

SW ADEPT AI Notes – please check for accuracy**Date:** 31st July 2025**Time:** 13:00 – 14:00**Location:** MS Teams

Present:	
Sophie Broadfield – BANES Council	Angela Jones – ADEPT President
Kylie Russell – Deputy CEO ADEPT	Robert Richardson – Devon Council
Miranda Housden – Ice.org	Hannah Shrimpton – Peninsula Transport
Alan Denby – Torbay Council	Ben Kempner - DFT
Colin Chick – Gloucestershire Council	Nigel Riglar – South Gloucestershire Council
Mickey Green – North Somerset Council	

Guest Speaker	Oliver Carlstroem - Multiverse
Guest Speaker	Chris Steel – Hydrogen South West

Welcome – Sophie Broadfield - Chair
Update from ADEPT: (Introduction by new ADEPT President Angela Jones, Director of Thriving Places, Westmorland and Furness Council Discussion of key issues facing Place Directors in local authorities in the South West Angela emphasized the importance of the ADEPT network for peer support, sharing expertise, influencing government, and advocating for place directors. She highlighted the network's role in addressing critical topics and issues in local government. • Challenges in Local Government: Angela discussed the acute financial challenges, devolution, local government reorganization, and significant policy reforms impacting place services and local authorities. She stressed the need for the ADEPT network to come together to address these challenges and secure more funding and recognition for their work. • Priorities for the Year: Angela outlined her priorities for the year, focusing on influencing, innovation, and inclusivity. She emphasized the importance of influencing government policies, fostering innovation through projects like Live Lab 2, and promoting inclusivity in terms of EDI and ensuring no community is left behind. • Focus on People and Place: Angela highlighted her theme for the year, "making the case for people and place," reflecting her passion for community services and the importance of the workforce and the people they serve. She aims to build on the previous president's theme of resilience, focusing on climate adaptation and sector resilience.

- **Financial Challenges:** Angela Jones mentioned the financial challenges faced by local governments, particularly in budget setting for the next year. She emphasized the need to balance day-to-day operational pressures with long-term planning and place shaping.
- **Policy Reforms:** Angela highlighted the impact of policy reforms, devolution, and local government reorganization on place services. She stressed the importance of maximizing opportunities and harnessing these changes despite the reactive nature of daily operations.
- **Place Shaping:** Angela and Sophie discussed the importance of place shaping and creating sustainable communities. They emphasized the need for local authorities to focus on long-term goals and support their politicians in making brave decisions for the future.
- **Operational Pressures:** Participants shared their experiences of dealing with day-to-day operational pressures, such as fly-tipping, pothole complaints, and waste management. They discussed the challenge of balancing these immediate issues with strategic planning and development.
- **Scope 3 Emissions Challenge:** Colin Chick raised the issue of measuring and reducing Scope 3 emissions, which has significantly impacted their progress towards net zero, and suggested a need for further discussion on this topic.
- **Scope 3 Emissions Measurement:** Colin Chick discussed the difficulty in measuring Scope 3 emissions, which has drastically reduced their progress towards net zero. He highlighted the challenge of collecting data from various contracts, especially in adult social care and children's services.
- **Impact on Net Zero Progress:** Colin explained that their progress towards net zero was significantly impacted by the inclusion of Scope 3 emissions, reducing their carbon reduction from 76% to 3%. He emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to address these emissions.
- **Need for Further Discussion:** Colin suggested that the issue of Scope 3 emissions requires further discussion among local authorities to develop effective strategies for measurement and reduction. Sophie agreed that this would be a valuable topic for a future conversation.

Update from Kylie Russell

Transport

1. **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 both measure and identify how to reduce their carbon emissions. It's a fully funded programme that will run for the next three years. We have just announced another tranche of training webinars – see [here](#) to register.
2. **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](#).

3. ADEPT responded to the announcement of the Infrastructure Fund ([here](#)), the 10-year National Infrastructure Strategy ([here](#)) and the Spending Review ([here](#)).

Devolution / Growth / Planning

4. **Economy, Planning and Housing Board.** We are rebranding and merging of the Sustainable Growth Board and Planning Working Group into a single, streamlined board: the Economy, Planning and Housing Board. The new board will provide a space for Place directors, senior planners, economic development leads and housing directors to come together and tackle the big issues facing places across the country. Whether it is planning reform, housing delivery, or driving local economic resilience, the board will support members in navigating complex challenges and shaping effective, place-based responses. The new structure allows for greater integration across disciplines while retaining the flexibility to establish sub-groups for specific work areas as needed.
5. **LGR & Devo webinars:** Our programme of support for members on Devo and LGR issues has now completed. We delivered 6 webinars: 1) becoming a unitary council 2) becoming a combined / statutory authority plus issue-specific webinars on Environment & Climate Change, Highways & Transport, Planning and Waste & Recycling. If you would to see any of the recordings & slides, please get in touch with [Hannah Bartram](#).
6. **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](#) – and will be producing a Lessons Learnt report. We are talking to the LGA about whether they can use the materials / learnings as part of their 'Make a Difference' campaign and Recruitment Reset Programme. To find out more about the campaign see [here](#) and the website is available here: <https://findyourpath.uk/>.
7. ADEPT responded to the publication of the Devo Bill ([here](#)).

Environment / Climate

8. **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](#).
9. 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](#).
10. 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

11. **ADEPT Digital Academy:** We have 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 [here](#).

12. We will be putting out a call for EoI for the 2026 Leadership Development Programme in Autumn.
13. **Dates for your diary** – for more detail please visit the Events page on the website ([here](#)):
 - i. National Traffic Managers Conference, 8th October, Birmingham – booking site now live ([here](#))
 - ii. ADEPT Autumn Conference, 20 & 21 November, Manchester – booking site now live ([here](#))

Multiverse Digital Academy: Oliver Carlstroem and Kylie Russell presented the Multiverse Digital Academy, which aims to upskill local authority staff in digital and data skills using the apprenticeship levy, with positive endorsements from Nigel Riegler and Robert Richards.

- Overview of Multiverse: Oliver Carlstroem provided an overview of Multiverse, a workforce transformation partner that uses the apprenticeship levy to upskill staff in data and digital skills. He highlighted their work with over 1600 organizations and 22,000 apprentices.
- Digital Academy Goals: The Digital Academy aims to raise digital literacy, address fragmented systems, and promote data-driven decision-making. It offers programs for both data consumers and data specialists, focusing on skills like Excel, Power BI, and machine learning.
- Endorsements: Nigel Riegler and Robert Richards endorsed the Multiverse approach, sharing their positive experiences with the program. Nigel highlighted the impact on organizational development and leadership, while Robert emphasized the transformation in service intelligence.
- Application Process: Oliver explained the application process for the Digital Academy, with a target of 50 employees across local authorities. He emphasized the importance of not overloading the first cohort and provided a deadline for applications.

Hydrogen Southwest Presentation: Chris Steele from Hydrogen Southwest presented opportunities for local authorities to achieve decarbonization and generate revenue through technologies that convert biomass waste into energy, with potential applications for local authority fleets.

- Hydrogen Southwest Overview: Chris Steele introduced Hydrogen Southwest, a group established to accelerate the transition to hydrogen-based energy. He highlighted their work in aviation, maritime, land transport, and infrastructure, with significant industry partners.
- Wild Hydrogen Technology: Chris described Wild Hydrogen's process of converting biomass waste into energy, producing biomethane, hydrogen, captured CO₂, and biochar. He emphasized the potential for local authorities to use this technology for waste management and energy generation.
- Vehicle Repowering: Chris discussed Metier Technologies' approach to retrofitting HGVs with hydrogen internal combustion engines, offering a cost-effective and environmentally friendly alternative to diesel. He highlighted the potential for local authority fleets to adopt this technology.

- **Dual Fuel Technology:** Chris introduced Alenco's dual fuel technology, which replaces some diesel with hydrogen, providing a stepping stone towards net zero. He shared an example of Aberdeen City Council's successful implementation of this technology.
- **Closing Remarks:** Sophie Broadfield concluded the meeting, noting that Mickey Green would take over as chair and inviting participants to consider the vice-chair position.

Follow-up tasks:

- **ADEPT Digital Academy Participation:** Identify and nominate individuals from each local authority to participate in the ADEPT Digital Academy, ensuring nominations are submitted before the application window closes on 5th September. (All local authority representatives)
- **ADEPT Digital Academy Information Sharing:** Circulate the follow-up presentation and next steps for joining the ADEPT Digital Academy to all board members. (Oliver Carlstroem, Sophie)
- **Hydrogen Technology Information Sharing:** Send the Hydrogen Southwest presentation and related information to all board members for further review and potential follow-up. (Chris, Sophie)
- **Vice Chair Recruitment:** Follow up with board members to identify and recruit a vice chair to support the new chair, Mickey Green. (Sophie)

Next meeting to be confirmed by new chair