

**Yorkshire & Humber Board
 via Microsoft Teams
 Wednesday 13 March 2024 @ 15:00**

In attendance:

Karl Battersby – chair (KB)	Hannah Bartram (HB)	Gary Bartlett (GB)
Mathias Franklin (MF)	Nigel Hancock (NHk) – item 1	Nic Harne (NH)
Kate McNicholas (KM)	Shelagh O’Neill (SO’N)	Johanna Scrutton (JS) – item 1
Paul Woodcock (PW)	Michael Bingham (MB)	Maureen Wilson (minutes)

Item	Agenda Item and Notes	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions	
2	<p>The Levelling Up & Regeneration Act</p> <p>The ambitious Levelling Up & Regeneration Act received Royal Assent in October 2023 – setting out new legislation to speed up planning, building homes and levelling up. Michael Bingham, Deputy Director DLUHC, provided an update on implementation of the Act.</p> <p>Require commencement regulations before the Act can be implemented, looking at minimum late 2024. Some powers have formally commenced – to produce national development management policies but this does not mean it has effect yet as it requires more work. For most of Planning the substantive regulations have not commenced as more work is required i.e. Local Plan preparation, Environment Assessments, Infrastructure Levy.</p> <p>There may be further changes to the National Planning Policy ahead of the new national development policies.</p> <p>There is work happening on Planning capacity across the sector, one area to come out of this is the Planning Super Squad recruitment – a unit that can help LAs who do not have the capacity to tackle major and complex schemes.</p> <p>MB answered questions from attendees: PW – Is the Super Squad a national team that will work across the Country? <i>They will have a national remit within the context of the team pursuing levelling up.</i></p> <p>MF – We started Local Plan last November therefore on 30month timeline, how can they write a plan without knowing the rules and guidance. Also how do they spend money wisely? <i>Think less about considering new procedures and think carefully about what the act provides for – Schedule 7 sets out parameters for what local plans are expected to include i.e. plans to focus on land for development, land to be enhanced, locally specific policies rather than generic that echo NPPF.</i> <i>Appreciate it is difficult that avoids overlap until the new regulations are seen.</i></p> <p>MF – Requested that submitted written questions are answered. <i>The questions will be answered as much as possible. We are not out to catch LAs out or undermine changes, especially for those already on the road to a new plan.</i></p>	

	<p>SO’N – Planning recruitment is a real challenge, need to look at how we support the profession nationally and locally. This is more a plea for a core produced solution to recruitment in planning. Require certainty, especially in times on volatility. <i>The changes are trying to make the system simpler and more cost effective for LAs, areas such as digital reform is intended to generate efficiencies medium and long-term for LAs</i></p> <p>NH – Accelerated Planning consultation – what is the likelihood of a transition period to let KPIs catch up v’s quite a hard edge i.e. appeals introduced retrospectively looking at performance? At North Yorkshire we are bringing together eight planning services and it will take time to catch up into a new culture. <i>MB unable to comment on this. Stressed that this detail should be provided during consultation.</i></p> <p>MF – government focus on capacity has been on development management, is there any commitment to bring forward funds or grants for plan making, in light of accelerated timeline? <i>MB is not aware of specific funding. The work to support the service does extend into plan making, some of the reforms and thinking about the act implementation are designed to make plan making simpler.</i></p> <p>MF – will the planning inspectorate be clear on the extent of technical evidence that is to be commissioned and required? <i>A team working on plan making is working with digital experts on how to streamline plan making requirements and also to make information more easily accessible. There will be three stages during plan preparation where Inspectors will provide advice.</i></p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>National ADEPT Update HB provided a comprehensive update as detailed below: Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. SEND transport – as you know, we published a SEND transport toolkit (here) and homes to school SEND policy paper (here) back in Nov. Two follow up things: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. We hosted a very popular webinar (100+ people) on Weds – including reps from both place and children’s services - to introduce the toolkit, plus 3 case studies (Norfolk, Dorset, Blaby DC). Happy to circulate the slides / recording of the event. b. As a result of the ADEPT / ADCS letter sent to DfE and DfT Ministers, there was a meeting with DfE officials a couple of weeks ago. That highlighted several areas that could progress: parental responsibility; DfE collaborative working guidance; DfE guidance for tribunals; CMA report on SEND Transport. It was made clear that there was no intention in the short term to seek legislative changes – however, there some work happening in DfE to consider this ready for when ‘the time is right’. 2. We’re responding to the DfT consultation on <i>Street works: fines and lane rental surplus funds</i>. We are also supporting DfT in its preparatory work for the next Spending Review (which will take place after the General Election). 3. Individual Local Transport Fund allocations were announced 26 Feb (Local Transport Fund allocations 2025 to 2032 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)) – yet to confirm annual £££, but we are told not to expect an equal division of money by 7 years; LHAs will have to provide a delivery plan (guidance will be provided). This complements separate funding lines for BSIP, highways maintenance, City Region Sustainable Transport Settlements – the totals for each of these funding lines were set out in last October’s Network North Command Paper. 	

DfT organisational changes – for info

- Work on roads, motoring, and road freight including the decarbonisation of all road transport and active travel will be brought together in a new **Road Transport Group** which Emma Ward (DG) will lead. This will enable a stronger focus on EV infrastructure roll-out and create more bandwidth to think about the strategic challenges for road transport and our motoring agencies including new technology. This will include highways maintenance and active travel, which will be led by Rupert Furness at Deputy Director level and David Buttery will take over at Director level (from Stephen Fidler / Jessica Matthew). Emma Ward will continue to be lead DG on Network North (NN) coordination.
- Work on rail strategy and policy and on wider public transport including buses, our relationship with local government and devolution issues, will come together in a new **Public Transport and Local Group**, led by Conrad Bailey. This will enable him and his director team to build a group with a much stronger focus on integrated transport and place, with a more even balance between rail and other modes. Stephen Fidler / Jessica Matthew will join this Group and will continue to cover buses, local transport funding and strategy, CRSTS, LUF, TCF, accessibility and inclusion. John Hall’s Regions and Cities directorate also joins this Group.
- In **Decarbonisation Technology and Strategy Group (DTS)** led by Second Permanent Secretary Jo Shanmugalingam, we are creating a new Environmental Strategy team to build on the progress made in recent years on environment strategy to provide even more focussed leadership on the totality of environmental challenges for transport, reflecting the increasing attention across Whitehall as the environment act is implemented.

DfT has said to continue to engage with usual contacts; over the coming weeks they will update colleagues on any change of contact. A refreshed organisation chart should be available on gov.uk shortly. Ministerial portfolios are unchanged.

Devolution / Growth / Planning

4. We worked with the 7 LAs being offered a Level 2 devo deal to develop some text to integrate climate & environmental objectives into the standard devo template. Defra was supportive. As you know, only three of those seven deals were announced in the Spring Budget on Weds (Bucks, Surrey, Warks). The text has just been published - [government/publications/surrey-level-2-devolution-framework-agreement](#).
5. We responded to the DLUHC consultation on heat network zoning ([here](#)). We are also refreshing the ADEPT Housing policy position document.
6. Workforce activities:
 - a. ADEPT launched a LinkedIn EDI campaign last month – one personal story every week (see [here](#)). We are also drafting an ADEPT EDI Charter.
 - b. Plans to roll out our Gen Z recruitment campaign pilot are developing well – there are 5 LAs involved (S Glos, Plymouth, Oxfordshire, Barnsley, Hounslow).
 - c. We are also looking to roll out a middle managers development programme (to complement the very successful Leadership Development Programme).

Environment

7. We are continuing to work with the Environment Agency to build capability in LAs to apply adaptation pathway approaches in flood and coastal erosion risk management. One of the early findings from the [Adaptation Pathways programme](#) is the importance of starting simple and building consensus around a pathway/ pathways before launching head long into technical assessment. We are working with consultancy *Climate Sense* to

	<p>develop guidance for LAs on undertaking a Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment (RAPA), via three pilot projects. More information soon.</p> <p>8. As an association, we are looking to develop our work and thinking on water quality issues. We kicked this off with a joint Environment / Sustainable Growth Board meeting on WQ issues last week – next steps are to work out who / what / why / when.</p> <p>9. The Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) has been in place since 2005, covering the power sector and heavy/energy-intensive users. The UK government have determined it's time to review the exemption for municipal incineration to be a participant in the scheme. There are significant implications for EfW plants (and financial implications for LAs) – the government's plan is that by around 2026 the plants will enter the MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) phasing period, and to include all types of incineration for all types of waste within the scheme. DESNZ will be consulting on the inclusion of EfW plants shortly – the Waste Group will be leading on the ADEPT response.</p> <p>Events / Other</p> <p>10. We are looking to set up meetings with shadow ministers; as part of that process, we are refining our more general set of manifesto asks (see here) for transport, climate change, economic growth, etc.</p> <p>11. Dates for your diary:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The next Lunch & Learn – <i>Using AI to optimise Transport Plan Delivery Plans</i> - is on Friday 22 March and is hosted by Arcadis. You can register here. b. The 1st Live Labs 2 Expo will be held in Birmingham on 17th April. Attendance is free – please encourage your highways and climate change colleagues to attend. c. The Spring Conference and Annual Awards Dinner will be held in London on Thursday 16th May 2024. To book see here, to enter the awards see here. d. Date & venue for your diary – the Autumn Conference will be held in Bristol on 21st & 22nd November. <p>The 2024 PACE Programme has kicked off – this year focusing on the strategic theme of 'making a stronger case for place'. In the meantime, see here for Neil Gibson's (programme facilitator) reflections on the 2023 PACE Programme.</p>	
<p>4</p>	<p>Roundtable update from each authority</p> <p>PW advised that he had a meeting with DLUHC on home to school transport and they were not familiar of the work being carried out by ADEPT and ADCS. HB thanked PW for raising with them.</p> <p>GB asked if there have been discussions around Vision Zero and Road Safety? Despite efforts, 43 people are killed or seriously harmed on Leeds roads each month</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>AOB including suggestions for future agenda items</p> <p>PW leaves Rotherham in April 2024. KB thanked PW for his support of this Board and wished him all the best for the future.</p> <p>Future agenda items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Vision Zero and Road Safety – push national government to look at changing behaviours around speed, drink, drugs - Focus on Transport & connectivity - Electric Vehicles - Flood/highway issues - Transport Funding 	

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Spatial planning powers and devolved regions – DLUHC to discuss spatial powers into city regions and mayors- Road repairs – methods- Streetlighting – switch off and replacement- Land instability issues- DEFRA – biodiversity net gain – in particular implementation of biodiversity credits on council owned land- SUDS adoption within new developments – guidance and support available. HB confirmed that the consultation is due and will invite a speaker later in the year- EV charging – on-street. Awaiting guidance, appreciate feedback from all LAs | |
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