

ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Monday 13th May 2024, 11:00 – 12:30
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Sheryl French - Assistant Director, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (SFR)
Attendees:	Alexander Beckett – Climate Change Programme & Partnership Manager, Buckinghamshire Council (ABE) Brian White – Clean Energy Manager, Cumbria LEP (BWH) Chitra Nadarajah – Head of Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, Hampshire County 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) Katie Sargent – Greener Futures Group Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA) Kofi Adu-Gyamfi – Climate Change Service Lead, West Berkshire Council (KAD) Kylie Russell – Deputy CEO, ADEPT (KRU) Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ) Nicola Stringer – Energy Programme Manager, West Sussex County Council (NST) Patrick Allcorn – Head of Local Energy, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (PAL) Phillip Morris – Strategic Stakeholder Engagement Manager, South West Net Zero Hub (PMO) Thomas Day – Head of Energy & Low Carbon Programme, Essex County Council (TDA) Vicky Burvill – Senior Climate Officer, Wiltshire Council (VBU)
Guests:	Julie Greaves – Hertfordshire County Council (JGR)
Note Taker:	Bayley Wooldridge – Energy Projects Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (BWO)
Apologies:	Carolyn McKenzie Sarah Gilbert Sue Davies

Item No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 11th March 2024 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
2.	<p><u>Climate Change Risk Assessment – Hertfordshire County Council</u> JGR gave a presentation on Hertfordshire’s Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) (<i>presentation attached</i>). The following key points were raised:</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HCC and the majority of districts/boroughs declared a climate emergency in 2019. HCC then progressed a strategy which was approved in 2020. An action plan was also produced. A CCRA for HCC was then looked at and broadened to include a CCRA for the county. • Internal resources are focused on internal cross-cutting ambitions (e.g. reducing carbon emissions from HCC operations). • Members did not want to lose focus on external ambitions, so these are delivered with partners. <p><u>Developing the CCRA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to lack of expertise and staff resource, WSP were employed as consultants (approx. £70,000 contract). • WSP calculated baselines using MET office data under 2030, 2050, and 2080 scenarios. • HCC requested a focus on social vulnerability, and later broadened the scope to include potential impacts to HCC services and assets. • Risks were identified and graded by severity and likelihood to highlight preparedness. • Adaptation actions were developed as well as departmental action plans. • WSP conducted interviews and workshops with service areas. • General lack of understanding of adaptation and mitigation in other service areas, and resistance to getting involved as they felt the work wasn’t relevant to them. <p><u>Headline risks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Precipitation: Damage to buildings and infrastructure (e.g. highways). Access to services could be affected. • Temperature: Health risks come with extreme heat and cold temperatures. Deterioration to assets and increased pressure on services. • Storm/wind events: Disruption to IT equipment, signal loss/power loss preventing employees from working virtually and at offices. • 2030 vs 2050: Risks become more severe/significant over time if not addressed. <p><u>Key messages</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant risks were identified for every directorate. • Collaboration is important with the risks that interact. • Consider external interdependencies. • Resilience can be built into assets to minimise disruption if action is taken now – however it is difficult to convince others of this. <p><u>Next steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embedding this work into business as usual. • Services are updating business continuity plans with climate risk. • Climate risk is included on the corporate risk register. • HCC held a full day scrutiny topic group for members on adaptation and resilience. • Looking to replicate as a county-wide resilience plan, all districts and boroughs are currently producing their own CCRAs. <p><u>In discussion:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional cost: For some local authorities there is already an awareness of climate risk across services, but a lack of budget to do anything. Building in resilience can increase total costs by approx. 20%. HCC have organised a meeting between ADEPT, CIPFA, and HCC chief officers to discuss green finance.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing costs: PAL suggests an in-depth analysis looking at the cost of mitigation and the reduced risk, versus the cost of doing nothing and the consequential risk. • Training/resources: HCC didn't have climate change officers at the time of the CCRA development, which is why consultants were employed. A climate resilience and adaptation project manager was then appointed. WSP and Local Partnerships have delivered training for the HCC officers for a small cost. • Improved coordination of data across an organisation is needed to understand the full cost of climate impacts (e.g. pothole claims, fallen tree claims, wildfire issues, flooding). • A cost-benefit analysis for deciding whether to relocate or rebuild will be useful to complete for any local authorities who experience the negative impacts of climate change. • The Local Partnerships toolkit came after the CCRA work. HCC used the LP toolkit to engage with the districts/boroughs and hosted training on using the toolkit. • SFR highlighted the importance of engaging with insurance companies. • Action: DDA to share the risk assessment and adaptation work with the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel.
<p>3.</p>	<p><u>Energy Doctor – Buckinghamshire County Council</u></p> <p>ABE gave a presentation on Buckinghamshire's Energy Doctor scheme (<i>presentation attached</i>). The following key points were raised:</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Energy Doctors visit households to assess if a household is paying too much for energy and water. • They provide information on any grants or funding available to contribute to the cost of efficiency measures. They also suggest behavioural control changes to reduce consumption. • The programme is funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund - £1.9 million to spend by March 2025. • The target is to achieve a saving of 300 tCO₂ per year. • The service directly addressed an action in the council's climate change and air quality strategy. <p><u>The model</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on Islington Council's Energy Doctor scheme. • 2 visits per day per energy doctor. • Residents are triaged to the Energy Doctor scheme via the council's existing contract with the National Energy Foundation. • Heated blankets and portable solar generators were added to the list of eligible measures. • H&S, legal, and reputational risks have all been assessed and mitigated. • Eligible residents include private renters and owner-occupiers (social housing not currently included). • All documents and calculations can be shared with other local authorities on request. • Cost savings for some measures have been achieved through procurement processes. <p><u>Achievements</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 550 household visits achieved so far, which meets the target set by DLUHC. • Positive reception of the scheme from the community. • The council have launched a new 'domestic building envelope energy efficiency grant' to use the underspent funding (up to £600,000). <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action: KSA to share ABE's contact details with colleagues working on a similar scheme. • Action: ABE to consider if Buckinghamshire's trained staff can deliver the scheme in neighbouring areas and discuss with KAD. • Residents report the portable solar generator is easy to use. It has to be outside and plugged in somewhere it won't be vandalised or stolen. The technology isn't the best in terms of savings, but it is drawing people to the scheme.
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Solar PV and Battery Storage Programme – West Sussex County Council</u></p>

NST gave a presentation on West Sussex's Solar PV and Battery Storage Programme (SPVBS) (*presentation attached*). The following key points were raised:

Background

- The programme started in 2022 in response to the council's net zero commitments.
- SPVBS delivers multiple council priorities (e.g. energy savings, income generation, social value, etc.)

The model

- Provides a low-risk option for schools: the council will fully fund the installation and own, operate, and maintain the system for 25 years. Schools will receive ~20% of savings.
- Feasibility surveys have identified suitable sites for PV + BESS. Not all sites are suitable for BESS, so the programme includes some PV only sites.
- Financial modelling determined an acceptable IRR was 6%.
- The council will work with LASER to unbundle tariffs and maximise peak power savings – this has already been trialled successfully. For non-SLA schools the council will work directly with the school's energy supplier to put them on a time of use tariff.
- A PPA has been created with 2 rates:
 - Solar tariff: solar generation minus battery import and grid export.
 - Battery tariff: battery export minus grid export.

Procurement

- £7.7 million capital funding approved in April 2022.
- Procurement board approval was obtained for a single supplier to deliver a £23 million contract over 10 years (5+5 contract).
- 3-phase programme:
 - Phase 1 - survey/design (managed by AtkinsRealis).
 - Phase 2 – installation, broken down into three 6-month windows (managed by AtkinsRealis).
 - Phase 3 - O&Ms (managed by the council).
- Open procurement route was taken due to there being no suitable frameworks. ITT was published in February, 14 bids received in April 2024. Currently undergoing evaluation, the contract is due to be awarded in July.

Programme so far

- 60 sites including corporate buildings and non-complex schools are signed up. 19 academies are in the pipeline. 44 sites are on the waiting list.
- PV installations range from 4 – 108kWp, BESS up to 60kWh.
- Multiple stakeholders involved including: 4 core staff members, internal legal, procurement, estates, planning, and finance teams, AtkinsRealis, customers (schools), energy suppliers, Department for Education.
- Over 60 risks (1 red, 23 amber, 36 green). Risks include governance/procurement processes, internal capacity, supply chain issues, labour shortages, financial costs, schools dropping out of programme or not signing PPAs.
- Lessons learned include managing school expectations, early engagement with stakeholders, and writing a clear and robust ITT.

In discussion:

- Questions were taken in the chat due to time constraints. NST has answered all questions in the attached word document.
- **Action: BWO to arrange for DCA to present on 'ProActiveFit' at a future meeting.**

5. Update from DESNZ/BEIS

PAL provided the following updates:

- Some reorganisation is required following the local elections.
- A spending review is coming up later this year. DESNZ are currently building business cases and evidence bases for what local government needs to deliver net zero. Key areas of focus are:
 - Hubs programme – looking at how to expand this into a robust knowledge sharing network.
 - What barriers are local authorities facing when delivering net zero ambitions. There is recognition that if local authorities are looking for commercial investment to

	<p>develop a project, more technical, financial, and legal advice is needed to support decision makers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Community energy programme – what will this look like and what has been learnt from the accelerator in terms of financial support needed. ● The local net zero accelerator is live, the first board meeting has taken place. Greater Manchester and West Midlands are developing their whole place approaches in line with the net zero neighbourhoods model. ● Action: ALL to send any blended finance case studies to PAL. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● An official response to the heat network zoning consultation is still due to be published. PAL advises movement is expected in next couple of months. ● Local authorities are coming across challenges with determining statutory vs non-statutory services during business planning. Somerset and Wiltshire have provided examples of how they are being affected by staff cuts and losing experienced staff. Action: ALL to provide details of your local authority’s challenges for discussion at the next meeting. ● Expectations of income generation projects – reports of pressure from finance colleagues for cost savings and/or income to be achieved/generated earlier and at a larger scale than is realistic.
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Update from ADEPT</u> KRU shared the below written update:</p> <p><u>Transport</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We are supporting DfT in its preparatory work for the next Spending Review (which will take place after the General Election) – an email went out today to members of the Transport & Connectivity and Engineering Boards with a request for any current evidence that could help DfT in making the case for funding. There is likely to be a call for evidence at some point, however DfT would appreciate any current information we have now to help it identify areas it has gaps in evidence. Deadline 30th May – see attached email. 2. We will be responding to the DfT consultation on its draft Transport Adaptation Strategy (here). If you would like to contribute, please contact Edward Shortridge, ADEPT transport policy officer. 3. The ADEPT Transport & Connectivity Board has a new chair – Amy Harhoff, Corporate Director Regeneration Economy and Growth at Durham County Council. Amy takes over from Ann Carruthers, who will become ADEPT President on 16th May. <p><u>Devolution / Growth / Planning</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. We are refreshing the ADEPT Housing Policy Position – to be finalised before the Autumn. 5. The Blueprint Coalition, of which ADEPT is a member, is hosting an online webinar from 10-11am on Weds 5th June with the theme: “How can devolution deliver on environmental ambition?”. 6. Workforce activities: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. ADEPT launched a LinkedIn EDI campaign on 1st February, which ran till 11th April. We have recently published a compendium of the stories (here). In addition, we have recently published an ADEPT EDI Charter (here). 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 will be launching a Leadership Pathway Programme for managers at the Spring Conference. The intention is that this will complement the very successful ADEPT / Solace Leadership Development Programme. <p><u>Environment</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. We are working 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 <i>Climate Sense</i> to develop

guidance for LAs on undertaking a Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment (RAPA), via three pilot projects. We have put out a call for Expressions of Interest – deadline for applications Friday 7th June. If you would like more information, please get in touch with Kylie Russell, Deputy CEO of ADEPT (kylie.russell@eastsussex.gov.uk).

8. The Energy and Clean Growth Working Group have been discussing some of the challenges which have led to HUG2 struggling to deliver in terms of homes helped relative to funds allocated. The Home Upgrade Grant (HUG2) is a government grant scheme that funds energy-saving upgrades for eligible residents with off-gas heating systems. The grant provides energy efficiency upgrades and low carbon heating via local authority funding, to qualifying households in England. ADEPT collated the issues from across several local authorities and shared with the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero (DESNZ). Response [here](#).
9. Membership of the [Woodland Creation Accelerator Forum](#) has been extended to officers in all county, unitary and metropolitan local authorities who are interested in sharing insights on woodland creation, to increase collaboration and information exchange.

Events / Other

10. Forthcoming publications:
 - a. We have refreshed the old County Surveyors Society (CSS) Commuted Sums guidance – to be published at the Spring Conference (16th May)
 - b. Digital Connectivity policy position (refresh) – to be published at the Spring Conference (16th May)
 - c. Leadership Pathway Programme (new) – to be launched at the Spring Conference (16th May)
11. Dates for your diary:
 - a. Live Labs 2 mini Expo online event, 14 May 2024 - aimed at those who were unable to attend the Live Labs 2 Expo 2024 on the 17th of April in Birmingham – it will consist of a presentation featuring the key content and talking points from the Expo. Please [click here](#) to register.
 - b. The Spring Conference and Annual Awards Dinner will be held in London on Thursday 16th May 2024. Booking is now closed.
 - c. We are co-hosting with Tile Hill an evening drinks reception at UKREiiF on Weds 22 May. If you would like to attend, please get in touch with [Hannah Bartram](#).
 - d. A joint webinar with Natural England on *Biodiversity Net Gain - learning from each other, solving our common challenges and opportunities together* – from 14:00-15:30 on Monday 17th June. If you'd like to attend please get in touch with [Hannah Bartram](#).
 - e. Date & venue for your diary – the Autumn Conference will be held in Bristol on 21st & 22nd November.
12. The 2024 PACE Programme has kicked off – this year focusing on the strategic theme of 'making a stronger case for place'. The summary report for Session 1 – *Advocating the case for place* – can be found [here](#).

7. Roundtable Feedback and discussions

Local Area Energy Planning

- TDA asked colleagues to share their progress on LAEPs.
- DEL notes the SWNZH has been very helpful. The hub are currently procuring joint support for local authorities to put in 50% match funding to get through stages 1-3 of ES Catapult's methodology stages. This will standardise the LAEPs across the local authority areas and align the work.
- PAL recommends looking at Ofgem's work on Regional Energy System Planners (RESPs) and chatting to other local authorities in the area to ensure consistency.
- PMO encourages all to keep moving forward with LAEPs as there is plenty of work that needs doing (e.g. stakeholder engagement) separately to the RESP work.
- A key challenge is lack of resource to employ an officer post to be responsible for a LAEP and moving it forward.
- It is important to consider your DNO's business planning timelines to ensure your local authority's future needs can be met.

8. Forward agenda planning

	<p>Suggestions for future presentations/discussions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HUG2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Action: PAL to invite a policy colleague to the 18/06/24 meeting. • Business Planning – impact on climate/energy teams <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Discussion to be scheduled for the 18/06/24 meeting. • LAEP • Battery Box <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Action: DEL to provide feedback on Battery Box from sites progressing with them in Devon. • Solar PV and Battery Storage Programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ DCA to present on 'ProActiveFit'. • Heat Zoning Update <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Action: PAL to invite a colleague from the heat zoning team to the 17/07/24 meeting. 														
<p>9.</p>	<p>AOB No comments.</p>														
<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Upcoming Energy & Clean Growth Consultations/Calls for Evidence</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="279 779 1412 1070"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="279 779 1241 819">Consultation</th> <th data-bbox="1241 779 1412 819">Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 819 1241 860">Green Gas Support Scheme: annual tariff review 2024</td> <td data-bbox="1241 819 1412 860">27/05/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 860 1241 900">Delivering a smart and secure electricity system: implementation</td> <td data-bbox="1241 860 1412 900">11/06/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 900 1241 940">Consultation on the introduction of a UK carbon border adjustment mechanism</td> <td data-bbox="1241 900 1412 940">13/06/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 940 1241 981">Barriers to community energy projects</td> <td data-bbox="1241 940 1412 981">30/06/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 981 1241 1021">Fusion energy facilities: new National Policy Statement and proposals on siting</td> <td data-bbox="1241 981 1412 1021">03/07/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="279 1021 1241 1070">Carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS): non-pipeline transport and cross-border CO2 networks</td> <td data-bbox="1241 1021 1412 1070">16/07/2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Consultation	Deadline	Green Gas Support Scheme: annual tariff review 2024	27/05/2024	Delivering a smart and secure electricity system: implementation	11/06/2024	Consultation on the introduction of a UK carbon border adjustment mechanism	13/06/2024	Barriers to community energy projects	30/06/2024	Fusion energy facilities: new National Policy Statement and proposals on siting	03/07/2024	Carbon capture, usage and storage (CCUS): non-pipeline transport and cross-border CO2 networks	16/07/2024
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<p>10.</p>	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Tuesday 18th June 2024 13:00 – 15:00 via Microsoft Teams.</p>														