

## Monthly Environment Board Catch-Up

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023,  
10:00-11:00

### Notes

		ACTION OWNER
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>CM welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions were made to anyone new to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Current service issues, pressures, and risks</p> <p>Lots going on with BNG &amp; LNRS – analysing of regs before January. LNRS &amp; BNG and how these work with things such as Ash Dieback which is still a significant issue in Surrey and balancing against nature considerations.</p> <p>As mentioned in the EIP newsletter draft regs and guidance on BNG came out at the end of November and will be mandatory for planning applications from January.</p> <p>HB, DD, CM, LM, and David Sutherland recently met with Lisa Keenaghan, the new Deputy Director at Defra dealing with the implementation of BNG. It was agreed to continue to share notes of future meetings once these have been scheduled.</p> <p>The main issue in Oxfordshire is the DIY charges for waste which are due to be implemented on 31<sup>st</sup> December with estimated cost per annum of £1/2m and if waste escalates the cost will increase.</p> <p><b>ACTION: CM to put TK in touch with Richard Parkinson.</b></p> <p>Working Groups <u>Waste</u> Steve Palfrey (SP) – <i>apologies received.</i> A written update will be provided to the board on any key issues/updates.</p>	CM

### Energy & Clean Growth

Sheryl French (SF) – *apologies received*.

The group last met on 28<sup>th</sup> November and the meeting covered:

- In setting and Offsetting – Oxford City Council Presentation (Tom Garrod)
- Local Area Energy Planning – Energy Systems Catapult Presentation (Tim German, Chris Brierley, Kala Rayner)
- iChoosr Solar Together Update (George Frost)
- Home Upgrade Grant delivery – Cambridge City Council Presentation (Jo Dicks)
- Update from DESNZ/BEIS (Patrick Allcorn).

### Flood and Water Management

Max Tant (MT) / Alys Bishop (AB)

Joint Environment Board and Sustainable Growth Board - Focus on Flooding meeting 13/12 which included presentations from the EA, National Infrastructure commission, Resilience and Recovery Directorate, DLUHC and a specialist in SUDs.

There were a number of questions that were in the meeting chat which the EA will be responding to.

**ACTION: CM/KR to review questions and follow up to be arranged.**

CM/KR

A joint meeting of the Engineering Board and Flood Water Group is being planned with the agenda currently being pulled together which will include an item on water quality.

A separate meeting is likely to be needed especially on surface water.

### Natural Capital & Heritage

Liz Milne (LS/EM) – *apologies received*.

The group hasn't met since the last monthly meeting of the Environment Board. The main item at the last meeting was a presentation on the LINC (Local Investment on Natural Capital) Programme and this is something to pick up beyond the Natural Capital Group in terms of green finance for nature training.

Green Finance Training Course postponed from December to 7<sup>th</sup> March and details available on the ADEPT website.

Partners

#### Defra

Ola Ladapo/Kat Bell (OL/KB)

- BNG – Guidance recently published and links in meeting chat to information.
- LNRS – Committed to providing more information on the links with ELM as it becomes available but would encourage responsible LAs to continue engaging with Land Managers.

- DIY Waste – SP is in touch with waste colleagues in Defra but KB happy to try and pick up anything else with waste colleagues if needed.
- Protected Landscapes – Final response to the Glover review with NE starting to search for a new national park. £10M of 24/25 capital uplift for 44 existing protected landscapes in England. As of 22<sup>nd</sup> November 23 AONB's rebranded as National Landscapes.
- LOCAL EIPs – Defra very supportive to move forwards with a draft local EIP initiative
- and work together to come up with a draft pilot in Surrey.

#### Natural England

Zoe Buddle – *apologies received.*

#### Environment Agency

Rob Westcott

- LAAP met this week with a useful update on work around voluntary adaptation reporting - how this can be linked to LNRS and climate adaptation.
- EA recently joined the LAAP Planning Task & Finish Group to align and share thinking around planning reforms etc.
- ADEPT President is looking to meet with the EA Chief Exec who has responded and meeting to be planned.
- Jennie Donovan temporarily promoted to the Water, Land and Biodiversity directorship and RW is standing in for the interim at least until April.

#### Environment Board Business

Carolyn McKenzie

HB & CM meeting with NE after today's Environment Board and will report back in the New Year.

#### ADEPT Business

Good feedback received from the Autumn Conference and a write up is available on the ADEPT website.

Forward look:

- Leadership Development Program – Currently taking expressions of interest for next year's cohorts.
- PACE Programme – Kick of meeting 15/12 – aimed at Executive Directors and David Hallam (Defra) is going to participate
- ADEPT looking to refresh a number of policy positions.

Events:

- Live Labs2 expo planned for April 24
- Spring Conference 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> May 24
- Green Finance Training Mar 24
- Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund event planned for June 24

	<p>Adaption pathway video and webinar are available on the ADEPT website Retention toolkit is also available on the website.</p> <p><u>AOB</u> Defra deep dives on various different areas – Please email KB with anything specific to be covered as part of a meeting or a separate session.</p> <p><b>ACTION: DD/CM to provide provisional list for March Environment Board meeting.</b></p> <p>Next quarterly meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> January, agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colleagues from NE and National Trust to continue conversation about Urban Greening – Claire Warburton and Ellie Robinson.</li><li>• Zoe Buddle NE and Krista Patrick from the Planning Advisory Service to talk about the nature recovery toolkit being developed for LAs.</li></ul>	<p>DD/CM</p>
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