



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Environment Board

Wednesday 28th July 2021, 10.00 – 12.30

Via MS Teams

Agenda

| | | |
|----|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1. | <p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>SR welcomed all with a special mention to those joining for particular items on the agenda and to new members.</p> | Steve Read, Chair |
| 2. | <p>Environmental Services Association Net Zero Emissions Strategy Strategy and Summary</p> <p>Jacob Hayler provided an overview of the net zero strategy for the recycling and waste sector and invited discussion afterwards. The ESA represents, among others, the big 5 contractors and consultants. The waste sector's carbon footprint is under-reported because only landfill is included normally.</p> <p>On 30th June the ESA launched their net zero strategy, after 18 months in the making, which aims to cover all services and activities including collection, residual waste treatment and final disposal.</p> <p>Ricardo consultancy assisted with number crunching, setting a roadmap to net zero by 2040 (10 years ahead of government target), developing scenarios of how to meet that target and looked at carbon footprint of where emissions are arising. They estimated 35MT CO₂ emissions, the biggest part from recycling at 15MT tons, landfill at c. 10MT and transport and EfW at 5MT each.</p> <p>Scenarios were planned to drive down emissions in 3 areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Recycling – sorting and process is energy intensive. Estimated savings of 15MT A zero emissions grid is required for it to be decarbonised. There is £10bn investment required for a recycling-led strategy which also | Jacob Hayler, Executive Director, ESA |

| | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| | <p>meets other government objectives such as levelling up, green recovery, investment, and energy.</p> <p>2) Transport – EVs already being brought in where possible. Technology is not there yet to be rolled out everywhere, particular in rural and hilly areas. By 2030, no fossil fuels. By 2040, complete zero emissions fleet.</p> <p>3) Residual waste – looking at short term things like getting remaining organic out of landfill and raise average carbon capture to 85% by 2030. EfW to get into recycling. Heat prospectus due out in September. The only way to decarbonise completely is by carbon capture. EfW should be eligible for support. Talking to BEIS in delivering carbon capture. Although on-site space is an issue, and it won't be possible for all existing plants. By 2040 it will produce negative and beyond. Where old plants come to end of life, the new plants replacing them will have carbon capture and help offset some other emissions.</p> <p>£10billion will be put into recycling.</p> <p>ESA's intention is to report on the 5-year delivery plan on an annual basis. ADEPT is willing to assist in whatever way would be helpful.</p> <p>ACTION: ADEPT to invite ESA back to an Env Board meeting or Waste Group meeting for an update.</p> <p>Accountability – The ESA members are committed to delivery, feasibility, and credibility. The “big 5” plus next 10 emitters within the association will deliver a huge amount of savings across the sector. Individual companies will have different portfolios and so different performance targets.</p> <p>ACTION: Jacob agreed to come back on carbon footprint breakdown for commercial waste. Ricardo is looking at this for Scottish division: Jacob will ask if they can also look at county level.</p> <p>Regarding metrics and common reporting, Ricardo have established a common tool, EPE Protocol, developed in France to measure environment impact of greenhouse waste. ESA would welcome this to be adopted sector wide.</p> <p>David Dale asked who pays for decarbonisation – what are cost implications for end users etc? JH answered that the big unknown is around residual waste treatment and adding carbon capture. Some figures suggest a move from c£100 per tonne to c£200 per</p> | <p>SR/SP/JH</p> <p>JH</p> |
|--|--|---------------------------|

| | | |
|----|---|------------------------------------|
| | <p>tonne. BEIS are figuring out a way to support this. It may be that the consumer will have an increase on utility bills.</p> <p>David Dale asked how LAs can best use their procurement strategy to support ESA aims? How can they anticipate what they commission from market and shape that to meet net zero? ESA's expectation is that come 2030s the sector will be subject to carbon pricing, which would be the incentive for carbon capture to be procured. They are looking at how low or zero emissions vehicles can be incentivised through procurement.</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie mentioned Surrey's imminent procurement of a £70m waste service and the need to build in flexibility to cope with the Government's Waste Strategy and also carbon reduction. Jacob would be happy to facilitate a discussion with the sector to give flavour of how they think about both aspects. It's not just around re-procurement it's about what will end up at residual waste plants. Thought will be needed on how waste contracts will need to be amended.</p> <p>David Sutherland asked how ESA will identify which EfWs may be suitable for early Carbon Capture projects? Jacob responded the early adopters will be ones near the government proposed clusters. Viridor Runcorn plant in the north west will have a natural advantage and be an example early adopter. For others it's a case of eliminating sites where it's not feasible. At some locations, will only be able to fit in enough kit to capture 5% emissions and so cost of that doesn't stack up. Going forward all new projects will need to be "carbon capture ready" and have a viable end market in order to make it work/stack up. We also need to think about Biodiversity and wider sustainability and trying to manage trade-offs.</p> <p>SR thanked Jacob for an excellent presentation.</p> | |
| 3. | <p>National Audit Office study – Local Government and Net Zero Report</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>SR recapped that Keith and a colleague from the NAO joined us in January and was pleased to welcome aback to give a report following work on how local government is doing.</p> <p>Keith thanked various people on the ADEPT Board for helping to put the report together, particularly Hannah Bartram. The report is looking at how local and central government are working together and giving clarity on net zero.</p> | Keith Davis and Steph Woodrow, NAO |

| | |
|---|------------|
| <p>The focus was on mechanisms for local and central government working together with a recommendation for the importance of a clear overall lead in central government.</p> <p>It was found that government hadn't looked at totality of funding. There are wider funds available that can be used for net zero. Last year just over £1.2bn was available for local authorities. There is a need to look at the way funding is provided to get long term certainty for local authorities.</p> <p>Local authorities have varying levels of capacity to engage with net zero.</p> <p>BEIS have set up green jobs task force. Skills shortages were found to be made worse by short term funding.</p> <p>Recommendations have been made for departments to work with local authorities to identify skills gaps and use green jobs task force to address skills gaps.</p> <p>Response to the report and next steps:</p> <p>Everyone is asking when there's going to be a government response. NAO are happy with the report initially played out with a lot of coverage and support. There will now be an inquiry by the Environmental Audit Committee, ADEPT and the Blueprint Coalition will be able to submit evidence.</p> <p>Keith was happy to accept David Dale's suggestion that the NAO seeks and invitation to join the Permanent Secretaries meeting in September. ADEPT will contact MHCLG to try to facilitate this and to help ensure the report continues to land well and has good impact.</p> <p>He drew attention to other planned work regarding climate and environment. The next thing for NAO is the publication of the Green Homes Grant report, expected in September 2021.</p> <p>Keith informed that NAO are in discussion as to whether they can do something on Climate Adaptation, but it probably won't be like this report with public commitment.</p> <p>Peter Moore commented that the map showing that local authorities received very different amounts from the 21 dedicated funds for local authority work dedicated to net zero was very telling. It would be good to see allocations principle taking hold.</p> <p>ACTION: Board members to get in touch if they can be of any assistance.</p> | <p>All</p> |
|---|------------|

| | | |
|----|--|------------------------|
| | <p>ACTION: NAO is invited to join ADEPT Env Board meeting in the future for a further update</p> <p>SR Thanked Keith and Steph for their insights.</p> | DD |
| 4. | <p>Glover Review of protected landscapes – Government response Ministerial statement and Press release</p> <p><i>SR welcomed Jon Taylor from Defra.</i> Jon explained that this was an independent review with lots of interviews and site visits, looking at ways that Protected Landscapes bodies worked and how they are resourced. It made 27 recommendations.</p> <p>Since the review Defra have been working with stakeholders via a stakeholder reference group. More recently working with a contact group from members of National Park authorities, AONB, Natural England etc. launched a farming and protective landscapes to provide support for environmental schemes.</p> <p>Defra have produced the Ministerial statement with signposting towards the final response. of the government is broadly supportive of Glover’s headline findings. There needs to be more support for nature recovery and more to be done to improve public access. Government are considering designating new AONBs. The final part of the statement mentioned consideration of how to bring the family of protected landscapes closer together and how to bring more resources in.</p> <p>Defra are drafting a final response to go out by late Aug/early Sept. They are trying to advise ministers on what the shape of the response should be. In parallel, they are bidding for legislation to implement any proposed changes to the statutory purpose and governance of protected landscapes. Consultation on a Bill will run parallel to the bidding process. Need to be ready by May next year.</p> <p>ADEPT is supporting a working group, which, it is intended, will be a place to discuss and test proposals and put advice up to Ministers telling them what local authorities can support. First meeting of the working group is tomorrow, 29th July 2021.</p> <p>When in consultation there will be chance to get into more detailed discussions on individuals’ proposals. Burden of changes and disruptions etc.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy commented that there is a lot of work falling out of the Environment Bill and local nature recovery strategies and</p> | Jonathan Taylor, Defra |

| | | |
|----|---|------------------------------------|
| | <p>asked how this report will sit with the rest? Carolyn also commented about the need to link up with what we are doing around LNRS and natural capital solutions for flooding and carbon sequestration and PROW improvements.</p> | |
| 5. | <p>Local Nature Recovery Strategy pilots Report 12th July 2021</p> <p>Presentation</p> <p>SR recapped that Andrew Holden had joined us last January to give an update on how the work around Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) was progressing. Michelle Kelly and Tash Hunston from the LNRS team joined us today to present the results of the pilot, which started in August 2020.</p> <p>LNRSs are part of the Environment Bill currently going through parliament and are due back to Lords in September.</p> <p>Tash, referenced the recently published “lessons learned” report to highlight 5 pilots around the country (Buckinghamshire, Cornwall, Greater Manchester, Northumberland, and Cumbria), which ran from August 2020 to May 2021.</p> <p>It should be noted that these are prototypes and could change through government process. Timelines were very demanding. It is hoped that there will be more time to develop when the strategies are fully rolled out nationally.</p> <p>It is expected that each responsible authority will be “county sized” but there won’t be a one size fits all. It was noted that it’s not possible to start the roll-out early.</p> <p>ADEPT’s further input would be welcome, and Hannah suggested a bespoke session on this.</p> <p>Tash confirmed that monitoring and evaluation will be important and a statutory obligation. It is planned for monitoring to be addressed in the regulations and be included on statutory guidance.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy informed of the need for private landowners and charities to come in as well as public land: there needs to be a monitoring and evaluation framework to give assurance to landowners and investors.</p> <p>Adam asked about the planning reforms and the link to LNRSs and relationship with tiered authorities. How does Defra see it in</p> | Michelle Kelly, Tash Hunston Defra |

| | | |
|----|---|-----------------------------|
| | <p>the future? Tash advised Andy Holden is leading on this. It's too soon to say but he's working on it and hopefully we'll be able to see difference on work delivered.</p> <p>ACTION: ADEPT to arrange a bespoke workshop session on the interaction between LNRs (and other requirements in the Environment Bill) and the proposed planning reforms once published.</p> <p>ACTION: ADEPT members to send questions to Tracey Butcher for collation to send to Tash and Michelle for response.</p> | <p>SR/HB/DD</p> <p>All</p> |
| | <p><i>Break</i></p> | |
| 7. | <p>Updates from partners and local authorities</p> <p>Defra</p> <p><u>Environment Bill</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st July - the Interim Office of Environmental Protection (OEP) was launched. • 14th July - completed passage through Committee • Stage in House of Lords. Will return for Report Stage in House of Lords on 6th Sept, before 3rd reading and returning to House of Commons. <p><u>Other Defra Updates</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7th July – Council for Sustainable Business (CSB) soft launched their Nature Handbook. It is a toolkit for business. • A “Get Nature Positive” campaign has been set up and businesses will be encouraged to sign up in the run up to COP26. Full launch in early September. • Henry Dimbleby’s Food Strategy has been published. Part 1 was published in July 2020. Government has committed to responding to the review’s recommendations in the form of a Food Strategy White Paper within 6 months. This is a cross - government Food Strategy. • 21st July - first round of winning projects through the NEIRF were announced. Read more here. • 22nd July - launched 2 consultations to review the water investment programme. <p><u>Local Authority Engagement</u></p> <p>Q&A product continues to be developed. Planning to share with ADEPT for feedback end-Sept and to have final version ready for Royal Assent.</p> <p><u>Natural Capital Ecosystem Assessment team (NCEA)</u></p> | <p>All</p> <p>Joe Wahla</p> |

A new Defra team. Hoping to meet with local authorities. More info available from Gigi.Hennessy@defra.gov.uk.

Carolyn asked about the possibility of the NCEA coming to a future ADEPT Env Board Meeting?

ACTION: DD to follow this up

ACTIONS FROM 30/06/21

First draft of the Local Authority Environment Bill Q&A product prepared.

ACTION: JW to share with the Board next week for their feedback. – JW advised that Defra are planning to share feedback with ADEPT in the last of week of September and to have final version ready for Royal Assent.

ACTION: JW to find out about timing of new burdens payments for Local Authorities. This has been taken away and looking into it, do not have definitive answer yet.

ACTION: JW to feedback re. approach to Government announcements to ensure that those local authorities directed affected are informed in advance. Confirm that ADEPT feedback has been circulated within Defra. It may not always be possible to provide advance warning, but Defra will aim to update ADEPT at the earliest feasible stage.

Natural England

[Natural England Action Plan 2021-2022](#) published:

Metric Launch - [Biodiversity 3.0 metric launched in new sustainable development toolkit - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

This action plan is a useful capture of high line priorities and actions for this year. Biodiversity net gain matrix launched a couple of weeks ago. It went well and positive feedback was received. Although there were 1 or 2 unhelpful articles around people saying it's a "licence to trash".

Mel Hughes' (Sustainable Development Director) recent Blog which picks up some of the points raised by some of the public feedback and to underline the critical importance of existing protections and measures etc.

[Biodiversity Metric 3.0 – a milestone moment for biodiversity net gain - Natural England \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Green infrastructure standards work, and national mapping has moved forward. Design guidance is in the offing at the moment. Adam offered to bring back to a future ADEPT Environment Board meeting if interested.

Adam Wallace

| | | |
|----|--|--|
| | <p>Environment Agency</p> <p>As part of the climate ambition to <i>'create a net zero nation that is resilient to climate change'</i>, EA have launched a report on one of its three elements – the organisational roadmap to achieve net zero by 2030. The other two parts of their ambition are 'enabling UK net zero' and 'preparing for climate impacts'.</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/environment-agency-reaching-net-zero-by-2030</p> <p>Environment Agency, Chief Scientist's Group. (2021). The state of the environment: the urban environment.</p> <p>State of the environment - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</p> <p>Local Authority Updates:</p> <p>Sam Kennedy is working with the Independent Commission in Essex who have published a report Net Zero: Making Essex Carbon Neutral, which can be found here. It is published on the new Commissions website www.essexclimate.org.uk</p> <p>Liz Milne announced that North Yorkshire will become a unitary council - 7 Districts and County will form a new council. Somerset and Cumbria have also given a unitary announcement. David Dale informed that ADEPT has held a couple of workshops to exchange experiences going forward and offered to share anything more widely if desired. Chloe Tringham clarified that Cumbria has 7 Districts and County going to 2 unitaries split east and west.</p> | Jennie Donovan |
| 8. | <p>Board business and Working Group updates:</p> <p>Energy & Clean Growth</p> <p>At the last meeting on Monday there was a good update from BEIS with good conversation on funding streams but not full detail. Process going on now on what to cover. Hints on mandate towards local authorities and net zero.</p> <p>ACTION: Carolyn to share slides from Cambridgeshire presentation.</p> <p>Also discussed was Heat Networks in terms of how they will look across the country to identify areas. The plan is to do a heat map and heat zoning as a whole. A piece of legislation is due to mandate people to connect to networks.</p> <p>Flood and Water Management</p> | <p>Carolyn McKenzie</p> <p>CMcK</p> <p>Alys Bishop</p> |

| | |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are looking at membership and attendance of the group and also looking at developing a series of sub-groups/team leads to push forward on statutory duties etc. • Attendance has been less due to winter flooding as resources have been stretched responding to those events and recent events. • Support given to Environment Agency on delivery of National Strategy and Action Plan. Three actions were taken and 7 for ADEPT generally. • Regarding Net Gain etc, Alys suggested it would be good to go to each other's meetings and hash it out a bit. <p>Natural Capital & Heritage</p> <p>Liz was joined by David Sutherland for the ADEPT Env Board meeting today.</p> <p>The group has postponed their next meeting until September. However, there has been a lot of activity between members particularly on trees and woodland policies and funding and the protected landscapes review response. This includes the June presentation of evidence to the EFRA Select Committee enquiry into tree planting and woodlands by David Sutherland and engagement in the Blueprint Coalition sessions with DEFRA on supporting bio-diversity outcomes. Items for the September meeting include a) ADEPT/ ALGAE/ DEFRA Biodiversity Net Gain skills and capacity project report feedback, b) Dasgupta Review – group to review and discuss the Government's response, c) Discussion on approaches to make the most of 'new burden' funding and potential of pooling resources.</p> <p>Waste</p> <p>Steve Palfrey had to leave the meeting for an urgent issue, but Hannah commented on lack of HGV drivers which is exacerbated by Covid pressures and is affecting all sectors. Pressure is particularly acute in the South West and London boroughs. This issue has been raised with both DfT and Defra and things are starting to move.</p> <p>SR noted there are general pressures around recruitment and retention of blue-collar workforce for example obtaining agency staff for HWRC operation is becoming increasingly difficult.</p> <p>Steve sent the following update after the meeting: ADEPT's responses to the recent Defra consultations can be found on the ADEPT website. ADEPT is mostly supportive of the planned reforms which form part of the Environment Bill which is expected to achieve Royal Assent in the autumn. EPR is essential to drive change in the design and recyclability of packaging as well as increasing the funding available for recycling. Consistency</p> | <p>Liz Small</p> <p>Steve Palfrey</p> |
|--|---------------------------------------|

| | | |
|----|---|---|
| | <p>in the range of materials accepted for recycling nationwide makes good sense but challenges remain in funding and implementing this change within proposed timescales; the infrastructure required; and end-markets for difficult to recycle materials (cartons and plastic films). How the system for collection and recycling of commercial waste needs further consideration, and ADEPT is opposed to proposals for mandating free collection of garden waste or the frequency of refuse collection. The DRS proposals risk expensive (for consumers) duplication of recycling infrastructure to provide a takeback system for beverage containers only. ADEPT supports delaying the implementation of DRS to allow time for the effectiveness of EPR and Consistency to be assessed and also for a 'digital DRS' option to be more fully explored. Further Government consultations as out/expected on a range of waste issues.</p> <p>ADEPT has also been actively supporting Government's Covid-19 response and the exemption from self-isolation for critical workers in the waste sector.</p> <p>Finally, the national driver shortage is affecting some members' waste service provision, particularly in the South West and ADEPT is one of the organisations lobbying Government to support measures to address this.</p> <p>Environment Board</p> <p>ACTION: Board Members to think about items for the October quarterly meeting agenda.</p> <p>We already have the following possible items planned:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flood risk management and national strategy – Julie Foley, EA 2. OxCam Arc, local natural capital project. 3. Net Zero Strategy 4. Defra NCEA team 5. LNRS/planning reform workshop. | <p>Steve Read/David Dale</p> <p>ALL</p> |
| 9. | <p>ADEPT business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paula Hewitt is new President of ADEPT, with Mark Kemp as Vice President. Two new regional Boards have been set up for Yorkshire & Humber and North West. • There have been a number of meetings with senior civil servants. • Transport and Connectivity Board meeting focussed on EVs and conversation on energy needs. • Office for Zero Emission Vehicles OZEV Reviewing transport decarbonisation plan. | Hannah Bartram |

| | | |
|-----|---|-----------------------------|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engineering Board – Phil Sterling came to speak about roadside verges and use for biodiversity. • Sustainability Board - refreshed housing policy position. • Planning White Paper Consultation. Office for Place. Testing the model design code – Buckinghamshire is one of the pilots. <p>Key items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Blueprint Coalition published a new paper 'recognising LAs as key partners in the Net Zero Strategy' (here) • Cabinet Office has published a COP26 local authority comms toolkit (here) • Free ticket to the Westminster Forum (here), Wednesday 5th August is available. • ADEPT Autumn Conference – taking bookings now (here) | |
| 10. | <p>Any other business</p> <p>Nothing to raise.</p> | All |
| 11. | <p>Notes of last full meeting (28th April 2021)</p> <p>All agreed.</p> | Steve Read |
| 12. | <p>Dates of future meetings, and close.</p> <p>Next meeting is the main quarterly meeting: Wednesday, 27th October</p> <p>ACTION: Steve Read to run a quick offline poll via e-mail to receive views on to continue with the monthly meetings for September and November and whether the October meeting should be F2F or Virtual.</p> | <p>Steve Read</p> <p>SR</p> |