

Excellence in Place Leadership (EiPL) programme – update January 2020

The second session of the EiPL programme (details on the website [here](#)) was held at KPMG's Canary Wharf offices on 17th January. The subject was Making Green Finance Work, and the aim of the session was to understand what the Government's [Green Finance Strategy](#) is, why it is important for Place Leaders, and what we must do in practice to embed it into our work.

There were great inputs from a wide range of speakers representing BEIS, KPMG, Amey, AVIVA, HSBC, and CDP. In addition, participants worked in teams to do exercises on:

- Is the Strategy meaningful for Place Leaders, if not what are the gaps?
- What are the brakes and blockages to embedding Green Finance in our sector?
- How do we tackle these blockages?
- What are the things we can do to promote and embed Green Finance in our day job?

Although the Strategy was published last July and the political landscape has shifted since then, it was clear that the new Government is strongly committed to it and that there is a high level of cross-party support. An All-Party Parliamentary Group is due to be launched next month to increase the understanding and awareness of parliamentarians of how sustainable finance can be unlocked to deliver a net zero economy in the UK and what role the finance sector has in achieving our climate goals nationally and globally. Financial institutions and major investors are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of green finance. There is a big challenge for local government to understand the new sources of finance that are coming on stream and to be able to package investment projects in ways that will give access and be attractive to new funds.

The main points from the session are being written up as a toolkit for Place Leaders, and will be published in due course once they have been agreed and designed.