

ADEPT – Energy and Clean Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Thursday 12th June 2025 13:30 - 15:00
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Daire Casey, Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council Deputy Chair: Katie Sargent, Greener Futures Group Manager, Surrey County Council
Attendees:	Chitra Nadarajah- Head of Service: Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, Hampshire Council (CNA) Daire Casey -Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council (DCA) Doug Eltham – Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer, Devon County Council (DEL) Katie Sargent - Greener Futures Group Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA) Kylie Russell – Deputy CEO, ADEPT (KRU) Lynn Trigwell - Head of Service - Climate and Environment Margaret Enstone - Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer, Darlington Borough Council Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA) Melanie Taylor - National Energy System Operator (NESO) Olivia Mortimer- Energy administrator, West Sussex County Council Rachel Waugh, Principal Climate Change Officer, Buckinghamshire Council Thomas Day – Head of Energy and Low Carbon Programme, Essex County Council (TDA)
Guests:	Melanie Taylor – National Energy System Operator (NESO)
Note Taker:	Olivia Mortimer, West Sussex County Council
Apologies:	Simon Bowers Alexander Beckett

Item No.	Item	Lead	Time
1.	<u>Welcome</u> Welcome to Melanie Taylor - Head of Regional Energy Strategic Planning at National Energy System Operator (NESO).	Daire Casey	13:30
2.	<u>Transitional Regional Energy Strategic Plan: Identifying areas of strategic investment (SI) need for RIIO-ED3</u> RESPS/tRESPS: - Currently developing methodology for the Enduring RESPS – work on this will start roughly in the second quarter of next year. - First RESPs will be in place at the end of 2027. - Transitional REP (tRESP) serves as a transitional bridge to enduring RESP. SI Need Request for Information (RFI): - Last week each upper tier authority in Great Britain will have received invitation to engage on strategic investment need. - This is looking at strategic energy needs within local area(s) which may require investment in electricity networks in 2028-33. - These will set the context within which electricity networks can come forward with a package of measures + requests for funding. - This will set up a single short-term pathway to 2035 & will support further pathways going forward. - There's recognition that hitting Clean Power 2030 target will only happen if start investing in distribution networks quicker than we have done in the past. Four outputs/scopes that tRESP is going to deliver: - Regional context - Consumption Planning Assumptions - Pathways - Strategic Investment - SI Need Framework – MTA comments that the 2 criteria include identifying (a) projects that have high strategic value, and (b) are in advance of certain need (i.e. before the DNOs are already aware). - Projects due for connection prior to 2040 will still be considered for assessment- as there's an awareness that some projects have long lead in times. - First line of discussion has been with DNO's.	Melanie Taylor & Jennifer Pemberton, NESO	13:40

	- MTA comments that we can ask DNOs what information they have already received / any local authorities which didn't respond to the SI Need Request for Information (RFI). - If not received RFI form, it may be that it has been sent to another member of staff in same local authority e.g. some teams have gone straight to Chief executive. Action: DCA to send contact details of relevant individuals in local authorities to MTA to ensure councils have at least seen the RFI form / are made aware. - Any issues with filing the form in- regional managers will be happy to have session with teams to talk through. DC mentions it may be useful to have a completed form as reference – MTA will feed this back to team + send a dummy form over. Action: MTA to see if it's possible to arrange and send out completed example form for reference.		
3.	<u>Local Area Energy Planning – roundtable discussion</u> - Climate change team at Hampshire County Council have been made redundant- CNA will be leaving in September. DC thanked CAN for her leadership on Energy & Climate Change in the Local Government context, over many years of public service. - CNA comments that this puts into question role Council will play in strategic engagement on climate change. - RWA notes that at Buckinghamshire Council they are having discussions on how there may be opportunities to align the work from LAEP with the work that's being done for the local plan. - Local plan is driving interest in LEAP. - RWA states that from hearing from other authorities who've undertaken LAEP there's real benefit in having high level stakeholder commitment + engagement. - MEN comments that the Tees Valley Combined Authority have finally awarded the tender for a consultant to begin work on LAEP. - MTAR comments that Surrey County Council are applying for the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.	Daire Casey	14:10

	DCA comments that West Sussex County Council are working on embedding LAEP into our climate change strategy & seeking to work in partnership across Sussex (i.e. with East Sussex & Brighton and Hove).		
4.	<u>ADEPT update</u> Transport Carbon Leadership Programme: We launched the Carbon Leadership Programme at the Spring Conference. This exciting initiative has been created in partnership with Proving Services and is supported by DfT and will enable LHAs to measure and reduce their carbon emissions. It's a fully funded programme that will run for the next three years. Find out more by attending one of the introductory webinars – see here. Live Labs 2: The Live Labs 2 Expo took place in Liverpool on 25th March, with over 200 delegates attending. The materials and resources generated by this event are available on the website (here). As part of the Expo programme, we ran a popular Dragons Den for SMEs to pitch their innovative ideas for decarbonisation – to read more and see who won, look here. We published a report the same day that highlights the need for organisational behaviour change to run alongside technological change (see here). Finally – we hosted a LL2 parliamentary reception in the House of Commons on 23rd April, with Minister Lilian Greenwood attending. At that event we launched a pledge that invites stakeholders to drive meaningful decarbonisation across all aspects of the UK's road network and rethink how the highways infrastructure reduces carbon – for more information and to sign the pledge, see here. Devolution / Growth / Planning LGR & Devo webinars: As part of our programme of support for members on Devo and LGR issues, we hosted a webinar on becoming a combined / statutory authority on 29th May. We are also hosting issue-specific webinars - the Environment & Climate Change webinar took place on 3rd June and the Highways & Transport on 12th June. If you would to see the recording & slides, please get in touch with Hannah Bartram. There will be upcoming webinars on Planning (26th June) and Waste & Recycling (27th June). More	Hannah Bartram	14:45

information including the link to register are on the ADEPT website ([here](#)).

4. **Workforce issues:** our Gen Z campaign pilot has now ended. The **Find Your Path** campaign focused on attracting young people aged between 18 and 27 to local authority roles, including those delivering the place services we all use such as local highways, waste and recycling, green space and access, as well as people-based roles. We reported on the findings at the Spring Conference on 22 May – the slides are [here](#). We are now considering how we might expand the pilot into a national initiative. To find out more about the campaign see [here](#) and the website is available here: <https://findyourpath.uk/>.
5. The **Planning & Infrastructure Bill** was laid in Parliament on 11th March. It forms part of a continuum of planning reforms (previously NPPF, planning fees uplifts and recent announcement about statutory consultees) and forthcoming changes around Planning Committees, Brownfield Passports and National Development Management Policies. There are 4 overarching objectives: 1) Faster and more certain consenting for infrastructure 2) More strategic approach to nature recovery 3) Improving certainty in decision-making and 4) Unlocking land and development. Natural England attended the April meeting of the planning working group to talk through plans for the Nature Restoration Fund. Wildlife & Countryside Link will be attending the June meeting to talk about environmental NGOs' concerns over the Bill watering down environmental protection. The Bill is now in committee stage; with Royal Assent anticipated in the autumn.

Environment / Climate

6. **Land Use Framework:** We responded to the government consultation on a new strategic approach to managing land use in England (otherwise known as the land use framework). The LUF is intended to support the government's missions under the Plan for Change, including delivering new housebuilding, energy infrastructure and new towns. Our response is [here](#).
7. The **Rapid Adaptation Pathways Assessment (RAPA) toolkit** was launched on 13th May, with over 200 attendees. The toolkit focuses on flood and coastal erosion risks and is aimed at local authorities, allowing them to undertake a basic rapid adaptation pathways assessment approach in their places and partnerships. RAPAs are 'high-level' adaptation pathways, developed in workshop settings. They use the expert judgement of participating stakeholders to

	identify thresholds and actions, using maps and defined data. This webinar will introduce RAPAs and the new toolkit as well as include a case study from one of the pilot locations who trialled the toolkit and supported with its development. To find out more, see here. 8. The Blueprint Coalition - an influential group of local government organisations, environmental groups, and research institutions – recently hosted a webinar that tackled a crucial question: is local authority action on climate too important to leave to chance? Eamon Lally, Principal Policy Adviser at the Local Government Association, reflects on the webinar (see here). Events/Other 9. ADEPT Digital Academy: We recently launched the ADEPT Digital Academy - a bespoke learning programme, powered by Multiverse and funded by the Apprenticeship Levy, that will equip place teams with digital and data skills to lead transformation and deliver better outcomes for people and places. This programme is fully funded and will run as a pilot programme, starting in the autumn. You can find out more, including registering to attend an introductory webinar, here. 10. Leadership Pathway Programme: designed for people in the earlier stages of their career who would like to develop their skills as future leaders, ADEPT's Leadership Pathway Programme for aspiring directors is now open for applications. The deadline is midnight, Friday 27th June. Find out more and download an expression of interest form here. 11. The ADEPT Spring Conference and President's Awards Dinner was a fantastic opportunity to recognise and celebrate the outstanding work of partners across the country. You can read about the award winners here. Angela Jones is the new President of ADEPT – the theme for her presidential year is 'Make the Case for People and Place' and her priorities are here. 12. Dates for your diary – for more detail please visit the Events page on the website (here): - Devo webinars – see above - Lunch & Learn – Our award winners! 25th June, virtual - Leadership Development Programme alumni seminar – 30th June, London - Corporate Partner seminar – 4th July, London - National Traffic Managers Conference – 8th October, Leicester		
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	vi. ADEPT Autumn Conference – 20 & 21 November, Manchester		
5.	<u>DESNZ update</u> None noted	Patrick Allcorn	14:50
6.	<u>A.O.B.</u> None noted	ALL	14:55
7.	<u>Date of next meeting</u> Thursday 24 th July 2025 via MS Teams (13:30)		