



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## Environment Board

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 10.00 – 12.30

MS Teams [Click here to join the meeting](#)

### Agenda

		<b>ACTION OWNER</b>
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie, Director for Environment at Surrey County Council and Chair of Energy and Clean Growth Group, very kindly stepped in as Chair for today's meeting. Steve Read sent his apologies.</p>	
2.	<p><b>Air quality study – National Audit Office</b></p> <p>Katy Losse, Audit Manager, and Emma Wilding, Analyst, NAO</p> <p><a href="#">Presentation</a></p> <p>The NAO are currently in the middle of their next briefing on air quality, looking at government approach to clean air and in particular how national government funding and support is helping councils tackle breaches of local air quality. The bulk of the money from funding provided through the NO2 programme is going through NO.</p> <p>The NAO completed a report in 2017 on air quality and also a report on local government and net zero in England as well as the government's overall approach of their long-term environmental goals.</p> <p>The overarching study question of "Is government tackling local air quality breaches effectively?" will consider NO2 local breaches and how that programme has been set up and then how ongoing risks are being managed.</p>	

To help answer the study questions the NAO will use methods such as data analysis, document reviews, interviews and focus groups with LAs. Discussions have happened with the LGA and UK100. The first of 3 focus groups is happening this afternoon.

Katy Losse invited comments or questions from the Board and is interested to hear the Board's perspective on how big an issue air quality appears to be for local authorities. The NAO are aware that the urban and rural areas have very different challenges. Any experience of participating in the NO2 programme and effectiveness of central government support would be interesting to hear.

Carolyn McKenzie asked for clarity that the LA scope is looked at and any tweaks in terms of delivering. There is definite friction between the tiers in county areas. Katy confirmed that the NAO want to set out the roles and responsibilities of LAs and how that will change with the Environment Bill.

David Dale confirmed that air quality is a really important issue for LAs and one that ADEPT is not set up as well as would like to engage with it. Two questions – 1) which LAs are around the table at this afternoon's focus group? Any ADEPT members? Emma Wilding confirmed that there are 3 focus groups, and they will be speaking to around 20 LAs. The groups have been chosen to represent a diversity of different LAs. Emma will share the list for this afternoon's focus group. 2) what is the impact of the pandemic on air quality – difficulties with funding or supply chain issues in getting kit in for clean air zones? Katy informed that the NAO are conscious of this and the impact in terms of delays for work and they want to disentangle the underlying issues with the way the programme has been set up. The levels of transport have been reduced during the pandemic and so how we model or predict air quality is different.

Sam Kennedy raised a couple of things regarding the impact of air quality and health: local councillors are seized on the coroners' ruling of air quality being a factor in a young girl's death. How will this change the legal landscape? The feeling in Essex is that alternatives for people to reduce car use are few and far between. The bus funding formula from DfT pushes bus money in dense urban areas and so funding is very small and Active Travel Funding has only recently rolled out to any scale and isn't enough to be a real alternative. Putting in place meaningful alternatives is limited. Katy responded that the NAO think of the NO2 programme but tend to think in narrow as to whether it has been delivered. Carolyn agreed with Sam that this is a good point and acknowledged the fact that Sam would be attending the workshop this afternoon and asked her to feedback to board. Katy is keen to pull out a link with the carbon agenda.

	<p>Peter Moore, Head of Climate Strategy at Reading Borough Council, would encourage the NAO to take a broader look a question 1 – demand management, support for introduction of clean air zones, introduction of electric vehicle fleet and government funding, non-competitive route and based on evidence of need.</p> <p>Jon Dyson, Director of Place Services, Bolton, reported that in Greater Manchester they were in the process of introducing a clean air zone in 2022 but have now requested that the SoS agrees to pause opening of the next phase of Clean Air Funds to enable a joint policy review with Government - £125m funding has been secured to date to support transition to compliant vehicles. The pause follows a review of supply chain issues (new vehicles) and representation from business sectors, particularly those operating light goods vehicles, about their ability to be compliant. Also, the increase in value of second-hand vehicles has been problematic. GMCA and the constituent authorities have reached out to government for further support and dialogue. Confirmed that there are reps from Greater Manchester on the focus group.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Katy Losse and Adam Wallace to follow up on Natural England’s work on logging rural impact of air quality. Impacts experienced on protected sites and nitrogen deposition and planning, also habitat regulations through water quality.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Emma Wilding to share a list of attendees to this afternoon’s workshop.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy to report back to Board following her own attendance.</p>	<p>KL/AW</p> <p>EW</p> <p>SK</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><a href="#">Government response to the Landscapes Review (Glover Review) and public consultation</a></p> <p>Jon Taylor, Head of Future Landscapes, Defra</p> <p><a href="#">Presentation</a></p> <p>Jon Taylor is leading on the government response to the landscapes review. Amber Inman, his colleague at Defra, also joined today’s ADEPT Environment Board meeting.</p> <p>Defra published the response on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2022. Essentially it’s a commitment of the 25-year environment plan made by Michael Gove. The government asked for an independent review into whether the protections for National Parks and AONBs are still fit for purpose. Julian Glover came back with broad recommendations. The response was developed with a core team of National Parks and AONB teams and also ADEPT to get views on draft proposals.</p>	

The government response involves 4 chapters:

1) Chapter 1 - sets out strategic level of what Defra wants to achieve - a more coherent national network. National trails could be brought in with NE, AONBs and National Parks as partners. The rebranding of AONBs to National Landscapes to be easier to say and also reflect changes being made.

2) Chapter 2 – Nature and Climate. Defra are developing the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Assessment. If we want to get to 30% of land protected for biodiversity, we need to make it count and how to get there.

3) Chapter 3 – People and Place. Issues around diversity that need tackling. Support communities that live and work there. The response spoke about visitor pressures and have asked Defra for more enforcement powers.

4) Chapter 4 – Supporting local delivery. Wide feeling that the duty of regard is not strong enough so need to strengthen.

There has been a good response so far and people are glad to see it but want to move faster. Defra are now in a 12-week consultation until 9<sup>th</sup> April. They will actively develop stuff through this year and would like the new partnership to produce a landscapes strategy up and running by early next year. Early 2023-early 2024 will be when the Bill will run through parliament.

Working with LAs is key across all proposals. Defra have approached the LGA and hope to hold a Minister-led Working Group. They are running a series of workshops looking at the proposals in much more detail and will invite ADEPT members to those. Will have early discussion on new burdens and where they might arise.

The question of where the LA engagement will lie and how it links in was raised. Carolyn McKenzie informed that we should have an LA rep on the Partnership Board as there's a lot of overlap.

David Dale confirmed that ADEPT value the opportunity to engage with Defra and the team and will engage in the consultation. It's good to see such a joined-up piece of work coming out of Whitehall. Is it possible to measure access to landscapes? Can we measure the quality of access particularly the disadvantaged groups into Natural Landscapes? Jon confirmed that Defra are looking at this and have an early set of statutory targets and then they have discretion on others. They have a target on access and have had discussions, but the risk is that it is resource intensive to get good quality results on access, quality of visits and whether they are the right groups. The discussion is happening in government and goes wider than Defra because of the question of access due to Covid. Carolyn McKenzie

<p>raised public transport and how you get to some of these areas.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy is delighted to see the review and echoes Carolyn’s point about the link with LNR actions. In Essex there are 5 country parks that have been developed to help reduce travel to the large national parks, but this isn’t mentioned in the response. Jon replied that Natural England are doing a piece of work to look at other designations with more emphasis to look at more urban areas. They are looking at doing an all-England assessment. There was a call in Glover to have new designations in those areas and country parks would be the centre of that. Carolyn said it’s more about recognising local context and linking up to that. Surrey Hills is like a honey pot and Surrey County Council are looking at developing space elsewhere to thin the crowds out.</p> <p>Daire Casey, Energy Services Manager at WSCC, is mindful of the reference point that Defra are using for local economies and whether that’s part of this work and how they are responding to this new direction of travel. Are they looking at protection of AONBs or whether there’s a need to improve those protections, quality of those environments and view of generic risks and threats to the landscapes? Jon replied that Defra haven’t done an assessment on local economies but would like to see collaboration with Local Enterprise Partnerships and how to build on those. With regards to AONBs protections, housing is a heated debate, and there is a national crisis. It is a case of a duty of regard and the way other public bodies work and whether protection and balance are right in these areas. Carolyn said that there is tension between increasing access and damage to the environment, especially around cycling and off-road cycling. These are contentious issues and how they are dealt with and get balances right is key.</p> <p>Barry Wyatt reported developing tensions in South Gloucestershire between support for large scale turbines and decarbonisation of heat for communities, and the preservation of the appearance of protected landscapes. The generating asset has to be on the hills in those landscapes. The wind resource is in AONB and very little elsewhere and a solution needs to be found in terms of transitory nature. Jon agreed that a conversation re. this tension is needed, and it comes back to whether they are fit for purpose. A conversation will take place during the 12-week consultation period. Trade-offs are different now and there is a need to decide what is the right trade-off and what is needed to have in place in the next 70 years.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Review engagement with Defra over the coming months on the Government Response to the Landscapes Review and bring back to a future ADEPT Env Board meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Board to send any individual comments to Jon Taylor, Defra.</p>	<p>DD/SR</p> <p>All</p>
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4.	<p>Empowering consumers and local authorities in climate action  <a href="https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/our-net-zero-work/empowering-climate-action">https://www.nationalgrideso.com/future-energy/our-net-zero-work/empowering-climate-action</a></p> <p>Dipali Raniga &amp; Jonny Gallagher, Public Affairs &amp; Policy, National Grid ESO</p> <p><u><a href="#">Presentation</a></u></p> <p>Jonny Gallagher started the presentation by making comment on the wind resources in Defra’s presentation. It is an interesting topic and one they might engage with.</p> <p>Jonny spoke about the consumer research they have done into attitudes in climate change and how it intercepts with different bodies. This work has now been concluded and recommendations made.</p> <p>The ESO are the part of the National Grid looking after energy supply and they do the strategic planning of the needs of the energy sector and delivery and marketing needed to bring on right resources and incentivise right behaviours. They are building a network that can deliver net zero electricity by 2035.</p> <p>Future energy scenarios – in the last couple of years ESO have put net zero at the heart of it. 3 of 4 scenarios meet net zero by 2050. There are 12,000 stakeholders. Encouraging active consumers and understanding consumer behaviour is critical. They are producing regional energy scenarios and working with distribution network operators to turn initial findings into something useable in the model. 4000 consumers will be polled and then there will be 12 focus groups to give insights. These are the crunch of energy crisis, but spot testing has been done since then and found energy and climate change are still top actions. Two reports were published in August/Winter 2021: Consumer Research and Local Authority Research.</p> <p>Dipali talked through findings and recommendations and will supply a link to their website where a log of information has been published.</p> <p>As practitioners it’s important to recognise that the language is not really resonating with the public and net zero appears as opaque. Over 70% supported net zero as a policy once it was explained to them. They care most about effects of wildlife and nature, harm to the planet that their children will see and the temperature.</p>	

Which of the identified 6 segments of the population might be willing to go a bit faster and what solutions might they need? EV is reducing in cost and the increasing value in second-hand vehicles helps.

The ESO have looked at who the public thinks are most responsible for climate action. The answer is that they feel councils should play a key role but also individuals with regards to things like home insulation are important. 60% of the public expect council tax to go towards climate change. Three roundtable meetings have been held to find out what it means in practice for LAs. Saw good examples of engaging local communities into climate action. Saw recognition that decarbonisation doesn't only mean can only access climate funding. Saw regional collaborations. Challenges – can we see solar panels on roofs; Council being held back by national policy.

Final thoughts...

Education and engagement are fundamental needs; we have to show that we're in this together and we need to show that we are being fair and all getting on with it, demonstrating action we are taking; transparency; speak their language; instead of talking about green jobs talk about high skilled jobs; opportunity to deliver for communities across the county.

ESO would be keen to get ADEPT and councils involved.

Carolyn McKenzie would welcome engagement particularly from the Energy and Clean Growth group. The other bit is around behaviour change comms and how we can link up.

Daire Casey reported that WSCC Energy Services have been engaging with future energy scenarios and have built this into the Energy Strategy. They are interested in regional energy scenarios because of national grid lack of visibility on the distribution network. WSCC use Mosaic as their customer segmentation tool and would be good to translate those to map out onto communities.

Ariane Crampton was surprised to see that the main issue back from the local authority study wasn't about grid capacity. As a decarbonising council the main issue they are up against is grid capacity. Jonny informed that grid capacity is increasingly an issue as we see more resources connecting at a distribution level and creating huge constraints on the grid.

For planning the grid today, for future needs and to transition to a model of network planning, ESO are running regional plans to

	<p>increase grid capacity that explore other ways of unlocking at a distribution level. Hopefully this will be visible over the next 12 months or so, but ESO will be happy to pick up what can be done at a more local level.</p> <p>David Dale said it is good to have ADEPT and LA engagement and it was agreed for ADEPT to suggest partner involvement for co-benefits of climate change. Please put them in contact with Jonny and Dipali.</p> <p>Jenny Donovan at the Environment Agency is dealing with impacts of the here and now, preparing to be resilient of increased temperature and what that will mean for nature and people. How are the ESO thinking of being resilient from resulting floods, drought, hot temperatures? It's about adaptation as it is about net zero. Jonny responded to say he sees National Infrastructure Commission is consulting on current assessment and one question is what the threats are to supply. They will highlight resilience to infrastructure and will take resilience assessments. Dipali informed about comments during focus groups and conversations about temperature. The people who commented were mostly gardeners and people with an interest in nature.</p> <p>Steve Palfrey is encouraged by the Net Gain position in terms of community focus and is starting to work on a regional basis in terms of this picture. He asked whether this will be in time for influencing the big developments that will achieve the 40 x 30 and how ESO work with Ofgem to protect consumers against price rises. Jonny is meeting with some Councillors of Suffolk to discuss some elements of this. Coordination in infrastructure and is doing a live piece of work on this to reduce 40g watts by 2030. Net Gain transmission responsible for building infrastructure.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Jonny to speak further with Steve Palfrey regarding the Net Gain position and put Steve in touch with electricity transmission colleagues.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Carolyn McKenzie to consider a more details item on the Energy and Clean Growth group agenda.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Dipali to supply a link to website where a log of information on findings and recommendations has been published</p>	<p>JG/SP</p> <p>CM</p> <p>DR</p>
5.	<p><b>Updates from partners and local authorities</b></p> <p><u>Environment Agency</u></p>	

Jenny Donovan

- The EA are thoughtful about Environment Board and climate adaptation and how EA and the Board work together on adaptation. Where does it sit on working groups and would be keen on picking up on enhanced working?
- The EA will release a new Regulation Strategy. ADEPT might be interested in joining a discussion with FCM. It might be for the Waste Group or possibly a wider topic.
- LAP – Hannah confirms the LAAP still ongoing, and Nigel Riglar is still Chair. This is where adaptation work sits. It is sometimes squeezed by other priorities within Defra. Adaptation is the poor relative compared to the mitigation agenda. Hannah and Jennie to work together to give this a push. David Dale confirmed that Local Partnerships have recently published their guidance on adaptation. Peter Moore provided the link: [Climate Adaptation - Local Partnerships](#). LAAP and ADEPT did have a joint guidance on adaptation which needs a refresh as it is 3 years old. David Dale will have a conversation with Local Partnerships to do this.

**ACTION:** Hannah and Jennie to work to improve LAP profile.

HB/JD

#### Natural England

Adam Wallace

- Tony Juniper has been reappointed as Chairman for 3 years
- Glover conversation – Natural England is progressing but there are practical issues. Shy on resources from Defra. In process of setting up a NE Landscape Advisory Panel to help shape out work.
- National Urban Landscapes and thinking going on around this, what it might mean in how we recognise importance of green space and what more we can do to shape what's positive.
- Species advice – NE have issued and reviewed for protected wildlife and trees. Distinctions and needs on planning activity and licencing. Adam to supply link.
- Launch around green infrastructure standards happened in December and mapping tool issues. GI mapping tool for LAs to seek and look at nationally standardised green infrastructure data.
- NE putting more resource into roles at local team level across

a range of things. “Strategic plans for places work”.

Carolyn McKenzie commented that strategic plans for places work might be a good idea for a future agenda item for ADEPT Env Board?

Defra

Joe Wahla

### **Environment Act 2021**

1. Single-use cutlery and plates could be banned in England as part of a 12- week public [consultation](#) published on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2021, and a call for evidence has been launched to tackle other problematic plastics.
2. A [Consultation](#) on implementing due diligence on forest risk commodities was opened on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2021 and closes on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The due diligence provisions will make it illegal for larger businesses operating in the UK to use key forest risk commodities produced on land illegally occupied or used.
3. A [Consultation](#) on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations and Implementation was opened on 11<sup>th</sup> January and closes on 5 April. This included an [announcement of a £4M pot of funding for LPAs](#) to support set up and preparations for mandatory BNG. The consultation closes on 5<sup>th</sup> April. The team are setting up engagement events through the consultation period. This will include Local government. Further details on dates will be communicated in due course. We would appreciate views on mandatory BNG through the consultation. The consultation team recently held an initial Q&A session on the consultation document with our BNG stakeholder group – ADEPT is a member of that group.
4. A [consultation](#) on the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking opened on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022. The consultation closes on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

### **Other Defra Updates**

5. The [Burn Better](#) campaign is back. It is a Defra led cross-industry public awareness campaign designed to raise awareness of how people who burn solid fuels at home can make small changes to their habits to improve air quality and protect their health. For further information please contact [burnbetter@defra.gov.uk](mailto:burnbetter@defra.gov.uk).
6. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December further details of the [Sustainable Farming](#)

[Incentive](#) were published on how the scheme will work in 2022.

7. We marked National Tree Week (27 November - 5 December) with a number of announcements, to demonstrate Defra and the Forestry Commissions' ambitions in relation to tree planting. Announcements included the [new Coastal Community Forest in Cumbria](#), the [winning projects from 4 tree planting funds](#) and the [Forest Research report into the benefits of woodlands for mental health](#).
8. Just before Christmas, we published a consultation to end the retail sale of peat in horticulture in England and Wales. [More details here](#).
9. On 22<sup>nd</sup> January we [published](#) the Government's response to Julian Glover's Landscapes Review. The response sets out ambitious changes to increase access to nature and ensure protected landscapes can deliver more for climate, nature, people, and places for the next 70 years and beyond. It also proposes a new national landscapes partnership to bring together those responsible for managing England's National Parks and AONBs. A [consultation](#) was also launched on 15<sup>th</sup> January to seek views on the proposals, and it will close on 9<sup>th</sup> April.
10. On 17<sup>th</sup> January we [published](#) the UK's Third Climate Change Risk Assessment. It recognises the unprecedented challenge of ensuring the UK is resilient to climate change and sets out the work already underway to meet that challenge.

#### **Local Authority Engagement**

11. Feedback has been received from ADEPT and the LGA on the draft Environment Act 2021: Frequently Asked Questions (Local Authorities) document. The document is being finalised this week with a view to distributing it to all Local Authorities at the end of January.

David referred to a couple of these items:

3. [Consultation](#) on Biodiversity Net Gain Regulations – secondary legislation that will come out under the Environment Act. ADEPT is looking to set up a workshop early March with \planning Working Group, Defra and DLUHC to be invited too.

11. The Environment Act FAQs will hopefully be out early next week.

Mike Oxford informed that ALGAE undertook a piece of joint

	<p>research looking at competence and capacity of delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain. They are finalising the report with Defra which will be of particular relevance to a discussion around burdens funding.</p>	
<p>6.</p>	<p><b>Board business and Working Group updates:</b></p> <p><u>Energy &amp; Clean Growth</u> Carolyn McKenzie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Had a good meeting 2 weeks ago where energy systems capital people attended. They shared their thinking into local energy aspect of BEIS that we should have local energy planning at a regional level that links up. Movement away from LEP Energy Strategy that was put together. We need to explore in more detail but has potential to help.</li> <li>• Green financing and the push we're seeing towards accelerating but aggregating up at county and then regional level to get private sector investment in the future. Scaling up is the way to go but the way we do it is another matter.</li> <li>• David Dale is doing a piece of work on combining the Climate Change Position Statement and Clean Growth Policy Position Statement and combining them and will engage the ADEPT Environment Board in future.</li> <li>• Issues around public sector decarbonisation fund and links to GH lab fund for housing. Issues arose around applying for funding etc. Fund has been extended to end-June as a result but still issues of delivery of that fund and GH lab fund that we should explore.</li> </ul> <p>Sam Kennedy commented on the decarbonisation fund and the driver for that was that you had to be fully committed in one year and not spent. Salix has been operating for a long time. Don't understand the driver for change and we need to press in on that.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Sam/Carolyn to take an offline conversation to put together a letter to BEIS re. funding.</p> <p><u>Flood and Water Management</u> Max Tant to supply update separately.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Hannah to circulate minutes from yesterday's meeting.</p> <p><u>Natural Capital &amp; Heritage</u></p>	<p>SK/CM</p> <p>HB</p>

Liz Small/Liz Milne

Met on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January. It was a reduced group and had some more vocal members attending.

Biodiversity Net Gain and Protected landscape consultations and highlighted OEP consultations in meeting. These have recently been released and so members haven't highlighted many concerns as yet.

BNG 5<sup>th</sup> April consultation end

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/defra-net-gain-consultation-team/consultation-on-biodiversity-net-gain-regulations/consultation/>

Highlighted - monitoring and enforcement – still looking at detail but concerns on how it is going to work. New reporting requirements are a concern and how it links with ELMs and what are the landowners and Farmers perspectives. How do registered operators re off site mitigation work and what are the details of the New Burdens funding.

Mike Oxford – Ecologists/ LA/ Planners

Hannah highlighted a joint workshop with planning – ADEPT.

Protected Landscapes Updates 9<sup>th</sup> April – implementation

[Landscapes review \(National Parks and AONBs\): government response - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

OEP Strategy and Enforcement consultations are due back on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

[The OEP Strategy and Enforcement Policy - Office for Environmental Protection - Citizen Space](#)

Updates provided from:

Rebecca Moberley - Planning Advisory Service.

Adam Stewart - DEFRA. Adam mentioned work on LNRs is hoped to get underway in Summer. Responsible authority discussions still happening. DEFRA has a helpful meeting with LNP chairs.

Next Meeting:

Bruce Howard is invited for Ecosystem Knowledge Network.

Future Work items for next year suggested:

Outcomes of Environment Act and refresh of 25 Environment Plan and Environmental Improvement Plan. BNG, LNRs, Nature Green Paper, Planning reforms, links to the Levelling up agenda, Place based / Environment not just socio – economic, new focus on Heritage Coasts, Importance of the historic Environment. Workings & metrics of the Office of Environmental Protection.

	<p>David Dale updated:  Consultation from the Office from Environment Protection – a workshop is arranged for 16<sup>th</sup> February and invitations will go out shortly.  LNRS – we haven’t seen the government response to the consultation. Once out, a workshop will be planned.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy received an invite from Defra asking for nominated person to talk about LNRS and so they are assuming they are it. Adam said that the delay/issue would be around combined authorities.</p> <p><u>Waste</u>  Steve Palfrey</p> <p>Still waiting for Defra’s response to the main consultation strategies that closed last June. What does it mean in terms of detail of finance and implementation timetable to changes to waste services?  Response due early this year.</p> <p>Defra mentioned single use plastic and also a couple consultations of waste crime... electronic tracking of waste.</p> <p>Running a workshop on 15<sup>th</sup> March p.m. on waste net zero and how we deal with emissions from waste is a big deal. Good speakers lined up.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Hannah Bartram to publicise to wider ADEPT membership as this of interested to more than just the Waste group.</p>	<p>HB</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p><b>ADEPT business</b>  Hannah Bartram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Leadership Team has been focusing on the levelling up agenda – the White Paper is due out very soon (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of Feb). Tom Walker, Director of the Levelling Up Unit at DLUHC, attended the 1<sup>st</sup> session of the Excellence in Place Leadership programme last week which was focusing on levelling up. He was relatively candid about the document – he commented that they’d been grappling with the key issue of spatial disparities. Devolution remains a big element of the W/P, and will pick up on County Deals, also the Shared Prosperity Fund. He discussed the big focus on how all of Whitehall will need to work to deliver this agenda. The SoS is keen on measurables and evidence. ADEPT is working with EY to develop some metrics; these are being developed through lens of place-based services. Tom also</li> </ul>	

	<p>referred to regional place directors being recruited. Finally – he said there had been discussions about whether DLUHC might be set a legal requirement to report annually to parliament on levelling up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport &amp; Connectivity Board: doing a lot of work with regards to buses. Government support due to end on 31 March and there’s no confirmation it will be extended. LHAs are all waiting to hear about their Bus Service Improvement Plans, and associated funding.</li> <li>• Engineering Board: meeting later this week discussing micro mobility issues and alternatives to glyphosates (as weed killer).</li> <li>• Sustainable Growth Board: the chief planner / director of planning from DLUHC attended the planning working group last week. SG board meets 9 Feb (1<sup>st</sup> time this year) – presentation on doughnut economics.</li> <li>• Blueprint coalition group – met in December to review activities and determine whether it wanted to continue. In summary – it does and will use the Net Zero Strategy as the framework for its work.</li> <li>• Excellence in Place Leadership Programme – 2022 programme kicked off on 21 January. Leadership Development Programme 2022 – 1<sup>st</sup> cohort meets 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 2<sup>nd</sup> cohort starts in March.</li> <li>• ADEPT Spring Conference &amp; Annual Awards Dinner, London, 26 May – the conference will focus on the levelling up agenda. We will be putting a call out for award entries very soon.</li> <li>• Lunch &amp; learn sessions – 25Feb session will focus sustainable procurement. David will circulate the invite. The January session (taking place this Friday) will look at a pilot project in Cardiff, which taking waste gas from sewerage process and converting them into hydrogen for the council’s fleet.</li> <li>• Net zero waste workshop – taking place 2-4pm on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Stuart Hayward-Higham from Suez, Chris Preston from Defra and Louis Worthington from Climate Change Committee will be presenting. If you’d like to attend please get in touch with Hannah (<a href="mailto:Hannah.bartram@eastsussex.gov.uk">Hannah.bartram@eastsussex.gov.uk</a>).</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> David Dale to circulate the invite to the lunch and learn on sustainable procurement.</p>	DD
8.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>Look out for:</p> <p>Tomorrow – the Climate Emergency UK/My Society scorecards for councils’ climate action plans are due to be published, there was a pre-publication webinar last week that some of our members might have attended.</p>	All

	<p>Next week – partners from Blueprint Coalition are launching green jobs and skills report with a webinar, Sue Halliwell will speak for ADEPT:</p> <p><b>“Inspiration for council action on green jobs and skills</b></p> <p>How can your authority support a thriving and sustainable local economy? Find out on February 2 at a webinar marking the launch of a new report, Road to Zero Carbon: Council Action on Green Jobs and Skills. The report has been created by Friends of the Earth, Ashden and Shared Intelligence, drawing on research with local authority partners and contributions from industry, education, and the community. The event and report will cover practical steps for councils at every stage of their low-carbon journey. Registration is <a href="#">open now</a>. “</p>	
9.	<p><b>Notes of last meetings</b></p> <p><a href="#">ADEPT Environment Board Update - October 2021</a></p>	
10.	<p><b>Dates of future meetings, and close.</b></p> <p>Next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2022, 09:00-10:00</p>	