

## CTI media release 26 October 2018

### Martin Whitfield MP elected new Chair of Timber Industries APPG



Martin Whitfield MP and David Hopkins

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**Martin Whitfield**, MP for East Lothian, has been elected as new Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on the Timber Industries at its AGM at Westminster.

The APPG brings together parliamentarians from the Commons and the Lords with an interest in the UK's timber industries to ensure that issues affecting the sector are highlighted within Parliament and to Government.

Officers of the renewed APPG now include: Joint Vice Chairman **Bill Grant**, MP for Ayr, Carrick and Cumnock (Conservative), Joint Vice Chairman **Chris Elmore**, MP for Ogmore (Labour) and Joint Vice Chairman **Antoinette Sandbach**, MP for Eddisbury (Conservative).

The timber industries contribute over £10 billion per year to the UK economy and are in the top 50% of manufacturing industries in the UK. The sector employs around 200,000 people across the UK, in construction, manufacturing and distribution.

East Lothian is one of the most important hubs for the timber industries in Scotland, including Alba Trees, the UK's largest supplier of cell grown plants, and various sawmills and timber merchants all located within the county.

One of Mr Whitfield's first acts as Chair will be to lead a Westminster Hall debate on the effect of Brexit on the UK's timber industries on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> October.

**Martin Whitfield MP** said: *"The timber industries APPG was one of the first I joined after entering Parliament, so I'm very pleased to now have the opportunity to chair the group and play a bigger role in promoting the interests of the sector."*

*"Local businesses in the timber industries play an important role in providing jobs in East Lothian. They help facilitate demand across the UK for sustainable, managed forests and contribute to addressing the housing crisis by providing affordable, environmentally friendly timber-framed homes."*

*"I will continue to work with parliamentary colleagues and industry representatives to stand up for the needs of the UK's forestry and timber industries and promote them in Parliament."*

**David Hopkins**, Director of the CTI added: *"We are delighted that Martin has taken up this role with the Timber Industries APPG. The timber sector can play a key role in achieving the goals of a number of policy areas, from housebuilding to clean-growth. We look forward to working with Martin and fellow members of the APPG over the coming year to do this."*

## **Notes to the editor**

The Confederation of Timber Industries (CTI) was launched in 2015 to give a single voice for the timber supply chain. It acts as a "trade association of trade associations" covering the diverse interests of timber producers, processors, importers, wholesalers, manufacturers and merchants.

Find out more at [www.cti-timber.org](http://www.cti-timber.org)