



## North of England Board (NW and NE) 5<sup>th</sup> June 2024

**Board meeting 15.30 – 17.00 on MS Teams**

### Notes

1.	15.30	Welcome and Introductions	Chair – Angela Jones
2.	15.35	<p><b>Role of Energy Systems Catapult</b></p> <p><b>Best practice and examples of projects they have supported, including <a href="#">Local area energy planning</a></b></p> <p>Energy Systems Catapult are based in Birmingham but working remotely all over the UK. Emphasis on sustainability. Supporting decarbonising of homes and sights. Also works with government. Huge diversity of what they do.</p> <p>Energy Systems Catapult can help with Local Area Energy Plans which support local authorities in getting to net zero. They can help set your aims as a Council and help with where to look in order to meet those aims.</p> <p>Gone from 15 to 115 Local Area Plans across the country in last year and a half.</p> <p>Greater Manchester have been a trailblazer in this with 10 plans.</p> <p>Public sector alone can't fund these transitions so Local Plans allow to go to the private sector for funding.</p>	Chris Brierley, Energy Systems Catapult

		<p>There is a scheme to test new technologies in people's homes, anyone can sign up.</p> <p>There is also a scheme to keep people in fuel/heat poverty warm.</p>	
3.	16.00	<p><b>The role of distribution network operators (DNO) in collaborating with Combined Authorities and Local Authorities to enable local and regional net zero objectives to be met including LAEP's, Regional Energy Strategic Planners (RESPs), building on the work electricity and gas networks already do with LA's.</b></p> <p>Other DNOs in the region are SP Energy Networks &amp; Northern PowerGrid.</p> <p>DNO's should not be a barrier in Decarbonisation, but to make sure this isn't the case they need to know the needs of Local Authorities.</p> <p>DNO's go to the regulators for money every 5 years. Electricity North West have just done this for investment from 2023 to 2028. Will soon start liaising with Local Authority's regarding funding for 2028-2032.</p> <p>DNOs need to anticipate future needs including increasing use of electric cars, dialogue with Local Authorities helps with predicting future capacity needs.</p> <p>DNOs are an open source of data which can help Local Authorities. This can save on expensive consulting costs. DNOs can also help Local Authorities with their Local Area Plans.</p> <p>DNOs work with Local Authorities on streets and highways maintenance to minimise disruption to local residents. Communication between DNOs and Local Authorities can be crucial here.</p> <p>Letter of support for DNOs from Local Authorities to Ofgem make a big difference for DNOs, they can save DNOs a lot of money which can then be used for further investment.</p> <p>Currently doing consultations with Ofgem on RESP (Regional Energy Strategy Planning).</p>	<p><b>DNO's across the North</b></p> <p>Helen Norris, Electricity North West</p>

		<p>Helen says that working with DNOs early can make a huge difference for Local Authorities.</p> <p><b>Round Table Discussion</b></p> <p>David Boyer mentioned work they have done in Warrington to electrify buses and upgrade the electricity supply of the depot to allow this. He liked the slides and would like to like a copy to share with colleagues.</p> <p>Will Pearson mentions the upcoming election and asks what changes a new government might make to electrical supply. Chris says they have met with Labour but it's obviously early days in these discussions. Chris agrees national government is very important as Local Authorities are very squeezed on funding. Helen shares that GB Energy are expected to operate more on electricity generation rather than supply.</p> <p>David Hughes asks about the skills gap and potentially a people shortage in future. Chris says skills trainers are crying out for government to give them the curriculum needed to meet the needs. He gives the example of Australia where all new legislation comes with a 'skills package' stating what skills training will be needed to deliver it. Helen states that there's a gap in the middle in terms of who trains the trainer.</p> <p>Angela asks about LEAPS and advice on getting started with this. Chris suggests the Net Zero Hubs as the best resource, but acknowledges there is generally a shortage of people to work on this. Helen suggests GMCA who are always willing to listen and share their experience.</p>	
4.	16.50	<p><b>ADEPT update</b></p> <p><b><u>Transport</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We had a useful catch up meeting with Nick Harris (CEO) and Elliot Shaw (Chief Customer and Strategy Officer) from National Highways – discussed Network North, RIS3, Office for Road &amp; Rail efficiency review of NH, potential areas of collaboration including Live Labs 2, freight, planning</li> <li>2. We have just responded to the DfT consultation on its Transport Adaptation Strategy (<a href="#">here</a>), and the draft network management duty guidance on implementing low-traffic neighbourhoods (<a href="#">here</a>).</li> <li>3. National Highways have launched a Litter Task Force, bringing together a number of organisations including</li> </ol>	Hannah Bartram/Kylie Russell

government agencies, waste companies, trade associations (freight and commercial drivers), nature conservation bodies, food and beverage companies, and behavioural change organisations. ADEPT is the only local authority representative body. If you'd like to know more and/or get involved, please get in touch with Hannah Bartram ([here](#)).

#### **Devolution / Growth / Planning**

4. We are refreshing the ADEPT Housing Policy Position. The Sustainable Growth Board will discuss the draft document at its next meeting on 12 June – if you'd like to attend, click [here](#). Publication by the summer.
5. The LGA has just published its local government white paper ([here](#)) - ADEPT submitted evidence to the LGA earlier this year ([here](#)). The CCN has also just published its manifesto (<https://www.manifestoforcounties.co.uk/>).
6. Workforce activities:
  - a. ADEPT launched a LinkedIn EDI campaign on 1<sup>st</sup> February, which ran till 11<sup>th</sup> April. We have now published a compendium of the stories ([here](#)); in addition, we have 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). We plan to run a digital campaign from October through to December.
  - c. We launched a Leadership Pathway Programme for managers at the Spring Conference ([here](#)). Developed in partnership with Solace, the programme has been designed to meet the needs of managers looking to move into a more senior leadership role. It is the precursor to ADEPT's highly regarded Leadership Development Programme. For further information click [here](#) and to download an expression of interest form click [here](#).

#### **Environment**

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 *Climate Sense* 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 7<sup>th</sup> June**. If you

		<p>would like more information, please get in touch with Kylie Russell (<a href="#">here</a>).</p> <p>8. The Blueprint Coalition (of which ADEPT is a member) has been discussing the merits of promoting a climate change statutory duty for local government; it was also discussed at the recent Climate Change Board. London Councils and UK100 are developing a scoping paper to shape the work on this. We will also be reviewing and updating our Climate Change and Green Growth policy position over the coming months.</p> <p>9. The Greener Transport Council (of which ADEPT is a member) is running a webinar on 27 June - <i>Shifting the focus: Is adaptation the key to mainstreaming action on climate change?</i> Join this webinar to listen about new approaches to galvanising action around climate breakdown and the mobility transition. For more info and to register – see <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><b><u>Events / Other</u></b></p> <p>10. We published refreshed versions of the old County Surveyors Society (CSS) Commuted Sums for Highway Infrastructure Asset Management guidance (<a href="#">here</a>) and the Digital Connectivity policy position (<a href="#">here</a>)</p> <p>11. Dates for your diary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. We are holding a special Lunch &amp; Learn webinar on Wednesday 19th June where the winners in the ADEPT President’s Annual Awards will present an in-depth look at their winning projects. ADEPT members can register <a href="#">here</a>.</li> <li>b. A joint webinar with Natural England - <i>Biodiversity Net Gain - learning from each other, solving our common challenges and opportunities together</i> (was 17 June, now rescheduled for 19 July). If you’d like to attend please get in touch with <a href="#">Hannah Bartram</a>.</li> <li>c. The Autumn Conference will be held in Bristol on 21<sup>st</sup> &amp; 22<sup>nd</sup> November – save the date! Booking details to be published in July.</li> <li>d. Please note - the Blueprint Coalition online webinar <i>How can devolution deliver on environmental ambition?</i> (5 June) has been cancelled.</li> </ul> <p>12. The 2024 PACE Programme is well underway – this year focusing on the strategic theme of ‘making a stronger case for place’. The summary report for Session 1 – <i>Advocating the case for place</i> – can be found <a href="#">here</a> and the blog is <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	
7.	17.00	Close	Chair