

ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Tuesday 23rd January 2024, 13:00 – 15:00
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Sheryl French - Assistant Director, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (SFR)
Attendees:	<p>Alexander Beckett – Climate Change Programme & Partnership Manager, Buckinghamshire Council (ABE) Alistair Craig – Programme Manager, Cumbria LEP (ACR) Chitra Nadarajah – Head of Service: Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, Hampshire Council (CNA) Daire Casey – Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council (DCA) David Dale – Policy Officer, ADEPT (DDA) Doug Eltham – Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer, Devon County Council (DEL) Hannah Bartram – Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT (HBA) Jill Edmondson – Service Manager, Environmental Health, Wakefield Council (JED) Jon Rattenbury – Net Zero Hub Programme Manager, West of England Combined Authority (JRA) Karan Purewal – Surrey County Council (KPU) Katie Sargent – Greener Futures Group Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA) Kofi Adu-Gyamfi – Climate Change Service Lead, West Berkshire Council (KGY) Kylie Russell – Deputy CEO, ADEPT (KRU) Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ) Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA) Nicola Stringer – Energy Programme Manager, West Sussex County Council (NST) Patrick Allcorn – Head of Local Energy, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (PAL) Thomas Day – Head of Energy and Low Carbon Programme, Essex County Council (TDA) Vicky Burvill – Senior Climate Officer, Wiltshire Council (VBU)</p>
Guests:	Chris McBride – Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (CMC)
Note Taker:	Bayley Wooldridge, Energy Projects Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (BWO)
Apologies:	Michael Barry Carolyn McKenzie Sue Davies

Item No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Sheryl French welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u></p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 28th November 2023 were agreed as a correct record.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interest in a HUG2 Delivery Challenges discussion was collated. Action: KRU to organise a meeting between interested local authorities.
2.	<p><u>Update from DESNZ/BEIS</u></p> <p>Local Net Zero Accelerator</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working with the Greater South East Hub, Greater Manchester, West Midlands, and York and North Yorkshire to develop place-based pilots. • 2 years of funding to develop an investment prospectus/strategy to go to the market for significant commercial investment into a place-based approach. • York and North Yorkshire is a replication of the Bristol City LAEP. Greater Manchester and West Midlands are looking at a variety of business models to determine the most suitable approach for their areas. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Timescales: the Greater South East Hub (acting as programme managers) are receiving the money in January. OBCs for the three pilots are due at the end of March. Funding is available for two years – until March 2026. • TDA requests that learning from these pilots is shared throughout the two-year funding period to assist other places on similar journeys. DCA agrees this will be important to ensure local authorities can be 'investment-ready' when the time comes. PAL confirms that Net Zero Go will be used as a platform to share regular updates. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Local Net Zero Conference: 28th – 29th February in Warwickshire, an opportunity to share best practice. ○ Hubs have set up working groups in key areas to identify barriers/problems and bid to DESNZ for funding for solutions. The working groups are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Green finance ▪ Transport ▪ Energy networks ▪ Domestic retrofit ▪ Heat networks ▪ Places & planning ▪ Non-domestic buildings ▪ Industry/commerce <p>Local Finance Support Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is being put towards work with a financial organisation and/or consortia to provide financial support to help with investment strategies and portfolios. This will be collated and turned into a resource for all local authorities – a toolkit for commercial investment in local net zero. • The toolkit will be a cross-sectoral portfolio of projects (i.e. heat, buildings, transport, energy generation/demand/management). The priority is not heat networks or retrofit. • The Greater South East Hub are running the procurement for this, expected to have a consultant in place by the end of May 2024. • The public sector is accounted for in this work – all buildings and requirements of a place are being considered. Adaptation, mitigation, and digital infrastructure are also involved. • Looking at building an alternative model to net zero which is applied to whole neighbourhoods, not certain households within a neighbourhood that meet certain criteria. <p>InnovateUK Net Zero Living Demonstrator Projects</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peterborough project - Cambridgeshire are working on net zero asset class and bundling. SFR requests that learning from this work feeds into the Local Finance Support Service. • The three pilots above were not eligible to receive this funding in addition to the accelerator, but the pilots will be incorporated into the cohort of InnovateUK projects to share experiences and evidence.

- DESNZ are working closely with UKRI on their finance support package that is currently being tendered to ensure that this compliments DESNZ green finance programmes.

Local Net Zero Forum

- The Forum met in early January with a focus on DLUC and trailblazer pilots around single settlement.
- The Forum is looking at simplification of net zero funding as opposed to simplification of local government funding. Questioning whether funding should go into the devolved single pot or if ringfences around the net zero budget should be maintained. Looking to set up a task and finish group to look into this.
 - DCA recommends a set of 'core principles' would be helpful for local authorities to understand their key responsibilities and establish the necessary basic resources.

Action: KSA to email PAL regarding Surrey's New Build Net Zero Strategy. PAL to request case studies from analyst colleagues and share with KSA.

3. Update from ADEPT

HBA shared the below written update:

Transport

1. The ADEPT / Proving Services *Future Highways Research Group* published [The Carbon Calculation & Accounting Standard \(CCAS\) Carbon Reporting Guidance for Local Highways Authorities](#) on 31 October. Developed by the FHRG and the result of an 18 month long project which drew in 19 commercial and supply chain partners from across the sector, the guidance will support Local Highway Authorities in establishing their carbon footprint. It also supports the goals for reducing carbon emissions set out in the Climate Change Committee's Sixth Carbon Budget. There is also a Highways News' podcast that features Proving Services' Simon Wilson talking about the guidance – you can [find the podcast here](#).
2. We published a SEND transport toolkit ([here](#)), which was co-developed with Directors of Children's Services. In addition, we have co-published with ADCS a homes to school SEND policy paper ([here](#)) that sets out shared analysis of the issue and the solutions which we consider will make the most significant impact. We have sent a joint ADEPT / ADCS letter, along with the policy paper, to the relevant ministers at DfE and DfT outlining our concerns and requesting a meeting. There will also be an article in The MJ.
3. The Live Labs 2 programme is publishing regular blogs about the 7 projects – the latest introducing the UK's Centre for Excellence for Decarbonising Roads (South Campus) is [here](#), and introducing Green Print (S Glos & W Sussex) is [here](#). We are now planning the 1st Live Labs 2 Expo, which will be held at the Birmingham Exhibition & Conference Centre on 17th April – to register, see [here](#).

Devolution / Growth / Planning / Workforce

4. There will be a joint Sustainable Growth / Environment Board meeting on 28 February. The purpose is to understand how the quality of our rivers and other blue spaces impacts on local nature recovery and housing/infrastructure development, and how local authorities manage these competing demands. Issues to be covered include water quality and pollution, the impact on wildlife and leisure, nutrient neutrality, water neutrality, catchment planning and landscape recovery, and mitigation schemes to reduce pollution and abstraction. If you would like to attend, please email ADEPT Policy Officer David Dale (daviddale2401@gmail.com).
5. We put out a media comment on the Autumn Statement (see [here](#)). It was announced just before Christmas that the Spring Budget will be published on 6th March; we hope to publish a joint statement with ADASS, ADCS and ADPH.
6. ADEPT and Colas have published a toolkit to tackle local government staff retention crisis - see [here](#). We will be launching a (mini) EDI campaign in February (to coincide with LGBT+ Month). Plans to roll out our Gen Z recruitment campaign pilot are developing well.

Environment

7. We hosted a workshop with 20+ LAs to share some of the challenges experienced in working with iChoosr / Solar Together. We then held a highly productive meeting with iChoosr; encouragingly, the provider is already actively addressing concerns outlined in ADEPT's report. They remain keen to collaborate in addressing any further issues moving forward.
8. The government finally published its [response](#) to the Glover Review (of protected landscapes). The new package of measures includes launching a search for a new National Park, 34 new landscape recovery projects, new forests and funding to help more children get outdoors. The BNG launch date is confirmed – for major development from 12 February 2024 and for small sites from 2 April 2024 (more info [here](#)). The NAO is undertaking a review of how Defra and NE has set up statutory BNG thus far, particularly about how, and how well, they have communicated with LAs and LPAs.
9. The latest Climate Change blog is policy officer David Dale's traditional look back at ADEPT's climate action in 2023 and forward to 2024 (see [here](#)). See also the blogs coming out of the Autumn Conference: [greening our urban spaces](#) written by Ellie Robinson (National Trust) and Clare Warburton (Natural England) and [delivering local nature recovery](#) written by Penny Borton (Jacobs).

Events / Other

10. ADEPT submitted a response to the LGA call for evidence to inform their Local Government White Paper (see [here](#)).
11. Dates for your diary:
 - a. Due to the train strikes / overtime ban, we have rescheduled the green finance training day (originally 6th December) till 7th March. You can book [here](#).
 - b. The next Lunch & Learn – *Liveable Neighbourhoods* - is on Friday 26th January and hosted by Atkins. You can register [here](#).
 - c. The 1st Live Labs 2 [Expo](#) will be held in Birmingham on 17th April.
 - d. The Spring Conference and Annual Awards Dinner will be held in London on Thursday 16th May 2024. Booking opens 1st February.

A write up of the 2023 Autumn Conference is [here](#) and the latest President's update is [here](#). Meanwhile, Andrew Cook has written the final blog about the 2023 ADEPT / Amey thought leadership PACE programme – see [here](#). The 2024 programme starts next month.

In discussion:

- LGA White Paper call for evidence: due to the time of year, ADEPT used the manifesto asks and other readily available resources to build their response, rather than ask local authorities for input.

4. Heat Zoning Presentation – DESNZ

CMC gave a presentation on Heat Network Zoning (*presentation attached*). The following key points were raised:

- Heat networks are communal heating systems that use highly insulated underground pipes to distribute heat from centralised sources.
- Zoning refers to large district heating systems across cities and aims to increase the number of these systems across the country.
- Heat networks currently account for approximately 3% of UK heat demand. Aiming for 20% by 2050.
- Heat Network Zoning aims to mitigate the risks relating to the creation of a heat network:
 - Location: Zoning will help determine which areas have potential for low-cost, low-carbon heat using national methodology using data about the size, type, and existing energy use.
 - Roles & Responsibilities: Zoning will help provide clarity on this at a national and local level.
 - Certainty: developers and investors can have more confidence in the number of connections to heat networks to help attract investment.
- Enabling legislation to deliver zoning was in the Energy Act 2023.
- Ofgem will be the heat network regulator from 2025 – this was consulted on in 2023.
- A national authority (within central government) will oversee:
 - All zones and the local zone coordinators.
 - Production of a national model where zones are expected to be.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publication of a long-term pipeline project. ● Local zoning coordinators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Will be linked to or within local authorities – DESNZ are not dictating where these coordinators should sit as each place will have different needs. ○ Will designate where zones will be and oversee delivery. ○ Will run competitive processes to make the project happen. ● Initial batch of zones aim to be in construction by the end of 2025. ● Currently working with 28 towns and cities to test and refine the model being used to identify heat network zones. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● DESNZ recognise that the structure of local government in each zone will be different which is why local authorities will be responsible for the process of designating the local zoning coordinator within the most suitable organisation. ● Zoning will compliment LAEPs – DESNZ are working with DLUC to ensure there are no conflicts. ● Various commercial models could be taken forward. DESNZ are running a webinar on 26/01 that will look at these models in more detail. ● This is an England-wide policy but the model identifies the areas with the lowest-cost low carbon heat potential which explains why initial areas identified are towns and cities. ● Areas where no zones are identified will not need to have a local zoning coordinator role. ● Consultation – no need to respond to all questions, can only answer some parts.
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Heat Zoning Consultation – ADEPT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ADEPT will be responding to the consultation, particularly on the local zoning coordinator role. Action: ALL to let DDA and HBA know if your local authority would like to feed into an ADEPT response. ● The Greater South East Hub have also invited local authorities to contribute to a joint response. ● Some members of the group suggest that district/borough councils will be better placed to respond rather than county councils.
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Future Homes & Buildings Standards: 2023 Consultation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Action: HBA to discuss this consultation with the ADEPT Planning Group.
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Roundtable Feedback and discussions</u></p> <p><u>Solar Together Update</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A full response from iChoosr has been received. A few outstanding issues remain: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Due diligence and installer recruitment process remains undisclosed. KRU is following up to understand why this is the case. ○ More confirmation needed to prove that the installer management process sufficiently robust. ● ADEPT have a follow up meeting with iChoosr scheduled for 2nd February. <p><u>National Planning Policy Framework – see here</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Published late December 2023. ● Section 14 – Meeting the challenges of climate change, flooding, and coastal change ● DCA noticed some references/links made to LAEP. <p><u>InnovateUK</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cambridgeshire are working on a small pathfinder project with Hughes Hall (University of Cambridge) to create an evidence-based toolkit to develop locally determined contributions as sub-national contributions to the nationally determined contributions.

	<p>Looking at aligning targets with businesses and stakeholders in order to benefit from devolution discussions and place-based investment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: SFR to ask Hughes Hall to present their findings at a future E&CG working group meeting. <p><u>Local Authority Retrofit Scheme</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The follow-on from HUG2. Not many other local authorities are aware of this. • Wiltshire attended one of the webinars on the scheme. <p><u>Budget Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Costs of climate risk on surfaces: Cambridgeshire are starting a piece of work to calculate the costs of flooding/drought effects on infrastructure. • Short-term emergency planning and long-term investment into infrastructure resilience is necessary. • Wiltshire are also discussing this but are not at the evidence-base stage yet. • Action: HBA to check if any other working groups have evidence to share. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Devon County Council's Weather Impacts Assessment ○ SWIMS (Severe Weather Impact Monitoring System) ○ ADEPT are going to work with the EA and Climate Sense on rapid adaptation pathway assessments. Funding from EA to support this. 																																				
8.	<p><u>Forward agenda planning</u></p> <p>Suggestions for future presentations/discussions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAEP • Adaptation 																																				
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates. 																																				
10.	<p><u>Upcoming Energy & Clean Growth Consultations/Calls for Evidence</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Consultation</th> <th>Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hydrogen to power: market intervention need and design</td> <td>22/02/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Consultation on licence fee cost recovery principles</td> <td>25/02/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposals for heat network zoning 2023</td> <td>26/02/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TCFD-aligned disclosure Exposure Draft for Phase 2</td> <td>26/02/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Statutory consultation on amendments to the Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2015</td> <td>27/02/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Transitional support mechanism for large-scale biomass electricity generators</td> <td>29/02/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Long duration electricity storage: proposals to enable investment</td> <td>05/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation</td> <td>06/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Energy Model: replacement for the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)</td> <td>06/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Home Energy Model: Future Homes Standard assessment</td> <td>06/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposed amendments to Contracts for Difference for Allocation Round 7 and future rounds</td> <td>07/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Approach to siting new nuclear power stations beyond 2025</td> <td>10/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK Emissions Trading Scheme: free allocation review</td> <td>11/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK Emissions Trading Scheme: future markets policy</td> <td>11/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-road mobile machinery: decarbonisation options</td> <td>26/03/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Alternative routes to market for new nuclear projects</td> <td>04/04/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy code reform: implementation consultation</td> <td>23/04/2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Consultation	Deadline	Hydrogen to power: market intervention need and design	22/02/2024	Consultation on licence fee cost recovery principles	25/02/2024	Proposals for heat network zoning 2023	26/02/2024	TCFD-aligned disclosure Exposure Draft for Phase 2	26/02/2024	Statutory consultation on amendments to the Electricity (Standards of Performance) Regulations 2015	27/02/2024	Transitional support mechanism for large-scale biomass electricity generators	29/02/2024	Long duration electricity storage: proposals to enable investment	05/03/2024	The Future Homes and Buildings Standards: 2023 consultation	06/03/2024	Home Energy Model: replacement for the Standard Assessment Procedure (SAP)	06/03/2024	Home Energy Model: Future Homes Standard assessment	06/03/2024	Proposed amendments to Contracts for Difference for Allocation Round 7 and future rounds	07/03/2024	Approach to siting new nuclear power stations beyond 2025	10/03/2024	UK Emissions Trading Scheme: free allocation review	11/03/2024	UK Emissions Trading Scheme: future markets policy	11/03/2024	Non-road mobile machinery: decarbonisation options	26/03/2024	Alternative routes to market for new nuclear projects	04/04/2024	Energy code reform: implementation consultation	23/04/2024
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