

MINUTES, ACTIONS & DECISION NOTES

Meeting title	ADEPT Midlands Regional Board
Location/Platform	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Date and time	Thursday 7 th September 2023, 9am-12pm
Apologies	Maria Machancoses, Darryl Evers, Kamaljit Khokhar, Angie Astley, Chris Henning, Kylie Russell, Penny Sharp, Jon Vining, Balvinder Heran, John Roseblade, Joe Battye, Mary Morrissey

Attendees	Organisation
Andy Gutherson (AG) - <i>Chair</i>	Lincolnshire County Council
Hannah Bartram (HB)	ADEPT
Louise Clare (LC)	Department for Transport
Adrian Hill (AH)	Active Travel England
Claire Brailsford (CB)	Derbyshire County Council
Mark Ryder (MR)	Warwickshire County Council
Philip Edwards (PE)	Birmingham City Council
Dean Ward (DW)	Solihull Council
Janna Walker (JW)	Leicestershire County Council
Victoria Lazenby (VL)	National Highways
Derek Higton (DH)	Nottinghamshire County Council
Sarah Spink (SS)	Midlands Connect
Andrew Pritchard (AP)	East Midlands Councils
Abigail Wells (AW) - <i>Notes</i>	Lincolnshire County Council
Guest speakers	Organisation
Roger Mendonça (RM)	Midlands Engine
Joshua Hawkins (JH)	Midlands Engine
Simon Pope (SP)	WSP
Nick Jackson (NJ)	DEFRA
Mark Corbin (MC)	TfWM
Jake Murgatroyd (JM)	TfWM

Agenda Item

1 Welcome and Apologies

AG welcomed attendees to the group, and encouraged attendees to introduce themselves throughout the session when sharing comments or questions.

2 Review of Previous Meeting Minutes and Actions

The group were invited to review the minutes and actions of the meeting on 16th June 2023.

- AG confirmed that conversations had taken place with National Highways regarding trunking, and associated issues had been addressed.
- HB confirmed a workshop has been arranged with National Highways on carbon issues.
- AG highlighted that an update had not been received regarding future National Highways items at the ADEPT Midlands Regional Board. VL agreed to chase for an update.
- AG confirmed that Lincolnshire County Council had engaged with ATE on rural capability.

ACTIONS:

- VL to liaise with Elliot Shaw (National Highways) around a potential board item on decarbonisation reporting and connectivity with the NH team.
- PS to confirm whether Rutland County Council had engaged with ATE on rural capability.

3 Midlands Engine Update – Global and Investment Issues, and UKREiiF

RM and JH of Midlands Engine joined the group to provide an update on a proposed approach for the UKREiiF 2024 Pavillion and developments in the global investment sphere. JH shared a presentation with the group, outlining key Midlands Engine partnership updates.

Firstly, JH outlined developments with UKREiiF. A pavilion has been secured, which will be offered to partners for one-hour slots to deliver sessions on a first come first served basis. Midlands Engine are also looking to deliver a reception and exclusive roundtable sessions at the event.

JH then shared Foreign Direct Investment Performance data with the group relating to five key areas: Projects, New Jobs, Performance Per Capita, Performance Net Flow Per Capita, and LEP breakdown. In summary, JH reported that:

- The Midlands accounts for 16% of all FDI projects and 14% of all FDI job creation in the period 22/23.
- The Midlands is the second highest FDI recipient region after London (26%)
- By growth percentage, there is a 100% difference between the West Midlands and the East Midlands.
- The Greater Birmingham and Solihull LEP is the top performing of known areas.

AG questioned whether it was within Midlands Engine’s remit to tackle the disparity identified between the East Midlands and West Midlands within the data. JH advised that Midlands Engine are:

- Looking to enhance the platform for the region via events such as UKREiiF.
- Undertaking work with upper tier local authorities to identify priority capital investment propositions across the region.
- Highlighting disparity at sub-regional, regional and national level (including to the government) to lobby for improvements.

JH also provided an update on the Harrington review, noting the key challenges in attracting and retaining foreign direct investment in the UK, and proposed solutions.

4 Midlands Connect Update

SS provided a presentation to the group, which included an overview of projects, key updates and information from Midlands Connect. SS highlighted key rail, road and technology & innovation schemes which are currently underway:

RAIL	ROAD	TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION
Midlands Rail Hub Birmingham – Black Country – Shrewsbury Corridor Union Connectivity Review Nottingham - Lincoln	Road Investment Strategy RIS3 Schemes	EV Infrastructure Rural Mobility Smart Ticketing Freight and Logistics

SS discussed data and logistics, and the importance of consistency in collecting and reporting. Resultantly, MC are developing models and tools to support local authorities and partners to align LTP developments to government priorities.

Midlands Connect are undertaking the Annual Business Plan development process, and SS asked the group to share thoughts on priorities, and where technical budgets should be allocated and spent. AG and MR agreed that it would be useful to understand areas of consensus, opportunities for flexibility and areas of value for the whole region.

5 | LANZAROTE/LTP Guidance Update

SP provided an update on LANZAROTE and LTP Guidance. SP referenced net zero news headlines, reflecting on a range of climate emergency declarations and alteration of net zero target dates in 2019. Resultantly, the policy landscape has advanced rapidly. Criticisms have been made regarding the opaque nature of policies, and ability to determine what should be local or national action. SP indicated that LTP guidance provided a route for practical action in assessing carbon and informing decision making. It was noted that there had been a government softening on the net zero agenda, with debate becoming increasingly politicised.

SP recognised common themes and challenges being faced by local authorities. 75% of local authorities have declared climate emergency and more than half of these have set net zero targets in advance of the government's 2050 target. SP highlighted the absence of local pathways, and need for scaling down of national pathways to provide an indication of the pace of change required to reduce emissions. It was noted that EV alone would not be enough to reduce emissions, and there is limited political appreciation of the significance of carbon budgets, what EV can do, and the emissions gap that will remain. SP referenced four common themes and challenges that local authorities will need to address within the transport sector:

1. Need to reduce vehicle kilometres
2. Need to factor whole life carbon into design decision making
3. Need to tackle organisational emissions
4. Need to consider climate resilience

SP reflected on insights from the new LTP Guidance and the four steps of QCR (quantifiable carbon reduction):

1. Estimate current and future user emissions
2. Establish a local transport decarbonisation pathway
3. Consider carbon in the generation and appraisal of options
4. Estimate the carbon impact of the intervention programme

It was noted that the Skidmore Review clarified that future economic prosperity would be predicated on the ability to act. Similarly, net zero solutions deliver against multiple policy agendas such as levelling up, public health and addressing social inequalities. Resultantly, behavioural change would be required to ensure that the wider co-benefits of net zero solutions need to be reflected to support outcome realisation.

SP shared that a LANZAROTE group has been developed with 100 representatives from LTA's, Highway Authorities, Combined Authorities and Planning Authorities to share insights, collaborate on best practice, develop new ideas regarding net zero and identify workable solutions to common challenges.

6 NAP3 Update

NJ and LS joined the group to provide an update on the third National Adaptation Programme. LS shared that the UK has been experiencing more frequent severe weather events, including heatwaves, heavy rainfall and wildfires. DEFRA coordinates climate adaptation across 11 government departments to set out required actions to adapt to climate challenges over the next five years. A climate risk assessment has been undertaken, and 61 risks and opportunities have been identified across a wide range of sectors. New indicators have been identified to evaluate the success of NAP3.

NJ shared proposed action for a range of sectors, including Natural Environment, Infrastructure, Health, Communities and the Built Environment, Business and Industry and Local Government. It was reported that there are two key objectives for NAP3; supporting integration of climate change risk management into the work of reporting organisations, and building an understanding of the level of preparedness of key sectors to climate change. NJ proposed that this would be achieved in three ways; making reporting more efficient by aligning reporting with the government's statutory cycle, streamlining requirements to minimise reporting burden, and building on work achieved in previous rounds by requesting update reports.

NJ requested the group's views on how each Local Authority could use the Local Authority Climate Service in practice, how each Local Authority's planning service works in practice, and whether there would be any interest in sitting on the DEFRA LA Pilot Design Group. MR confirmed interest in joining the Pilot Design Group and developing engagement with DEFRA. AG indicated that the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel is well attended by practitioners, but recognised that there is a requirement for an intervening strategic group. AP referenced legal challenges in Oxfordshire, where a Planning Inspector overturned net zero garden village policies. AP indicated that local planning authorities would like to do more on adaptation and net zero, but experience frustrations with the legal framework and policy context in which they operate.

ACTION:

- NJ to liaise with DEFRA Floods Policy Team regarding whether the £5.2 billion investment into flood and coastal risk management schemes is in addition to current funding, and to determine who is administering the funds.

7 TfWM Live Labs Update

JM shared a presentation with the group around CEDR, a Live Labs 2 funded innovation project for identifying, testing and distributing information on low carbon highway materials. JM highlighted that the project is aiming to address siloed innovation and good practice not making it to wide scale adoption through testing and dissemination of information. Similarly, the project is aiming to support achievement of net zero targets through collaboration. The project is identifying information on previous innovations and trials, and undertaking horizon scanning relating to highways materials, to enable further trials and dissemination of results within an online knowledge bank.

JM shared that the project has delivered: an expert advisory group, innovation scorecard, an innovation testing process, recruitment of apprentices, website design with a knowledge bank,

data collection for carbon calculation, work packages with TRL and CPC agreed, and social value work with Colas. It was also noted that next steps would include continuation of materials identification analysis and shortlisting, development of carbon baselines and continued industry engagement.

JM encouraged the group to share information of previous trials and innovations related to highway materials and to pass on information about CEDR to relevant teams/organisations. Ag invited JM and MC to share outcomes of activity and provide further updates to the board.

8 AOB

In HB's absence, AG shared general ADEPT updates with the group. These updates are available in appendix 1.

AG invited the group to raise items for AOB and topic proposals for future Board items. AP reported that the East Midlands APPG ran an inquiry on Infrastructure in the East Midlands. The draft report is currently with the co-chairs and is expected to be published in late September/ early October. This report is expected to add weight to issues such as climate adaptation and the importance of infrastructure investment.

Next meeting:

Friday 1st December 2023, 9am-12pm.