

ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Monday 16th September 2024, 11:30 - 13:00
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Sheryl French – Assistant Director, Climate Change and Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council
Attendees:	<p>Brian White – Clean Energy Manager, Cumbria LEP (BWH) David Lewis – Senior Project Manager, South West Net Zero Hub (DLE) Doug Eltham – Head of Environment, Devon County Council (DEL) Greg McClymont – Director: Growth, Business and Skills Strategy, South Yorkshire Combined Authority (GMC) Hannah Bartram – Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT Katie Sargent – Greener Futures Group Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA) Kofi Adu-Gyamfi - Climate Change Service Lead, West Berkshire Council (KAD) Lynn Trigwell – Head of Climate and Environment, Wiltshire Council (LTR) Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ) Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA) Patrick Allcorn - Head of Local Energy, DESNZ (PAL) Thomas Day – Head of Energy & Low Carbon Programme, Essex County Council (TDA) Victoria Burvill – Senior Climate Officer, Wiltshire Council (VBU)</p>
Guests:	<p>Rhiannon Mundell De Calado – ESO Catherine Bock – ESO Stuart Freeman – Jacobs</p>
Note Taker:	Bayley Wooldridge – Energy Projects Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (BWO)
Apologies:	<p>David Dale Sarah Gilbert</p>

Item No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u> The minutes of the meeting held on 17th July 2024 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
2.	<p><u>Regional Energy Strategic Planning Update - ESO</u> <u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ESO will become NESO on 1st October 2024. NESO will be owned by the secretary of state, regulated by Ofgem, and governed by an independent board of directors. • The remit of NESO is being expanded to cover energy, not just electricity. • Key areas of work will be strategic planning, market developing, resilience and security, and energy insights. <p><u>Strategic Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three overarching roles within strategic planning are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Centralised strategic network planning (top-down transmission planning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Driving network investments ○ Strategic spatial energy planning (top-down transmission planning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mapping supply and demand ○ Regional energy strategic planning (bottom-up distribution planning) • At the transmission level, the NESO is expanding the scope to include vectors such as hydrogen. <p><u>3 goals of RESP</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accelerate electricity network investment • Consistency • Whole system approach (not just electricity) <p><u>Consultation proposals</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 regions proposed (1 Wales, 1 Scotland, 9 England) • NESO will host Strategic Boards & Working Groups for upper-tier local authorities, network companies, and other local actors. • NESO will set long-term vision and pathways with priorities for each region. <p><u>Timelines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ofgem should decide on what the RESP role will look like by early 2025. • Aiming for RESP to inform DNO business plans for 2028-33 in late 2025. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAL confirms there are currently no plans for LAEP to become a statutory responsibility. • Consistency is needed where the RESP area is different to a local authority area. • NESO would like to support local authorities to coordinate LAEPs but it will take time to set this up. • SFR raised the importance of RESP consideration of NSIPs and sustainable infrastructure.
3.	<p><u>Regional Energy Strategic Planning Consultation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSENGH is gathering comments from local authorities for a joint response. • SCC are responding with comments linked to LAEP. • CCC and ECC members are interested in providing a response. • SFR notes the importance of reiterating community energy needs in responses. • Action: HBA to coordinate a joint response. ALL to share comments with HBA.
4.	<p><u>Update from DESNZ</u> PAL gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently focusing a lot of work towards GB Energy and the role of the Local Power Plan. • The Local Power Plan from the manifesto is focused on renewable energy – no mention of heat, transport, EV charging, etc. • UKIB £4bn funding towards supporting local net zero is still available. West Suffolk Council have just been awarded £17m. • The budget is a one-year rollover, so it is unlikely for programmes to be allocated more funds, especially for 25/26.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hubs, accelerator, and 'net zero go' will stay in place for support for local authorities. Heat Zoning update: 5 regional coordinators are being recruited. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerns raised over community energy ambitions and lack of funds available to achieve goals. As those with more technical knowledge move forward, communities without the knowledge/skills are left behind making a just transition harder to achieve. No update on Shared Prosperity Fund from DEFRA or MHCLG. Local Growth Plans are the current priority, DESNZ are discussing the role of net zero in local growth with MHCLG.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update from ADEPT HBA shared the below written update:</p> <p>Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We have produced our 'elevator pitch' setting out our top transport asks (here). These are 1) Move to multi-year integrated transport funding settlements to allow local areas to plan for the medium term to allocate resources according to local priorities 2) Rapidly accelerate the decarbonisation of the transport sector and 3) Invest in a skilled workforce. We will use the briefing note in meetings with Ministers and MPs. Adaptation and highways is a hot topic at the moment. Having consulted on the draft Transport Adaptation Strategy, DfT officials are waiting for a steer from the new ministerial team. Meanwhile the ADEPT Engineering Board has set up a working group to develop a highways adaptation guide. Others are also planning work. We are talking to DfT about how best to co-ordinate. Highways UK takes place at Birmingham NEC on 16 & 17 October. ADEPT President Ann Carruthers is taking part in a panel discussion on 17th Oct on "Optimising local transport: Connectivity, investment, and public accessibility"; there are several sessions involving presentations from the Live Labs 2 programme leads over the two days too. HUK is free to attend – to register see here. <p>Devolution / Growth / Planning</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> We have refreshed the Housing Policy Position (here) and produced a summary briefing note (here). Our housing priorities are: 1) Building more new homes 2) A planning system that delivers great places 3) Improving the quality and safety of existing homes 4) Delivering homes for health and wellbeing 5) Working towards zero carbon and climate resilient homes and 6) Access, affordability and security. We have sent these to Matthew Pennycook, the Housing Minister and requested a meeting. Housing is also the focus for one of the Autumn Conference plenaries. In the run up to summer recess, the government published its consultation on changes to the National Planning Policy Framework (here). The deadline for responses is 24 Sept. The planning working group is drafting the ADEPT response. Action: ALL to share any individual responses with HBA. HBA to share final ADEPT response once submitted. The final session of the ADEPT thought leadership programme (PACE) will take a masterclass approach, testing a draft 'Stronger Places Assessment Tool' in Nuneaton. The session will bring together all that's been covered over the programme. The outcomes will be shared in a plenary at the Autumn Conference; in addition, we will be publishing the assessment tool for all ADEPT members to use. The summary document from session two is available here. <p>Environment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Also in the run up to summer recess, the government announced a rapid review of the Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP - here) to be completed by the end of the year. Unlike the NPPF changes there is no formal consultation document or deadline for responses, but Defra will engage with LAs and other stakeholders in a series of conversations during September and October. Details will be reported via the Environment Board. <i>What's next for local climate action</i> is a network of umbrella organisations set up by LGA in February 2024. Membership includes ADEPT, Local Partnerships, Solace, CCN, DCN, London Councils, Core Cities, UK100, APSE. It provides the opportunity to reflect on current challenges and opportunities in respect of local climate action, to share partners' current and future project plans, and to explore potential to collaborate around

	<p>positions/asks on key strategic priorities. The LGA has commissioned Local Partnerships to work on developing the 'ask' of the new Government to allow local government to support them in the delivery of their manifesto. LP has been gathering the views the views of LAs over the summer via a number of workshops with CEOs and senior officers.</p> <p>9. The Blueprint Coalition (of which ADEPT is a member) recently hosted a webinar on <i>How can devolution deliver on environmental ambition?</i> Speakers included: Peter Moore, Co-chair of the Blueprint Coalition and member of the ADEPT Climate Change Board; Cllr Tom Ross, Greater Manchester Combined Authority Green City Lead; Cllr Marissa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment at Surrey County Council; Dr Matthew Lane, University of Edinburgh; and Victoria Marsom, Head of England team, Friends of the Earth. You can watch the webinar, and read the refreshed asks, here.</p> <p>Events/Other</p> <p>10. We have published our resource & waste priority asks of the new government (here); the refreshed Resources & Waste Policy Position will be published in the next few days. A big thanks to Steve Palfrey, Wendy Barratt and the Waste Group for taking the lead on this.</p> <p>11. We have launched a Leadership Pathway Programme (here). Developed in partnership with Solace, the programme has been designed to meet the needs of those who are earlier on in their career and 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. Please note the deadline for EoI is midnight, Friday 20 September.</p> <p>12. Dates for your diary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lunch & Learn this month (27 Sept) is led by WSP, called "Maturity assessment for highways asset management". See here to register. o The ADEPT / Environment Agency webinar "The coast is clear: an introduction to coastal risk, resilience and partnerships" takes place 10:00-11:00 on 10 October. If you would like to attend please email Kylie Russell (here). o Booking for the 6th National Traffic Managers Conference is now open – taking place in Derby on 9th October. Book your free place here - open to members and non-members. o Booking is now open for the Autumn Conference, being held in Bristol on 21st & 22nd November. We have managed to keep the cost the same as 2023 and introduced a multi-booking discount for local authorities. To book see here. <p><u>ADEPT Conference Workshop – Jacobs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stuart presented the proposed session plan for the ADEPT Autumn Conference. The session will include discussion on LAEP, RESP, and Mission Control. • There is space for a case study presentation. Action: contact Stuart with any suggestions for the case study slot. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion for community energy to be included in the workshop. • Positive comments were received surrounding the interactivity of the workshop. • Share the co-benefits of DNO engagement in plan making process. • Add themes to each section and recommend background reading prior to session. • Action: ALL to share feedback for Stuart with BWO by 30.09.24.
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Local Area Energy Planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wiltshire note their proposed housing allocation numbers have largely increased. LTR asks if any other local authorities are factoring this growth into LAEPs. SFR recommends any growth plans are included in LAEPs as this has a big impact on electricity demand.
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Roundtable Feedback and Discussions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambridgeshire InnovateUK funding – Locally Determined Contributions. Creating a framework and looking at multiple climate and net zero datasets to agree a carbon budget for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Devon report they have completed a similar piece of work. Consultants were used for both projects. • Essex have appointed Community Energy South to provide support to ~20 community energy groups. Also working with Great Collaboration to explore community-led infrastructure planning. Action: TDA to offer this work as a case study for Jacobs workshop at the Autumn Conference.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> West Berkshire have successfully trialled EV charging channels for residents without driveways to charge their cars on street. Planning policies have been a barrier to this work. 														
8.	<p><u>Forward agenda planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Energy – Essex County Council (Dec) EV Charging – West Berkshire Council (Oct) West Suffolk – UKIB (Oct) 														
9.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HBA is putting together a wishlist of projects local authorities would like to do if they had the resources. The list will be shared with ADEPT’s corporate partners to gauge their interest in supporting these projects. Action: ALL to share any project ideas with HBA. 														
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>Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system</td> <td>24/09/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Governance of the Data Sharing Infrastructure</td> <td>20/09/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flexibility Market Asset Registration</td> <td>23/09/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Regional Energy Strategic Plan policy framework consultation</td> <td>08/10/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Consultation	Deadline	Proposed reforms to the National Planning Policy Framework and other changes to the planning system	24/09/2024	Governance of the Data Sharing Infrastructure	20/09/2024	Flexibility Market Asset Registration	23/09/2024	Regional Energy Strategic Plan policy framework consultation	08/10/2024				
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10.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 24th October 2024 13:00 – 15:00 via Microsoft Teams.</p>														