

ADEPT AI Notes

Date: 28th January 2025

Time: 14:30 – 15:30

Location: MS Teams

Present:	
Sophie Broadfield – BANES Council	Kylie Russell – Deputy CEO East Sussex - ADEPT
Mickey Green – Somerset Council	Jacqui Warren – Torbay.Gov
Meg Booth – Devon Council	Emma Cockburn – SW Highways Alliance
Hannah Shrimpton – Peninsula Transport	Ben Kempner - DFT
Philip Heseltine – Plymouth.Gov	Lynn Trigwell – Wiltshire Council

Guest Speaker	Julie Gregory – Network Rail
Guest Speaker	Jon Rattenbury – Local Partnerships

Item No	
1	Welcome – Sophie Broadfield - Chair
Apologies:	
<p>Miranda Housden, Ben Rhodes, Vicky Fraser, Emma Blackham, Samantha Howell, Mike O’Dowd-Jones, Alan Denby – Jacqui Warren attending on Alan’s behalf, Nicky Williams, Paul Barnard, Sophie Hoskin</p>	
2	Update ADEPT – Kylie Russell
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transport Strategy Response: Kylie Russell mentioned that Adept is responding to the integrated national transport strategy, with a deadline of February 20th. She invited participants to get involved in the response process. ○ Transport Committee Inquiry: Adept has already responded to the Transport Committee inquiry into the effects of street works on surface water quality and maintenance costs. The response is available on their website. ○ Live Labs Program: Kylie highlighted the ongoing Live Labs program focused on decarbonizing transport. She mentioned an upcoming Expo related to the program. ○ Collaborations and Responses: Adept has been collaborating with various professional membership bodies and has submitted a co-signed letter on local government finance and a joint response to the NHS 10-year plan consultation. ○ Upcoming Events: Kylie mentioned several upcoming events, including the Spring Conference and annual awards dinner on May 22nd in London, the Live Labs Expo on March 25th in Liverpool, and a Blueprint Coalition webinar on February 13th. 	

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Introducing Local Partnership Work on Climate Change – Jon R

- **Local Partnerships Overview:** Jon from Local Partnerships introduced the organization and its role in delivering value and efficacy for the public sector. He highlighted their work in climate response, commercial support, and place-making activities.
 - **Introduction to Local Partnerships:** Jon introduced Local Partnerships, an in-house consultancy owned by the Local Government Association, Treasury, and Welsh Government. They provide advice and resources to local authorities and central government, focusing on delivering value and efficacy for the public sector.
 - **Climate Response:** Local Partnerships' climate response work includes strategic and practical approaches to achieving net zero, climate change adaptation, and supporting renewable infrastructure and energy efficiency projects.
 - **Commercial Support:** The commercial team at Local Partnerships supports operational PFI projects, public-private partnerships, and complex contracts, often collaborating with the climate team on projects like heat networks.
 - **Place-Making Activities:** The place team focuses on place-making activities such as housing and homelessness, including a new program to help prisoners transition into new roles by building homes.
- **Climate Response Support:** Jon detailed the climate response support provided by Local Partnerships, including tools and guidance for greenhouse gas accounting, energy forecasting, and climate adaptation. He emphasized the importance of knowledge transfer and free resources available on their website.
 - **Greenhouse Gas Accounting:** Local Partnerships offers a greenhouse gas accounting tool, downloaded by over 300 local authorities, which is regularly updated with the latest data from sources like DESNZ.
 - **Energy Forecasting:** They developed an energy forecasting tool and guidance for Greater Manchester, helping local authorities understand the costs of running buildings and other assets.
 - **Climate Adaptation Toolkit:** The climate adaptation toolkit helps local authorities approach the impacts of climate change and identify actions to address them. It includes good practice guides, business case templates, and a green finance guide.
 - **Knowledge Transfer:** Jon emphasized the importance of knowledge transfer, with all tools and resources available for free on their website, funded by government or the LGA.
- **Case Studies:** Jon shared examples of Local Partnerships' work with various councils, including Milton Keynes, Staffordshire, Cambridgeshire, and Oxfordshire. These case studies illustrated their support in areas such as heat network development, energy efficiency, and green finance.
 - **Milton Keynes:** Local Partnerships supported Milton Keynes City Council as a critical friend, assisting with renewables, retrofit of corporate buildings, heat network development, and adaptation planning.
 - **Staffordshire:** They supported Staffordshire County Council with the development of a heat network opportunity at the Four Ashes Energy from Waste power plant, including an application to the Green Heat Network Fund.
 - **Cambridgeshire:** Cambridgeshire County Council used the REFIT Procurement Framework for heat network support, schools retrofit, and constructing a new solar farm, benefiting from consistent pricing and quality.

- **Oxfordshire:** Local Partnerships helped Oxfordshire County Council explore green finance options for their operational assets, including buildings, schools, solar sites, and EV charging fleets, and shared knowledge from other local authorities.

Links:

<https://localpartnerships.gov.uk/events/transformation-programme-2/>

[Transforming to adapt to climate change: Local Authority transformation in the context of a climate emergency - Local Partnerships](#)

4 Climate Adaptation – Network Rail Case Study – Julie G

- **Network Rail Adaptation:** Julie from Network Rail discussed their climate adaptation journey, focusing on the impacts of weather on the railway network and their efforts to build resilience. She highlighted the importance of adaptive capability and climate intelligence.
 - **Weather Impacts:** Julie outlined the various weather impacts on the railway network, including sea level rise, extreme rainfall, flooding, bridge scour, wind, and heat, which affect train performance and infrastructure.
 - **Adaptation Goals:** Network Rail aims to have a well-adapted railway system that is flexible, reliable, and responsive to a changing climate, with adaptive response rates to avoid maladaptation.
 - **Adaptation Pathways:** They are developing adaptation pathways for the entire network, identifying critical areas that may require transformational change and working with funders to address these issues.
 - **Resilience Strategies:** Julie discussed various resilience strategies, including improving operational response, enhancing asset resilience, and prioritizing investments based on climate risk assessments.
- **Chipping Sodbury Case Study:** Julie presented a case study on Chipping Sodbury, a critical site on the railway network prone to flooding. She outlined potential adaptation pathways and solutions to improve resilience and manage flood risks.
 - **Flooding Issues:** Chipping Sodbury, located between Swindon and Bristol Parkway, is prone to flooding due to its construction through an aquifer, leading to groundwater, surface water, and fluvial flooding.
 - **Performance Impact:** The site has closed the railway 16 times in the last five years, significantly impacting train performance and requiring immediate attention to improve resilience.
 - **Adaptation Pathways:** Julie outlined potential adaptation pathways for Chipping Sodbury, including surface water improvements, increased aqueduct capacity, natural flood management, additional storage lagoons, and operational solutions like diverting trains.
 - **Implementation Timeline:** The adaptation pathways are designed to be implemented over time, with short-term improvements leading to more significant interventions as needed to manage flood risks effectively.
- **Collaboration and Data Sharing:** Meg from Devon emphasized the importance of collaboration and data sharing between councils and Network Rail to better understand weather patterns and infrastructure deterioration. Julie agreed on the need for joint planning and data sharing.

5 Follow Up Tasks

- **Transport Strategy Response:** Inform Kylie if you want to be involved in responding to the integrated national transport strategy by the 20th of February. (All participants)
- **Leadership Pathway Program:** Spread the news about the leadership pathway program for the next application cycle. (Sophie)
- **Adaptation Toolkit Webinar:** Share the registration link for the adaptation toolkit webinar with the team. (Kylie)
- **Local Partnerships Presentation:** Circulate Jon's slides to other boards that might be interested in the presentation. (Kylie)
- **Adaptation Toolkit Webinar:** Put the details of the adaptation toolkit webinar in the chat. (Kylie)
- **Weather Data Sharing:** Explore ways to gather and share weather-related data sets regionally to link weather patterns and network deterioration. (Meg, Julie)
- **Follow-up with Julie:** Follow up with Julie Gregory regarding any additional questions or collaboration opportunities. (Kylie)

Next meeting: Thursday 27th March 14:30 – 15:30