



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Monthly Environment Board Catch-Up

3rd March 2022, 10:00-11:00

NOTES

		ACTION OWNER
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>Steve Read went round the group receiving personal introductions. Barry Wyatt from South Gloucestershire joined fully for first time today.</p>	
2.	<p>Current service issues, pressures and risks</p> <p>This agenda item was initially around Covid-19 issues but over time has evolved into wider issues.</p> <p>Steve Read reported that Ds&Bs currently have an issue around potential industrial action from waste collection crews. It was reported that the GMB had great success in Eastbourne where they managed to negotiate a pay increase for their staff and so others are trying to take this forward</p> <p>Ralph Kemp, Cheshire East, are in a unitary and are still struggling with waste collections due to Covid. "Bubbles" still exist which makes it harder and also driver issues still exist related to Covid.</p> <p>Shaun Askins raised the point about climate change scorecard reports by Climate Emergency UK. In Luton, like many others, they have real concerns about these, and it is to some extent diverting resources away from actual actions as they try to respond to members.</p> <p>Steve Read responded to say that the WSCC Cabinet Member sent something through about this and also the Opposition is bringing it up quite often.</p> <p>Peter Moore reported that Reading came out quite well but noted that despite Climate Emergency UK saying they weren't going to do a league table this is what appeared. Requirements for next year will change which</p>	

	<p>will make it difficult to increase the score for next year. It was also noted that APSE Energy have their name on the website but actually they are not associated with it.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy report that the Essex action plan came out after the Climate Emergency UK deadline, so they escaped it this year. It is concerning that residents seem to have received information on what councils are and are not doing.</p> <p>Barry Wyatt of South Glos noted the challenge for them is the methodology changing for next year as this year they set the bar quite high as they performed quite well in year one. Although, there is an offer to have a discussion on the data.</p> <p>ACTION: Steve Read to discuss with David Dale to agree an ADEPT response to reply to the Climate Change Scorecards raising our concerns.</p> <p>ACTION: Peter Moore to report back to the Board following media queries on whether anyone is buying Russian gas.</p> <p>James Potter, Hampshire, highlighted some work he is doing with the EA around POPs and wanted to flag a potential cost implication in dealing with flame retardant furniture. Steve Palfrey confirmed that this is on the Waste Group's radar but putting in a concerted effort on it. This is part of a wider point with the EA as they have positioned themselves in protecting the environment and taking a firm line that everything needs to be perfect. Better alignment is needed with the EA to make the issue clear and provide a solution. Jennie Donovan, EA, is happy to take this offline.</p> <p>ACTION: James Potter, Hampshire Council, to engage in conversation with the EA on the potential cost implication in dealing with flame retardant furniture. Jennie Donovan, EA, will be happy to work with the Waste group on this.</p> <p>ACTION: James Potter, Hampshire Council, to engage in conversation with Defra on Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR).</p> <p>Working Groups <u>Waste – Steve Palfrey</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting of the Waste Group is on Monday 28th March. Anyone who wants to join the mailing list for that group please contact: lucinda.boast@suffolk.gov.uk • Workshop on Net Zero for the Waste sector and what that means – 15th March 2022. Good speakers lined up from Defra, Climate Change Commission and SUEZ (as an industry voice). • Net Zero Waste workshop with Waste Group ADEPT 	<p>SR</p> <p>PM</p> <p>JP</p> <p>JP</p>
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adeptnet.org.uk

- Consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility; Consistency; Deposit Returns Scheme – run during March-June 2021 - Still waiting for government to publish its response.
- EPR implementation timetable – rumours that it has been delayed from 2023-2024 but there's no clarification/confirmation as Local Authorities on that. Ralph Kemp also emphasised that contracts are up for renewal in 2023 and there are elections then too. There is uncertainty and so need concrete direction. Sam Kennedy agreed as Essex have their Waste Strategy and Residual Waste contract up for renewal.
- Steve Read commented that the WSCC Cabinet Member for Environment wrote to Joe Churchill but hasn't received any kind of response.
- Joe Wahla doesn't have an update on Waste but can say that early 2022 is the status of the Waste consultation.

ACTION: Joe Wahla, Defra, to update the Board on their concerns around Waste issues.

JW

- POPs is another to keep any eye on.
- Defra have launched another couple of consultations for response on Waste Carriers, Brokers and Dealers.

Energy & Clean Growth

Carolyn McKenzie sent apologies. No update.

Flood and Water Management

Max Tant

- The group met at the end of January
- EA released National Strategy for flood risk management 2 years ago and set out action plan for one year which didn't deliver on the measures that the strategy was trying to achieve. Anticipating getting this in next couple of months. Risk Management Authorities are named in many actions. There is a role for LAs. They want to be involved in the actions and not necessarily named. The group are developing training/best practice and embedding and want to be involved through ADEPT.
- At the same time as the Environment Act, the Government was introducing Schedule 3 of the Environment Act to improved bodies

of sustainable drainage. It didn't get off the ground, but government are under a lot of pressure on sustainable drainage and are committed to doing a review which has now been started by Defra with involvement of the Flood and Water Management group. This is likely to be on the agenda at the end-April Flood and Water Management meeting.

Natural Capital & Heritage

Liz Small/Liz Milne

Liz & Liz sent apologies but sent a written update prior to the meeting:

- The group has not met since the last Environment Board meeting in January. The next meeting is planned for 21st March where the forward work programme will be updated. There are current live Government consultations on the Protected Landscapes, the Bio-diversity net gain and two on the Office of Environmental Protection.
- The funding allocations to Local Planning Authorities to support the new burdens relating to BNG have started to be notified to local authorities out of the £4 million promised by Government. In addition, it is indicated that provisional relevant authorities for the Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) may be notified shortly with a "hoped for" start on LNRS work in the Summer. Government has promised funding to support the development of LNRSs, but this has not been defined as yet. BNG to be implemented November 2023 and LNRS ideally ready for the same time period.

Steve Palfrey has received a comms from Defra to say Suffolk have been provisionally identified as the lead council for their area. Sums of money were talked about and a request to receive confirmation of other authorities in the area that they want Suffolk to be the lead, although this shouldn't be a problem as it is the right geography for the area.

James Potter, Hampshire, confirmed that he will meet with Defra and a number of local authorities to discuss who will be the lead in his area. He agreed there are some issues particularly with regard to county deals going through.

Steve Read informed that WSCC is in a meeting with Defra this morning and we will update the Board on anything that comes out of that meeting.

Defra

Joe Wahla

NOTE: Joe is leaving Defra on 14th March. His replacement to attend these meetings tbc. Joe is taking up a role working on sustainability and net zero in the fashion industry.

1. On 1 February we launched the application process for the first round of Landscape Recovery pilot projects. We have [published the Guidance](#) for the scheme and released our Invitation to Apply on the [eSourcing Portal](#), where you can find more detailed guidance, and builds on the [information published in January](#). Applications for this round of funding are open from 1 February 2022 and will close on 24 May 2022
2. On 2 February we published a press release from Minister Pow, focused on the Strategic Policy Statement (SPS) that was laid in Parliament setting out the government’s guidelines and expectation from Ofwat for the next five years. You can read the press release [here](#), and read the SPS [here](#).
3. The Climate Change Committee have launched a call for evidence on voluntary carbon offsetting, with quite a few questions on the domestic nature-based carbon markets (specifically peat and soil), and ask about the need for standards, regulation, Measuring Reporting Verification, and more. You can access the call through this [link](#) – the deadline for responses is 28th February.
4. On 2 February DLUHC published the [Levelling Up White Paper](#). It is a flagship document that sets out how we will spread opportunity more equally across the UK. It comprises a bold programme of systems change, including 12 UK-wide missions to anchor the agenda to 2030, alongside specific policy interventions that build on the 2021 Spending Review to deliver change now.
5. On 10 February, we set out plans for two new bathing waters: An area of the River Thames in Oxford and a coastal area in the Isle of Wight have been put forward for bathing water status. You can read the [press release here](#).

Local Authority Engagement

6. The Environment Act 2021: Frequently Asked Questions (Local Authorities) (FAQ) was distributed to Local Authorities by the LGA during the second week of February in their Climate Change Bulletin. ADEPT will circulate it in the March newsletter. Local authorities will play an important role in the delivery of 21 of the measures in the Act, many of these being in the “Nature” and “Waste and Resource Efficiency” chapters. The FAQ document provides a comprehensive set of questions and answers intended to give Local Authorities a strategic overview of the impact these measures will have on them. Please note that the document has been published in a secure Defra Share Point folder to allow secure and easy access to this and future versions. In order to access the document, please email joe.wahla@defra.gov.uk who will

grant you permission. Alternatively, the document now available on the ADEPT website <https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/environment-act-frequently-asked-questions>.

Barry Wyatt, South Glos, commented on the CCRN 3 issued on 17th January and the fact it contained some pretty fundamental things like “get ready for a 4-degree temperature rise”. This needs to be included in the National Adaptation Action Plan.

ACTION: Joe Wahla to obtain a response from the Defra team as to how the 4-degree temperature rise message hasn't been picked up by other government departments and media.

JW

Environment Agency

Jennie Donovan

Most recently the EA have been busy responding to the 3 main storms: Dublin, Eunice and Franklin. The EA are happy to do more work with the Flood Risk group in relation to this.

Water quality work and condition of inland waters. The EA would be interested to pick up with Water group to see if they should do working with the local authorities.

It's all about sustainable places and growth and the EA would be happy to make better links with other working groups.

An action from a previous ADEPT Environment Board monthly meeting was taken for Jennie to come back to the Board with climate adaptation and so the EA are picking up on the 4-degrees temperature rise and what that means. Steve Read confirmed this is noted for the next quarterly agenda.

Natural England

Adam Wallace sent apologies. No update.

Other Issues, Risks and Questions

Councils

Nothing raised.

ADEPT

Hannah Bartram/David Dale

- Levelling up access to nature letter signed by ADEPT

	<p>The Wildlife and Countryside letter was covered in the Guardian on Monday, 21st February: https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/feb/21/uk-wildlife-campaigners-call-for-legal-right-to-access-nature-for-all</p> <p>A related piece published on 26th February on unequal access to green space: https://www.theguardian.com/inequality/2022/feb/26/poorest-areas-of-england-have-less-than-third-of-garden-space-enjoyed-by-richest</p> <p>Richard Benwell is a possible speaker at the ADEPT Spring conference in May.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ADEPT climate change policy position has been updated and merged with the clean growth policy position, it will go to the Leadership Team on 10th March – some members of the Board will have the draft already, it can be shared for comments more widely if anyone is interested • Any feedback on the sustainable procurement Lunch & Learn session last Friday, please let David Dale/Steve Read know. • ADEPT supported and helped steer the Ashden/FoE green jobs and skills report https://ashden.org/news/road-to-zero/ published in early Feb and Sue Halliwell spoke at the launch event; there is a joint webinar planned with the LGA probably in July. • Look out for the FoE council climate action case studies being published this week and next. • Biodiversity Net Gain consultation <p>ACTION: Please contact David Dale if you are intending to respond to this, and if you have views on some of the broader issues that should be reflected in the ADEPT response.</p>	ALL
3.	Any other urgent business	
4.	<p>Dates of future meetings/calls</p> <p>30th March – monthly meeting. Hope to have the near final BNG consultation response to share (deadline 4th April).</p> <p>27th April – main quarterly meeting – via MS Teams Draft agenda is very climate focussed: Rob Mason, Defra – Climate Change Risk Assessment Sandra Bell, FOE – Council climate actions Climate Change Committee work programme Updates from partners and local authorities.</p> <p>20th July – main quarterly meeting. Consider F2F in London with a workshop in the afternoon. Broadway House</p>	

	in London has been recommended by Jennie Donovan as a possible venue with good facilities for hybrid capability for those who can't join in person.	
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