

ADEPT South West Sub National Board – 12 July 2019

The Chair updated the Board on ADEPT business including events at the Spring conference and agreement of the network's three strategic priorities going forward:-

1. Place based funding in a post Brexit world
2. Communities and infrastructure
3. Climate change and the environment

The Autumn Conference will be held in the South West in Bath with a focus on connected communities in changing times.

The Board then received an update on the Sub-National Transport Bodies (STBs); Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway. Both STBs have undertaken their scheme prioritisation for the Major Road Network and Large Local Majors. Collaboration between Peninsula Transport and Western Gateway continues to ensure that they remain completely aligned. Both Board's supported the cross boundary scheme. It was recognised how much progress had been made to date by both STBs in such a short space of time and the high level of collaboration and joint working that had enabled them to get to this position.

On other transport matters, the Board also received an update from Rebecca Edmond at Highways England who gave an overview of the organisational changes that had taken place over the last four years. Rebecca also clarified the responsibilities of the different divisions in the South West and the roles of the route managers.

Jon Rattenbury attended from the SW Energy Hub to present the work of the Hub and local capacity support, the Rural Community Energy Fund and update the Board on the SW LEP Energy Strategies. The Board were very supportive of the work of the Hub and offered to advocate for the Hub where possible to ensure future sustainability which was very much welcomed.

Lastly the Board received a presentation from Jane Houghton at Natural England on the development of the Green Infrastructure (GI) Standards. The GI Standards Project is a commitment in the 25 Year Environment Plan to review and update existing standards for green infrastructure by the summer. The Board discussed the value of natural capital as well as some of the viability challenges around this.

In summary, the Board's discussions showed how much progress the two STBs had made in such a short space of time. They also noted the organisational changes that had taken place at Highways England and the importance to the strategic transport agenda. There was strong support for the work of the SW Energy Hub and the development of the GI Standards. The Board offered to further share ADEPTs thinking with Natural England around the development of the Green Infrastructure Standards.