

## ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

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| <b>Date &amp; Time:</b> | <b>Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023, 13:30 – 15:00</b>   |
| <b>Venue:</b>           | Microsoft Teams Meeting  |
| <b>Chair:</b>           | Sheryl French - Assistant Director, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) (SFR)  |
| <b>Attendees:</b>       | <p>Brian White – Clean Energy Manager, Cumbria LEP (BWH)<br/>         Chitra Nadarajah – Head of Service, Climate Change &amp; Environmental Strategy, Hampshire County Council (CNA)<br/>         David Dale – ADEPT (DDA)<br/>         Doug Eltham – (DEL)<br/>         Hannah Bartram – Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT (HBA)<br/>         Kofi Adu-Gyamfi – Climate Change Service Lead, West Berkshire Council (KGY)<br/>         Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ)<br/>         Patrick Allcorn – Head of Local Energy, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (PAL)<br/>         Thomas Day – Head of Energy &amp; Low Carbon Programme, (TDA)<br/>         Victoria Burvill – Senior Climate Officer, Wiltshire Council (VBU)</p> |
| <b>Guests:</b>          | <p>Chris Parkin – Community Energy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council (CPA)<br/>         Dale Hoyland - Oxfordshire Retrofit Team Lead, Oxfordshire County Council (DHO)<br/>         James Davenport – CCS (JDA)<br/>         Kirsty Williams – CCS (KWI)<br/>         Olivia Leicester – CCS (OLE)</p>   |
| <b>Note Taker:</b>      | Bayley Wooldridge, Energy Projects Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (BWO)  |
| <b>Apologies</b>        | <p>Carolyn McKenzie - Director of Environment, Surrey County Council<br/>         Michael Barry – Assistant Director of Neighbourhoods, Cumberland Council.<br/>         Nicola Stringer – Energy Programme Manager, West Sussex County Council<br/>         Sarah Gilbert – Oxfordshire County Council<br/>         Sue Davies – Luton Borough Council<br/>         Katie Sargent – Environment Group Commissioning Manager, Surrey County Council<br/>         Daire Casey – Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council</p>   |

| Item No. | Item   |
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| 1.       | <p><u>Sheryl French welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u></p> <p>SFR introduced Bayley who has taken over James Veitch's role supporting the Energy and Clean Growth group.</p> <p>Welcome to guest speakers Dale Hoyland and Chris Parkin and also James Davenport, Olivia Leicester and Kirsty Williams from the Crown Commercial Service.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023 were agreed as a correct record.</p>  |
| 2.       | <p><u>PPA Framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Crown Commercial Service (CCS)</li> </ul> <p>JDA gave a presentation on CCS' Power Purchase Agreements (<i>presentation attached</i>). The following key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Drivers for the framework include: climate change, government policy (carbon net zero by 2050, grid decarbonised by 2035), government departmental net zero targets, protection from the energy market volatility, and energy security.</li> <li>- The CCS framework is a 1 lot 4-year framework.</li> <li>- Generators must be producing green energy, not including nuclear.</li> <li>- A high level of competition is expected and there is a large appetite from the market – 1402 renewable sites are currently awaiting construction in the UK.</li> <li>- The framework provides two routes for customers to take: 1. CCS green basket or 2. Use own procurement.</li> <li>- Timelines: Aiming for framework publication as early as possible in 2024, likely to be next financial year.</li> </ul> <p>In response to questions raised, JDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The framework is open to any public sector organisation. CCS will be taking stock of requirements for different regions over the next few months.</li> <li>- CCS are aware grid connections will be an issue, this will be built into T&amp;Cs and competitions.</li> <li>- The earliest a contract could come online is expected to be mid-2024.</li> <li>- For renewable assets currently under construction, CCS are happy to look at on a case-by-case basis to determine how their framework could be applied.</li> <li>- The agreement is only for corporate PPA's and cannot be used for private wire.</li> <li>- Renewable assets will not be owned by the public sector – they will be owned by the private sector generator. This means long term contracts need to be drawn up to confirm revenue and genuine renewable electricity status.</li> <li>- This presentation can be shared outside of this working group to wider colleagues if desired.</li> </ul> |
| 3.       | <p><u>Community Energy – Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) &amp; Oxfordshire County Council (OCC)</u></p> <p><b>Heat Pump Ready (CCC)</b></p> <p>CPA gave a presentation on CCC's Heat Pumps for Friday Bridge project (<i>presentation attached</i>) on the work CCC are undertaking in supporting the decarbonisation of domestic homes. The following key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- CCC have been awarded £1.8m funding from the DESNZ Innovation Project Fund. This covers development of the scheme and includes a £5k contribution to cost per installation (equivalent to the boiler upgrade scheme).</li> </ul>   |

- The project will create a one-stop shop for ASHPs to provide the following information to interested customers: property suitability check, survey, design, quotation, financing options, installation, handover pack.
- The demand and feasibility of affordable financing is currently being explored.
- Friday Bridge, Fenland – high instances of fuel poverty, 1-7 secondary substation networks. The team worked with the DNO to establish grid reinforcement needs (not likely to be significant).
- Target: 140 houses.
- Working as a consortium with multiple partners.
- Currently in phase 2a until November 2023. This involves: development of one stop shop, procurement of survey, design, installation contractors (using shared framework between CCC and district councils), hyper-local marketing (website, mailshots, door to door, drop in events), surveys and design, investigation into affordable financing.
- At the end of phase 2a, CCC must report back to DESNZ & CCC's Environment and Green Investment Committee.
- Phase 2b will take place from December 2023 – December 2024. This will involve: DNO assessments, network reinforcements, ASHP installation from summer 2024, reporting.

In discussion, CPA:

- Properties must be on the gas grid network to qualify for the scheme. Tenure was not evaluated when looking into suitability of the area - in theory private rentals could participate, but social housing would not qualify.
- Acknowledgement that finding households who can afford upfront costs will be a challenge.
- A combination approach with solar together was suggested to make the offer more desirable. The assessments being carried out for this project will be for whole house retrofits so they will consider solar/battery opportunities.
- Concern raised over what would happen in winter months – each property would be different depending on the roof space, PV panel capacity used, timing of household electricity usage.
- Not yet looked at the potential for savings by batch ordering ASHPs.

### **Clean Heat Streets (OCC)**

DHO gave a presentation on OCCs Clean Heat Streets project (*presentation attached*) with focus on the Rose Hill area. The following key points were raised:

- Background: in Oxfordshire, 16,000 domestic properties must be retrofitted to EPC B standard in order to mitigate GHGs from domestic sector.
- Target: 150 heat pumps in 600 homes.
- Area Suitability: the DNO has confirmed the area will be suitable with some reinforcement work needed – this is being tied in with EV charger installs as OCC look to electrify their transport sector. Rose Hill has a mixture of affluent and low-income housing.
- Delivery partners include a diverse range of community/volunteer groups.
- Hyper local engagement: ran a launch event and a show home day (OCC installed 2 ASHPs in 'early adopter' homes for this purpose).
- Aim to begin the gradual install of ASHPs in sections starting in October 2023.
- Customer communications: messaging to minimise use of immersions and ensuring ASHPs are used as efficiently as possible. They are also encouraging customers to sign up to Octopus Energy's 'cosy' tariff.
- ASHPs are compatible with Samsung SmartThings smart home technology allowing customers to control via app/online. With this technology OCC can also phase in the turn on of ASHP remotely to reduce 'peak' usage effects.
- Barriers: the main barriers to customers are upfront cost and available space.

In discussion, DHO:

- OCC advertise the cost as £2.6-3k, and will top up if needed.

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| <p>4.</p> | <p><u>Update from DESNZ</u></p> <p>PAL highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Local Net Zero Forum went ahead 18<sup>th</sup> July. A devolved model for domestic retrofit is progressing – a bit of tidying up required following member feedback. This will move the agenda forward for simplification of domestic funding.</li> <li>- Energy Bill did not go back to commons as scheduled; it will now go back in September and should be concluded by November.</li> <li>- Hub Funding is being finalised – Stakeholder Manager and Community Energy Officer is being assigned for each region and additional budget is being considered and discussed for LAEPs.</li> <li>- Net Zero Living Programme – cohort of 31 pathfinder and 20 fast followers working on place-based initiatives. 31 have received Phase 1 funding. Next phase will be limited to 5 or 6 in-depth projects.</li> <li>- Current spending review period ends in March 2025. New review to be conducted in next 12-15 months – net zero will be a big part of this, DESNZ working with stakeholders to develop an evidence base.</li> <li>- <b>Importance reiterated of ADEPT joining forces with other key organisations to produce a robust joint narrative with one or two very clear messages. Separate discussion required for this – HBA and DDA action required.</b></li> <li>- Visits have been made to ‘urban-centric’ locations such as Manchester, but rural locations should also be considered.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An official note of the Net Zero Forum discussions was requested – advised this cannot be guaranteed but PAL will enquire. <b>PAL action required.</b></li> <li>- The groups suggested less confidence in UK’s ability to meet net zero targets – seeing investment in US/EU in place of the UK and some of the political messaging coming from government.</li> <li>- DESNZ response to annual report will be published in October.</li> <li>- A current challenge is sectors are progressing at different speeds. Local authorities advised to stick to their targets despite this challenge.</li> </ul> |
| <p>5.</p> | <p><u>Update from ADEPT</u></p> <p>HBA provided the following written update after the meeting:</p> <p><b><u>Transport</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Oflog – launched during the LGA annual conference (see <a href="#">here</a>) – waste is one of the 1<sup>st</sup> tranche of metrics. DfT confirmed today that transport will be one of the 2<sup>nd</sup> tranche of metrics. The prep work is likely to kick off – thought to be August – it will be a co-design process involving DLUHC, Oflog, DfT and LAs (not sure which ones – I did ask!).</li> <li>- Live Labs 2 (Decarbonising Local Roads) – the 7 projects are now all live following a three month period to develop more detailed business cases. We are already publishing regular blogs – the most recent focusing on monitoring &amp; evaluation (<a href="#">here</a>) – and planning an Expo in December.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Devolution / Growth / Planning</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Devolution – we hosted an ADEPT / LGA ‘Devolution &amp; Transport’ workshop yesterday – the key aim was to discuss whether there are common challenges where LAs – either with a devo deal or developing one – would like support.</li> <li>- <i>Pathways to Planning</i> is a new graduate programme being launched by the LGA in September 2023. It aims to widen the pool of graduates entering planning roles in local authorities. The scheme is an exciting opportunity for councils and graduates alike, offering a talent pipeline and excellent value for money. For more info see <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>- At the Joint Presidents / LGA meeting yesterday, the four associations agreed to support the LGA’s general election campaign ‘Make it Local’ (<a href="#">here</a>). We also discussed joint working on EDI issues and homelessness.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Environment</u></b></p>   |

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|    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- ADEPT is part of the <a href="#">Blueprint Coalition</a>, which recently published its <a href="#">Manifesto Asks</a> calling on every political party to commit to empowering local authorities to tackle climate change. The Coalition hosted an open webinar <i>Where next for local climate action?</i> on 12th July, which had over 180 attendees. ADEPT President Anthony Payne spoke, along with the leader of Wiltshire Council and Lib Dem MP Wera Hobhouse. The recording is available <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>- The NAO published its report <a href="#">The government's resources and waste reforms for England - National Audit Office (NAO) report</a> on 30 June. ADEPT commented: "<i>The NAO has clearly set out how the government needs to progress implementation at pace to deliver against its commitments, and we agree that this continued delay is really unhelpful. Contrary to calls from some producers, it is critical we introduce extended producer responsibility if we are truly committed to developing a circular economy, and we share the NAO's concerns about deposit return schemes</i>" (see our full comment <a href="#">here</a>).</li> <li>- The UK government published its <a href="#">third National Adaptation Programme (NAP3)</a> yesterday (17 July). This sets out a strategic five-year plan to boost resilience and protect people, homes, businesses and our cultural heritage against climate change risks such as flooding, drought and heatwaves. NB: DfT is also drafting a Transport &amp; Adaptation Strategy – due for consultation in the autumn, and publication by end of 2023.</li> <li>- Green Skills – we are a member of the Local Capacity &amp; Capability working group (one of the working groups under the Green Jobs Delivery Group), chaired by Kate Kennally from Cornwall Council. The group has been reviewing the current environment to developing green jobs and skills, and has identified the challenges and opportunities that currently exist in the skills system to develop the jobs and skills needed to deliver net zero. The intention / proposal is that national government will need to address these challenges in the Net Zero and Nature Recovery Plan (publication 2024).</li> </ul> <p><b>Events</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dates for your diary:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 5<sup>th</sup> National Traffic Managers Conference – Northampton, 5 October (<a href="#">here</a>). We have the Local Roads Minister Richard Holden giving the keynote speech, then three sessions 1) preparing for change 2) delivering change and 3) managing change. Free to attend!</li> <li>o Navigating Transition workshop – Birmingham, 13 October (<a href="#">here</a>) – for place directors considering a new stage in their career.</li> <li>o Autumn Conference – Nottingham, 16 &amp; 17 November – the booking site opened last week (see <a href="#">here</a>). The conference title is <i>Creating strong places: leadership from the ground up</i>.</li> <li>o The next <a href="#">Lunch &amp; Learn</a> on Friday 21 July is hosted by Kier, and is about supporting career pathways to highways and infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Delivering net zero is the shared challenge amongst ADEPT members. With that in mind, we have partnered with EY to offer councils the opportunity to run a Net Zero Maturity Assessment across their authority. There is no cost associated with participation; all the data that EY receives will be anonymised. If you would like to run the assessment – and the deadline is <b>28 July</b> - you can find more detail about the Net Zero Maturity Assessment Tool <a href="#">here</a> and download the tool <a href="#">here</a>. EY is also running some drop-in sessions (24 July, 28 July) – please contact me if you'd like to attend one of these.</li> </ul> |
| 6. | <p><u>Roundtable updates on key items from the Group</u></p> <p>This will be prioritised at the next meeting as there was no time for this.</p>   |
| 7. | <p><u>Forward agenda planning</u></p> <p>Prioritise Roundtable feedback discussions.</p>  |
| 8. | <p><u>AOB</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>   |

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| <b>9.</b> | <b>Date of next meeting</b><br><br>11:30am – 1pm, 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2023. |
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