPGcoalfields.co.uk

Many thanks in anticipation of your help. Together, let's try to make a difference.

Yours sincerely,

Alex Davies-Jones MP

Chair, APPG on Coalfield Communities

Member of Parliament for Pontypridd

NEXT STEPS IN LEVELLING UP THE FORMER COALFIELDS

Inquiry questions

1. Most former coalfields still lag behind on a range of social and economic indicators. What do you consider to be the most significant problems?
2. Have the job losses from the coal industry now been fully replaced by new jobs in other sectors?
3. Are the new jobs of an adequate standard in terms of pay, conditions and opportunities?
4. Has the environmental legacy of the coal industry – spoil heaps, dereliction, pollution – finally been rectified, or are there still outstanding problems?
5. Is the physical infrastructure for local economic growth now in place, or are there important gaps that still need to be plugged?
6. Is a reliance on job growth and services in neighbouring cities a viable way forward?
7. Is the private sector willing to invest in industrial and commercial floorspace without support from the public sector?
8. Former miners are a dwindling group, but are their distinctive needs (including health) being adequately met?
9. Are younger people in the community able to access the training and education they need?
10. Is there a distinctive role for the former coalfields in the development of the 'green' agenda?
11. Do coalfield local authorities have the powers and funding they need to support local communities?
12. Has Levelling Up funding from the UK government properly targeted the needs of the former coalfields?
13. What should be the 21st century role for the physical and institutional structures – welfares, institutes, playing fields etc. – once linked to the coal industry?
14. How might identity, pride and heritage in coalfield communities be best maintained in the future?