

ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Wednesday 26th April 2023, 13:00– 15:00
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Sheryl French - Assistant Director, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) (SFE)
Attendees:	<p>Brian White – Clean Energy Manager, Cumbria LEP (BWH) Chitra Nadarajah – Head of Service, Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, Hampshire County Council (CNA) Daire Casey – Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council David Dale – ADEPT (DDA) Doug Eltham – Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer, Devon County Council (DEL) Edward Barlow – Head of Climate Change & Environment, Buckinghamshire Council (EBA) Inga Doherty – Energy Insights Lead, Oxfordshire County Council (IDO) Katie Sargent – Environment Group Commissioning Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA) Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ) Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA) Steve Palfrey – Assistant Director, Waste & Environment, Suffolk County Council (SPA) Thomas Day – Director of Place Commissioning, Essex County Council (TDA) Victoria Burvill – Senior Climate Officer, Wiltshire Council (VBU)</p>
Guests:	<p>Jo Dicks – Environmental Quality & Growth Manager, Cambridge City Council (JDI) Emily Bolton – Climate Crisis Strategy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council (EBO)</p>
Note Taker:	James Veitch – Assistant Project Manager – Large Scale Energy Projects, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (JVE)
Apologies	<p>Ariane Crampton – Head of Climate Programme, Wiltshire Council Carolyn McKenzie – Director of Environment, Surrey County Council Gareth Candlin - Assistant Director of Inclusive and Green Growth, Westmorland & Furness Council Ian Wheeler – Head of Clean Energy, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP) Jill Edmonson – Wakefield Council Katie Sargent – Environment Group Commissioning Manager, Surrey County Council Nicola Stringer – Energy Programme Manager, West Sussex County Council Patrick Allcorn – Head of Local Energy, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero Simon Bowers – Assistant Director Assets & Environment, West Northamptonshire Council</p>

Item No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Sheryl French welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u></p> <p>SFE welcomed Gareth Candlin, Helen Grayshan and Jill Edmonson as new members of the Working Group.</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 6th March 2023 were agreed as a correct record. The action log was reviewed.</p>
2.	<p><u>Building Local Systems for delivering Home Retrofits</u></p> <p>JDI addressed the group and provided the following key information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Cambridgeshire Energy Retrofit Partnership (CERP) is a county wide partnership involving Cambridgeshire County Council and the District/City Councils, which delivers large scale domestic energy efficiency improvements projects. - CERP has been successful in its applications for Home Upgrade Grant (HUG) and Green Home Grant: Local Authority Delivery (LAD) funding. - In the latest round of funding (HUG 1 and LAD 3), CERP received £6.5m and were given a 15month delivery window. The deadline for delivery was 31st March. The delivery programme timeline was extended by DESNZ on 30th March and was particularly challenging as the partnership had spent 6 weeks closing down the programme and demobilising contractors. - CERP received £11.5m via HUG 2, to deliver energy efficiency improvements to 550 properties over the next 2 years. Alongside the funding, CERP received very detailed administration requests, which had to be answered before any money was spent. - CERP had a negative experience with Civil Servants who seemed to be untrusting of LAs to deliver on the programme. <p>In discussion, Working Group members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identified some challenges including: last minute agreement to extend delivery timelines; very detailed administrative requests from DESNEZ, concern between control /trust placed with LAs to deliver - It was agreed to collectively provide DESNEZ with feedback on the funding and delivery agreements - Suggested this could be raised at the next Local Net Zero Forum via ADEPT's representative, Nigel Riglar. - Reported at the Greater South East Energy Hub meeting yesterday, Maxine Narburgh offered to collate a spreadsheet listing all of the challenges faced by LAs. In parallel it was noted that Salix were also asking for significant amounts of information for the most recent round of the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF).
3.	<p><u>LAEP</u></p> <p>IDO gave a presentation (<i>to follow</i>) on Local Energy Oxfordshire (LEO), the key points raised were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project LEO has been under development for the past 4 years and is one of three smart systems in the UK funded by DESNZ. - Its aim is to create an energy system which is required to reach net zero. The project has been developed in collaboration with a number of partners including Oxford University and six local communities. - Oxfordshire and its partners have been invited to Westminster, by Chris Skidmore to present the final report. - Oxfordshire procured Advanced Infrastructure to deliver an energy mapping tool for project LEO using LAEP+ software. - It is important to understand baseline data and the challenges and opportunities of the communities you're working within. - Oxfordshire are also working on project LEON led by SSEN and Advanced Infrastructure.

	<p>In discussion, Working Group members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explained that Advanced Infrastructure, through project CLEO have purchased the licencing for the LAEP mapping software, which will allow LAs to access the data. - Suggested that it would be useful if this mapping software could be embedded across the organisation (I.E if Education were building a new school and wanted to know the grid constraints in that area).
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Update from ADEPT</u></p> <p>HBA provided the following written update before the meeting.</p> <p>Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Building on our ongoing engagement with ADCS, ADPH, ADASS and LGA (the joint presidents group), launched a joint piece of work with ADCS on H2S transport, particularly focusing on SEND transport. The group is co-chaired by Ann Carruthers (ADEPT, Leics CC) and Suzanne Smith (ADCS, Hants CC). A Task & Finish Group comprising ADEPT, ADCS, ATCO and LGA representatives has been set up – it will undertake the following over the next 6 months: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) A legislative and policy review - this will highlight why the current legislation and associated statutory guidance is no longer fit for purpose. The output will be a policy position to be shared with government and which both Associations can use to influence change. b) As part of the above review, a range of case studies will be developed, highlighting where LAs have taken mitigating action in an attempt to manage demand and resources in a more effective and efficient way in the delivery of SEND home to school transport. 2. Transport & Connectivity Board has been working on a policy challenge paper on 'Travel Demand Management' (road user pricing) – intention is to publish by the Spring Conference. 3. STBs – Rupert Clubb, who chairs the CEO group from the STBs, attended the Leadership team meeting recently. 5 STBs are now members of ADEPT and attend both regional and subject boards; we are keen to maintain strong strategic links with the CEO group as well. 4. Live Labs 2 – the 7 projects announced in January (see here) – have been working up their outline business cases over the past 3 months. The deadline for those is tomorrow – to be evaluated and reviewed by the Commissioning Board on 4th May - then the programme will officially go live. We're also out to tender for the monitoring and evaluation of LL2 – unusually this will be a 8 year M&E programme – 3 year programme plus 5 year 'tail'. <p>Devolution / Growth / planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Adept hosted a well-attended Devo Deals workshop in early Feb, with presentations from N Yorkshire & York, D2N2, Suffolk, Norfolk and Durham & NE. Outlined what went well, not so well, lessons learnt. Now discussing with LGA how we might provide support to new Devo areas on transport issues – likely to be via a sub-group of the Transport & Connectivity Board. 6. LEP future funding survey – ADEPT is responding – via a letter focusing on funding, clear outcomes, business representation. Deadline pushed back to 19 May. 7. Current consultations on the new system of Environmental Outcomes Reports (replacing SEAs and EIAs) and proposed changes to planning application fees. ADEPT is responding to both. <p>Environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Local Nature Recovery Strategy guidance and regs were published recently – further guidance on interactions with Local Plans is 'imminent'. ADEPT is supporting Defra in delivering regional (virtual) workshops. The SW workshop is next week – Responsible Authorities only are invited however. 9. BNG – still awaiting regs and guidance. Whilst funding has been announced, Defra has retrospectively applied a number of conditions which was causing a lot of issues. Consultation on secondary legislation due 'in late spring'.

	<p>10. Adept hosted a Land Use Framework workshop – over 100 attendees – introducing the concept and what it might mean for LAs. Included presentations from Defra (the lead dept); Baroness Young presenting on the HoL report; the Food, Farming & Countryside Commission pilots; and Surrey CC case study. Much more to come on this.</p> <p>Events</p> <p>11. Skills round table focusing on recruitment and retention issues – 3 May, Oxford (programme attached) If you would like to attend – or send a colleague – please let me know asap. A second workshop on EDI issues and future skills will take place early July.</p> <p>12. ADEPT Spring Conference – with Chris Skidmore talking about the Net Zero Review he chaired plus the AGM – with Anthony Payne taking on the role of ADEPT President – plus the Annual Awards Dinner. All taking place in London on Thursday 25 May (register here) – please do encourage your teams to enter the awards too (see ADEPT President's Awards 2023 ADEPT (adeptnet.org.uk) - the deadline is 28 April.</p> <p>Further updates were provided by DDA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ADEPT's Climate Change Board met for the first time on 24th April 2023 - Climate Change blog - introducing ADEPT's new Climate Change Board ADEPT (adeptnet.org.uk) - Local Net Zero Forum is meeting on 4th May. - ADEPT's Environment Board meets tomorrow, a representative from DEFRA is attending to discuss the Environmental Improvement Plan.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Key Govt Policy Docs:</p> <p>The Working Group discussed the 'Powering Up Britain: The Net Zero Growth Plan', Mobilising Green Investment: The 2023 Green Finance Strategy and The Government response to the Net Zero Review.</p> <p>In Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SFE agreed to provide a presentation on the Heat Pump Ready scheme. Action required. - Oxfordshire agreed to provide a presentation on Clean Heat Streets. Action required. - VBU agreed to provide a presentation on the work Wiltshire Council has been doing on their hydrogen strategy. Action required. - Some members agreed that placing a statutory environmental duty on LAs would have a positive outcome, as long as it came with additional funding.
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Roundtable updates on key items from the Group</u></p> <p>Corporate Power Purchase Agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A number of officers discussed options they had been reviewing for corporate PPAs. It was reported that Crown Commercial Services (CCS) are looking to publish a PPA framework.
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Forward agenda planning</u></p> <p><u>8th June 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Challenges faced whilst participating in Solar Together - CCS PPA framework <p><u>September 2023</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community Energy Strategy - UKPN to attend and discussion challenges they're facing.
<p>8.</p>	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nothing to report.
<p>9.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>1-3pm, 8th June 2023.</p>

