

Economic Recovery & Renewal Task Force

Terms of Reference

May 2020

Aims:

There are national recovery groups being set up by Government covering a range of areas relating to ADEPT business including economic recovery, transport and environment. We believe these plans need to be joined up and to be more than just recovery; they need to be about place shaping and renewal whilst not losing sight of the huge challenges of climate change. This is what ADEPT members do - place directors bring all the different elements of making places together in one place (e.g. economy, infrastructure, housing, planning, environment etc.).

Therefore our aims are to:

- Ensure economic recovery planning considers the whole place system agenda and goes further than recovery into renewal and transformation of economies and places.
- Shape the national approach to economic recovery to be about wider place shaping and green economic renewal.
- Provide ADEPT members with the tools, information and guidance (policy/practical) to enable them to deliver broader socio-economic renewal and place shaping plans in their localities.
- Join up with all aspects of recovery within the public sector (links to ADASS, ADCS, ADPH, LGA, LEP Network, etc.).

Outputs:

There are four broad outputs to this work:

- Gather intelligence and evidence that demonstrates localised economic impacts and understands the planning assumptions ADEPT members are making in planning for economic recovery.
- Shape national recovery thinking and policy. In particular to encourage greater join-up across government departments, to consider place shaping and renewal of places/economies as part of Covid-19 recovery planning and developing national policy (e.g. devolution, planning, housing, etc).
- Share best practice (knowledge exchange) with our members and take a Live Lab demonstrator approach to testing new ways and means of working.
- Production of policy position statements and/or guidance for sustainable economic renewal and place shaping post Covid-19.

Areas of focus:

Recognising that we don't have all the answers and cannot deliver alone, there are a number of issues that need to be considered and developed through the Task Force including:

- What are the key principles we need government to consider in the first instance (e.g. whole system, renewal not just recovery etc)?

- How do we make sure climate change (net zero carbon and resilience) and the clean growth agenda are at the heart of our recovery plans? Can we accelerate these ambitions both locally and nationally?
- There has been significant behavioural change in the past two months - how do we take advantage of the 'honeymoon period' to permanently change behaviours for the better?
- What does this mean for future infrastructure projects and housing and access to green space?
- The lockdown has demonstrated that home working is feasible for many people, whilst increased online shopping is reinforcing a decline in retail. What does this mean for the future of our places, particularly high streets but also out of town business parks?
- What is the role of digital infrastructure?
- How do we (along with public health colleagues) reassure the public and help to build confidence that it is safe to go back to town centres and work-places?

Our Approach:

In line with the way ADEPT works, this will be inclusive and engaging across our membership. The Task Force will initially be a sub-group of the Leadership Team with additional members (i.e. LEPs and possibly Corporate Partners) to get the work moving and will engage our wider membership through events such as the Spring Conference. We will seek to work collaboratively with other relevant bodies such as the LEP Network, LGA and CCN.

Resource:

This work will require additional resource to drive it forward. We will need to consider reaching out to Corporate Partners and other consultancies to provide free support.

Frequency of meetings:

Initially it is proposed to meet weekly (for 6 weeks).

Initial Membership:

Initial membership will be a sub-group of the Leadership Team: Darryl Evers (Staffs), Mark Kemp (Herts), Adrian Smith (Notts), Sue Halliwell (Oxon), Paula Hewitt (Somerset), Neil Gibson (past president), Hannah Bartram (ADEPT) plus Philip Cox representing our LEP members.

Observers: Josh Fedder (MHCLG / BEIS)

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