

Environment Board catch up meeting

18 June 2026

	Attendees: - Carolyn McKenzie – Chair - Eliza Alqassar - David Dale - Ella Andrew - Wendy Barratt - Wendy Brooke - Quinton Carroll - Daire Casey - Doug Eltham (part) - Kristi Nicholls – note taker	- Ellen Fineran - Kate Langdown - Mark Minkley (part) - Steven OKeefe - James Potter - Kylie Russell - Lynn Trigwell Apologies: Steve Palfrey, Olawale Ladapo, Simon Adams, Dan Janota, Tim De-Keyzer	Action Owner
	Welcome and Introductions Carolyn McKenzie welcomed everyone to the meeting. New to board Ella Andrew – Essex County Council as Climate Action Engagement Manager		
	Hot Topics – David Dale Local authority climate adaptation in person workshop on 9 July. MACC Hub and CCC event: Climate Adaptation in Action: The Role of UK Local Authorities - MACC Hub ADEPT webinar on 6 July – The role of local authorities in managing water resources chaired by Carolyn McKenzie. The role local authorities in managing water resources Collaboration with Aether Consultants (ADEPT corporate partner) with a project focus on embedding environmental priorities into Spatial Development Strategies (SDS) launching within 6 weeks and has 6 authorities signed up for the pilot. SDS embedding work positioned as a first-phase “sprint”, with opportunity for additional authorities and partners (including Defra, EA, NE, MHCLG) to join future phases. Aim is to position environment (nature, water, air quality) as enabling infrastructure within SDS, not a constraint, with future updates and potential joint Environment & Planning Board discussion planned. SDS pilot expected to start July 2026 with an indicative 6 month timeline – subject to confirmation. Quinton Carroll offered to provide feedback on how heritage is included in SDS. Carolyn McKenzie suggested to review ADEPT leadership briefing on political changes affecting local government through environment and climate change lens. ADEPT continues to provide a cross-sector forum to share insights on political change. Collaboration with University of Glasgow to develop training materials on managing local political change with a call for volunteers to join pilot workshop – contact David Dale. Workforce gaps emerging due to LGR (Local Government Reorganisation). Monthly meetings of Environment Board effectiveness review. Proposal to do at least 1 in-person meeting annually potentially Autumn. ACTION: Suggestions for agenda items and workshop focus send to David Dale.		

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	Working Group updates Waste – Wendy Barratt Continued delay in Circular Economy Growth Plan, with government indicating it is “imminent” but no confirmed timeline (ongoing delays of 3–5 months). WRAP consultation launched on Resource & Waste Sector Plan for Net Zero with sector engagement events planned. ADEPT Leadership Team on 1 July to review WRAP plan; invitation extended for WRAP to attend Upcoming Waste Group meeting on 16 July to include: • WRAP presentation • LGR experience case study (Westmorland & Furness Council) • EA Waste Crime 10-point Action Plan • CIWM update and International Waste Conference (Nov 2026) PAC-UK consultation launched on LAPCAP model (funding mechanism for local authorities), with response in development. Appreciation noted for Wendy Barratt stepping into the role following Steve Palfrey’s departure. Energy & Clean Growth – Daire Casey Community energy is a major government priority, with all councils expected to define their strategic relationship with the sector. Strong emphasis on local authority–community energy partnerships, with multiple engagement models under development. • Emerging funding opportunities via GB Energy: • Feasibility funding for project development • Capital funding for delivery (e.g. solar projects) • Funding likely tied to partnerships with community energy groups • Development of practical guidance to help councils understand how community energy can support local ambitions • Upcoming (18 June) working group session focused on multi-level governance, including: • Role of councils in future energy scenarios (University of Manchester – Tyndall Centre) • Strengthening relationships across national, regional, and local levels • Introduction to Regional Energy System Planning (RESP) and local government’s role (NISO) • Future session planned on consumer protections. Flood and Water Management – Kylie Russell Regular Defra–ADEPT catch-up held on local flood risk management covering: • Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCRM) reflections and water reform impacts on flood risk • Webinar scheduled for 6 July 2026 on water-related issues, with potential Defra participation • Consideration of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) impacts on flood risk management responsibilities and delivery. • Ongoing engagement in consultations on the FCRM Strategy refresh. Natural Capital & Heritage – Tim De-Keyzer (sends apologies) Existing ADEPT Green Finance Toolkit is now outdated and did not cover nature recovery funding. Growing need to support authorities in accessing external funding for nature recovery, particularly with LNRs now largely in place Interest from partners (WSP and Ecosystems Knowledge Network) to co-develop updated resources Proposal to deliver autumn workshop/webinar, leading to creation of a new nature finance toolkit. ACTION: Contact David Dale if you / any authorities have interest in participating to a toolkit development on nature finance guidance.	ALL
	Partner updates Defra – Ola Ladapo (sends apologies) Environment Agency – Simon Adams (sends apologies) The Local Climate Adaptation Leaders Forum (LCALF) The newly formed LCALF will bring national, regional and local government together as partners to drive climate adaptation action. It aims to strengthen and support the role of local and regional authorities in place-based climate adaptation and resilience and ensure that the development and delivery of government adaptation plans and policies is well-informed by the challenges and issues that local and regional government experiences and addresses. The EA will be participating in the first LCALF meeting taking place on 24th June. The Local Adaptation Advisory Panel will link to the LCALF, continuing with its function to share emerging adaptation work and good practice at practitioner level. Flood and coastal erosion risk management update (FCERM) The Environment Agency has published new Surface Water Investment Model (SWIM) guidance on GOV.UK. This new guidance will make surface water investment easier for other risk management authorities. The new guidance should be used to develop the business case for a project after it has been submitted using the new Flood and coastal erosion risk management funding policy guidance and has been prioritised for project development funding.	

	The new approach brings multiple Sustainable Drainage (SuDS) measures together into a single, place-based, multi-year programme with one business case and approval front loaded. Costs, benefits and value for money are considered collectively, using proportionate evidence and existing or low-cost data. Funding is then drawn down in stages to align delivery with other works in the public realm, sharing costs and reducing disruption to communities. New project opportunities can be submitted between 1 July and 7 September 2026 using the Project Application Funding System (PAFS). Projects received after this window will still be reviewed by Regional Flood and Coastal Committees and considered for development funding in the future but not for funding in 27/28. For further information contact FCRM_Investment@environment-agency.gov.uk Waste Crime Action Plan Update As part of our commitment to greater transparency from the 10-point plan (Waste Crime Action Plan - GOV.UK) we're updating the high priority sites list (Locations of high priority waste sites in England - GOV.UK) every month. We're preparing to update the list w/c 22nd June. Natural England – Dan Janota (sends apologies)	
	ADEPT update – Kylie Russell Leadership Pathway Programme deadline: 30 June 2026, supporting development below senior leadership level. ADEPT Autumn Conference confirmed for 26–27 November 2026 in Brighton.	
	AOB and Future meeting The next meeting is Tuesday 14 July at 10:00 – 12:00	