


Monthly Environment Board Catch-Up

Tuesday 17 September 2024
11:00-12:00

Notes

	<p>Attendees:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Steve Palfrey – Chair</p> <p>David Dale</p> <p>Kahryn Bell</p> <p>Doug Hill</p> <p>Ralph Kemp</p> <p>Sylvie Alan</p> <p>Doug Eltham</p> <p>Kan Janota</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>Teresa Kirkham</p> <p>Otawle Ladopo</p> <p>Sam Kennedy</p> <p>Janette Rees</p> <p>Stephen Mooring</p> <p>Estelle Beaumont – Note taker</p> </div> </div>	
		Action Owner
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>SP welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
2.	<p>Partner updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Defra – Review of the Environmental Improvement Plan • Environment Agency • Natural England <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>240918 Master Draft EIP Statutory Review !</p> </div> <p>KB presented to the meeting from Defra.</p> <p>SP enquired who is representing adept at the stakeholder advisory group. DD confirmed that they are struggling for representation for the meeting and was looking to Carolyn McKenzie to attend. If he was unable to ascertain an attendee, he would reach out to the group for a volunteer.</p> <p>SM asked around the slides. The EIP is peculiar as it does not talk about Climate change or climate resilience when this work strongly together. It will be good to have a more holistic view and be clear about the contribution of nature recovery. Both to carbon capture but also critical in climate resilience. The top eight recommendations from CCC have been nature based and is important to draw that link.</p> <p>Targets how is this review building on what has already been done? is this going to say</p>	

anything about supporting delivery of local nature recovery strategies. A general comment would be that targets are genuinely worthless unless they come with funding support. Monitoring and evaluation and an actual obligation on local authorities to do something. Local authorities' finances are in a parlous state. And a polite request is met with a polite no, because there's no funding supported. A request please, for a hard ask and some hard funding to go with it if you want local authorities to take action.

KB agreed on the comments made. The more holistic approach bringing in everything together, one narrative and something that all stakeholders have asked for. KB asked if any attendees had seen the bill, it is about to have a second reading mid-October. This is around environmental targets. KB will bring the summary to the meeting once the second reading has taken place.

SP added, the original 25-year environment plan and the IP that follows it all predates the net zero strategy and this shows. The one- or two-year bits of funding with rules that are impossible to deliver against does not work. A multiyear settlement budgeted for planning is needed. Currently delivery is stifled.

OL One of the main criticisms of VIP23 from the OEP was that it was light on delivery this will be a focus around funding and devolution. The review will look at how we address these issues.

DD mentioned the private members bill that is being brought in by Lord Krebs brought into the House of Lords and enquired if this had any Government backing. Clarity would be helpful as there is no current understanding of this legislation.

KB is aware of this bill, to date this has not been discussed once more detail have been received it will be.

DD referred to the slide 'Statutory Review Stakeholders Questions' where councils have been asked to provide written responses by 27th September. This was not a realistic time frame.

KB responded that there were a lot of conflicting time frames with a view to publish mid-December. This is the first phase of questions and not a formal consultation and want to consult the best they can in the time frame given. They want to move to focus on delivery and the revision of EIP. They currently have a lot of knowledge around this and are looking for anything additional and target. It is appreciated time scales are tight and having one voice from stakeholders would be advantageous to the process. NGOs another stakeholders have been in touch to say that they want the review to be rapid so that we move on to the delivery side so that we start looking at getting, things done.

DS stakeholder feedback is in terms of delivery and how these will be delivered. Also questions on clarity between national targets and how that is then translated down to local delivery in terms of that clarity or local edge coverage strategies? We contribute to it, but we are not quite sure how much we are supposed to be delivering locally. Clarity is required. There are more specific clarity for protected landscapes. What are we expected to contribute to the national targets and if there is an increased expectation to this bill. Funding has to follow if there is an expectation of delivery.

SP enquired if there looks as if there will be any change in direction from the new ministerial team? Or better implementing the direction of travel currently being taken, local nature recovery strategies, waste legislation and financial decisions without any clarity from government around funding. If this is unpicked, councils will have spent hundreds of millions of pounds of taxpayer's money in good faith-based on a timetable dictated by Government.

Is there a change in direction?

KB The secretary of state's top priorities, one of them circular economy and the strategy. There does not seem to be any big about turns that they are aware of. LNRS are keen there is more collaboration across all stakeholders and more openness collaboration across other Government departments.

SK agreed joined up working is essential for better cohesion and quicker delivery.

KB agreed and this is why moving rapidly and getting the revised EIP in place so policies can be implemented.

DD hoped that Defra would be able to capture the flavor of the comments today. We are not saying the plan is wrong and needs changing. It is the way in which Government operates and lack of joined up work and funding and support.

SP asked KB to send the slides for circulation.

KB wanted to push for someone to be present at the meeting being held on 19th September for representation.

Natural England

DJ – MPPF consultation working on input and portfolio board has been looking at this over the last few weeks in time for the consultation, which is 24th.

Key areas, the grey belt discussion, the golden rules element of that and the level of ambition that might sit around this. The golden rules and level of ambition that sits around strategic planning and LNRS discussion and weight given to LNRS in that context. Clean energy and understanding of onshore wind. Planning and infrastructure build moving at pace, planning and infrastructure bills been a lot of work. Deference, DLG are convening roundtables.

The letter to chief execs, was circulated at the end of August from Natural England from Mike Burke, director. This is around operational shift, and previous update that this was coming up around the work on our impact risk zones and tool to support local authorities.

Action:



LPA Chief Planners
Letter - FINAL 22nd A

DD asked DJ to share the letter with members.

Environment Agency

SA – Environment equity work research project commissioned to better understand the role of planning in addressing environmental disparities. In the summer we received the final reports, which has provided a range of insights around neighbors and barriers reflecting feedback from their discussions that took place with local Authority planners and environment officers and will share this with the board. There is an interest to work with local authorities to test how environmental equity can be embedded into local plans and decision making. If this is of interest, please get in touch with Sylvia or David Griggs.

Considering bringing a discussion on environmental equity and planning to the series of Environment Agency adept webinars.

Environmental equity in terms of the work being progressed to develop an index of multiple environmental deprivation, there is a webinar on prototype tools. This will showcase the prototype, explain its proposed purpose and integrate some opportunity for discussion. This takes place Thursday the 26th of September, and will circulate

	<p>information.</p> <p>SK enquired if they had engaged with SIPAR around natural equity. 151 officers are beholdant to SIPAR for rules and regulations. SA will make enquiries regarding this.</p> <p>Local investment in natural capital, a face-to-face workshop is taking place on 17th October at Ashton University in Birmingham. Details will be shared.</p> <p>Department engagement we are proposing to hold a link, legacy and work and learning webinar for the wider adept membership. SA will engage with DD in terms of organising. SA confirmed they were consulting internal with a range of Environment Agency functions to develop ideas on what might be shared with this Community and ideas are welcomed.</p> <p>Local authority climate hub will be launched in the next few weeks. This is being coordinated by the Met office and DEFRA for access to climate information a resource for planning. A Webinar will take place on 9th October.</p> <p>A deputy director is now in place for the environment agencies planning and place team, Claire Porter from the Environment agency and will introduce to ADEPT in the coming months.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Working Group updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste • Energy & Clean Growth • Flood and Water Management <p>Natural Capital & Heritage</p> <p>Flood and Water Management update.</p> <p>Doug Hill new chair to flood and water management group updated the meeting. DH is keen to engage with the ADEPT group going forward for cohesive working and alignment.</p> <p>There is a need to know the intention is for Schedule 3 and suds approval body. We just need to know that so we can move on or not, but also looking at the NPPF consultation. There is a question around flooding there, so we have come up with a few lines, strategic lines from ADEPT to flood of water management group. How to influence grants and aid funding to ensure future programmes meet requirements.</p> <p>Waste</p> <p>SP updated that the waste group will be rescheduled to accommodate attendees.</p> <p>ADEPT corporate</p> <p>Hannah Bartrum has produced a written update that DD will circulate to the board. Updated policy positions and key policy asks for the new government, including the waste and resources policy position is now on the website.</p> <p>One deadline is for the pathways program a leadership development program for aspiring place directors has been run for several years. A program that is running will be for people earlier in their careers. Details are on the website with the deadline for application was Friday.</p> <p>Autum ADEPT conference applications are now open. Bristol 21st & 22nd November.</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Hot Topics</p> <p>SK still remains staggered at the potential cost of ETS and desperate for an update.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>AOB</p>	