

ADEPT South East Board meeting notes 12 December 2023

The South East Board met on 12th December.

Tim Campbell, of Campbells Consultants spoke to us about the opportunity and impact of alternative fuel use in commercial vehicles. Tim explained some of the challenges the goods vehicle production industry faces along with those of operators. He also set out how some of these challenges may be overcome and what some options were in terms of how alternative fuels may be utilised in the longer term. Tim's extensive experience across the industry and enthusiasm for his subject made this an engaging and interesting presentation. There is a long way to go for the national goods vehicle fleet to be decarbonised but there is definitely potential for it to happen.

Iain Coutts of Arcadis presented to us on Advance Air Mobility

One of the biggest changes we will see in the next few years is the introduction of Advanced Air Mobility (AAM), known by some as the 'flying taxi' and more formally as electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft. To date we have seen trials of drones, a predecessor of AAM technology, connecting communities by carrying high value and socially important freight. Our review of the pace of investment in the market suggests that AAM vehicles will be in our skies within the next three to five years. A fuller briefing note is also attached along with the presentation.

This was a challenging issue to think about and felt like a stretch in terms of local authorities' transport planning remit. However the opportunity to hear about the technology and where it is in terms of development was invaluable.

Kylie Russel gave a briefing on the latest ADEPT issues – and provided the attached note following the meeting – as we ran out of time!

At the next meeting Lee Dance will present on the latest WRSE regional plan.