

# ADEPT President's Awards 2023

Entry form

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<b>Award category</b>	Delivering Clean Growth
<b>Project Title</b>	Cheshire West and Chester Council: collaborating to rapidly mobilise a zero and ultra-low emissions highways inspection and maintenance fleet
<b>Local authority entrant</b>	Cheshire West and Cheshire Council
<b>Partner/s if applicable</b>	Colas Ltd

## Headline summary (150 characters max.)

Cheshire West and Chester Council: collaborating to rapidly mobilise an effective zero and ultra-low emissions highways maintenance operations fleet

## Delivering clean growth: How is this project delivering clean growth, not just now but into the future – demonstrating ambition and vision, anticipating future challenges and future proofing growth including developing the workforce for the future? (150 words max)

At Cheshire West and Chester Council we are committed to reducing our operational carbon footprint across highways services.

We have therefore partnered effectively with Colas, our new delivery partner for highways term maintenance, to accelerate our decarbonisation plans. We are already transitioning our own fleet of inspection and gritting vehicles to battery-electric and hybrids (18 assets so far), and close collaboration has enabled Colas to rapidly mobilise a highways operations and maintenance fleet consisting of 100% alternative fuel and Ultra Low Emission Vehicles.

Building on our experience, and Colas' recent success mobilising an alternative-fuelled fleet on National Highways Area 9, 8% of the vans on the Cheshire West and Chester contract are already fully-electric from Day 1, with all of the other vehicles (vans, pickup) running on HVO Fuel from depots. Within 6 months the zero emissions share will grow to 23% electric, as our contractors manage well-documented lead-time bottlenecks.

## Delivering clean growth: How is this project working across boundaries and with different partners to achieve long lasting clean growth? (150 words max)

Our new relationship with Colas is underpinned by a mixed economy model for local highways operations, which inherently draws on a number of existing and emerging synergies between the partners we've engaged to deliver the term maintenance contract.

These stakeholders have further engaged their supply chains to collaboratively lift barriers to rolling out our zero and ultra-low emissions fleet. This includes overcoming challenges of obtaining suitable works vehicles for operations across the 2,300km highways asset in Cheshire West and Chester, as well as putting in place the operational infrastructure for electric vehicle charging or HVO re-fuelling,

supporting transformation of our wider gritter fleet.

Using this approach and drawing on the latest, most efficient technologies, we have aimed to ensure that our depot infrastructure provides a robust and flexible foundation to:

1. Remain future-proof within the changing zero/low-carbon vehicle landscape
2. Underpin the continuous improvement philosophy that we share with Colas/partners

**Delivering clean growth: How is this project proactively engaging with business to tackle problems and find solutions, stimulating the clean growth sector at the same time? (150 words max.)**

As introduced, the foundation of our mixed economy model for local highways operations engages multiple specialist businesses within the sector.

As a Council we are also actively targeting reduction in our Scope 3 carbon footprint and that of our supply chain in parallel. For example, Colas have now moved to a policy of having only company cars which are fully-electric, and are likewise committed to developing the charging infrastructure to support this transition for their wider workforce.

This shared vision with our partners will provide channels for us to join up these activities with other sector-level initiatives to reduce our carbon footprint beyond our business-as-usual decarbonisation trajectory.

This approach is further evidenced by the contract's wider programme to improve our depots to support our changing way we will be delivering our operations as we transition to a carbon neutral future, including how we support welfare and charging infrastructure for staff.

**Delivering clean growth: How is this project going beyond the 3-5 year budget cycle to prepare for future challenges including the use or consideration of innovative funding solutions? (150 words max.)**

The Highways Delivery Partner contract in place for our term maintenance activities is initially 7 years, but 2 optional 4-year extensions support a maximum term of 15-years.

This potential engagement enables us to build the enhanced collaboration with Colas, as well as with other supply chain stakeholders, to strategically leverage parallel sector-level investments that we consider vital to increase capacity to embrace the latest technology and build resilience.

Also key is the mixed economy procurement process developed within our Transport and Highways directorate, enabling us to account for specific operational and economic factors in different aspects of the service – a system of systems approach.

In this way we can seek to leverage more disruptive change within the Council through these partner investments, including a new local recycling facility established in our main depot which and drive a sustainable circular economy and support carbon neutrality of this asset by 2025.