



**Autumn Conference 2021
18 & 19 November, Bath**

**Climate, recovery and renewal –
looking ahead to a decade of action**

As we emerge from the hardest eighteen months most of us can remember, we look up to find even bigger challenges ahead of us. Recovery and climate change will dominate our thinking and determine the future of place for years ahead.

As we all know too well, the key to unlocking both of these is transformative and longer-term funding, but we also need to collaborate more extensively, more meaningfully and more effectively if we are to meet these challenges. Local authorities provide local leadership and understand what their places need, but they cannot succeed alone, which is why ADEPT's focus for this year is the three Cs – collaboration, climate and Covid recovery.

The ADEPT Autumn Conference 2021 will give us time to focus on these complex and interrelated issues and importantly, on the opportunities they present. Place directors are not alone in wanting to see a recovery that is clean, green and inclusive. Our communities, partners and sector colleagues share many of our priorities and will be vital collaborators in delivering real change and innovation.

The political and economic shifts that began with the Referendum are still playing out, with many commentators identifying an ongoing realignment of national politics, as well as our ongoing relationship with the EU. May's local elections saw a strengthening of the Conservatives' influence in local government, but across the country the picture is mixed. Covid-19 has affected every area of councils' services, business and finances and cost billions of pounds nationally, likely dashing hopes for realistic funding allocations when the Comprehensive Spending Review is eventually announced. The potential impacts of this highly political environment are particularly significant for local government - the Government is committed to levelling up, but to succeed, we need real recognition that our places are all different.

Covid-19 has presented opportunities as well as placing considerable strain on business and communities. Changes in working practices present new possibilities as well as threats to high streets and town centres across the country. People have become more connected with their local places. The increases in walking and cycling, and subsequent improvements in air quality and noise due to reduced traffic has given people a glimpse of an alternative future. The pandemic has made us all look more closely at the relationships between the environment, physical and mental health and wellbeing, social deprivation and economic growth. Place services sit firmly in the intersection between them all.

Place directors and their strategic partners have a key role in driving and supporting places to recover and renew from the pandemic. The Government has started to paint a picture of the

future with a new Cabinet Office Levelling Up Unit and promised White Paper, a review of LEPs, planning and waste reforms, a new transport decarbonisation plan and royal ascent of the much-delayed Environment Bill. It has set the world's most ambitious climate change target to reduce emissions by 78% by 2035 compared to 1990 levels. It feels like this is a once in a generation opportunity to re-set the world we live in – to build back better and greener - and place directors will be at the forefront of this work.

It's never been busier in the public sector and the opportunities to deliver real change in areas of responsibility covered by ADEPT members have never been greater. We believe that we are embarking on a decade of action as we embark on the new approaches, new partnerships and new delivery models we need to meet the challenges ahead.

The ADEPT Autumn Conference provides the time and space for reflection and sharing of experiences as well as the opportunity to listen to exciting speakers with fresh ideas for shaping the future.

The three themes underpinning the conference – tackling climate change (reducing emissions and building resilience), meeting the funding challenge and doing this as we support the country's recovery from the pandemic – will be reflected in the plenary and workshop sessions.

Conference programme (subject to change)

DAY ONE – THURSDAY 18th NOVEMBER	
09:00	Welcome & introduction Paula Hewitt – ADEPT President / Somerset County Council
09:15	Ministerial address
09:45	Session 1: Building Back Better – how do we do it? <u>Chair:</u> Darryl Evers - Past President, ADEPT / Staffordshire County Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State of the Economy: how’s it looking? Josh Dunn, EY • The economics of biodiversity: The Dasgupta Review Sandy Sheard, Deputy Director and Head of Review Team, H M Treasury • Build Back Fairer: The COVID-19 Marmot Review Professor Sir Michael Marmot, Institute of Health Equity
10:30	Q&A session
11:00-11:30	BREAK
11:30	Session 2: Future places – how do we make ‘quality’ the default setting? <u>Chair:</u> Sue Halliwell, 2nd Vice President, ADEPT / West Berkshire Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The changing nature of environmental protection: introducing the OEP Natalie Prosser, Chief Executive, Office for Environmental Protection • Transforming the planning system to enable us to build back better Simon Gallagher, Director of Planning, DLUHC • Delivering the Net Zero Strategy: the role of local government The Baroness Brown of Cambridge
12:15	Q&A
12.45-14:00	LUNCH
14:00	Session 3 - Panel discussion Is it a phony war in the race for (road) space? There’s growing competition for road space - cycling, walking, e-scooter, high street transformation – but is it a phony war given that to decarbonise transport, we will need to constrain car use alongside encouraging modal shift towards low/zero alternatives. And how do we bring communities along with us? <u>Chair:</u> Mark Kemp - 1 st Vice President, ADEPT / Hertfordshire County Council <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Sarah Sharples, Chief Scientific Adviser, DfT • Xavier Brice, CEO, Sustrans • Lucy Bush, Research Director, BritainThinks • Councillor Sarah Warren, Bath & NE Somerset

15:00-15:15	BREAK
15:15-16:15	Workshop sessions – Round 1
	<p>Workshop 1: Tackling the skills and supply deficits in the workforce</p> <p>About three-quarters of councils in England have reported problems with recruitment and retention, a situation which has not changed for more than 10 years. The sector has an ageing workforce while there is a limited number of candidates with the required skills and experience in certain key professions. The private sector is also struggling to recruit. Join the panel to discuss challenges and opportunities.</p> <p>Chair: Ian Thompson – Chair, Sustainable Growth Board / Buckinghamshire Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nigel Riglar, South Gloucestershire Council • Naomi Cook, Head of Workforce, LGA • David Ogden, Colas
	<p>Workshop 2: The 30-minute rural community, how we might tackle rural inequity through new thinking and collaboration</p> <p>Investigating the key challenges in making rural communities more sustainable and better connected and discussing whether there are new approaches to deliver the change needed.</p> <p>Chair: Ann Carruthers, Deputy Chair, Transport & Connectivity Board / Leicestershire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peter Ramsey & Guy Maxfield, WSP
	<p>Workshop 3: Data-driven decision-making</p> <p>Planning and programming for a sustainable, best value highways network has never been more critical. The wider value of highways - to keep us all connected, and for the movement of essential goods and services, has become a lot more visible over the last 18 months. This workshop will explore the use of data to drive decisions around highways investment and management to deliver carbon/climate outcomes, as well as asset and budget priorities. We will look at the work of ADEPT/FHRG and other partners to consider what has worked elsewhere, and how we can collectively drive best practice approaches to make this a reality for all ADEPT members.</p> <p>Chairs: Phil Skegg & Yogesh Patel, Ringway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon calculating – getting visibility of Scope 1 and 2, and how this can be used to commission, procure and specific low carbon, low impact highway services Simon Wilson, Proving Services • Visualising your assets – using a new technology toolkit to ‘see’ where your pinch points are, and manage the highway service to deliver Ben Brown, Vaisala

	<p>Workshop 4: Organisational renewal - re-imagining the way our organisations, people and services work</p> <p>The pandemic has created a blank canvas on which to rethink the future of organisations and the way that we all work. As we move beyond the immediate crisis, we need to better understand the new needs of employees as we define and create organisations capable of providing the customer centric services that will be vital in this emerging world.</p> <p>Chair: Nicola Monk, Luton Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark Corbin, Transport for West Midlands • Helen Sunderland, EY • Jon Ainger, IMPOWER • Ian Richardson, Colas
16:15-17:15	Workshop sessions – Round 2
17:30 – 18:15	General Meeting
19:30	Drinks’ reception and conference dinner
DAY TWO – FRIDAY 19th NOVEMBER	
09:00	<p>Session 4: The local government jigsaw - how does place fit in changing times?</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Jason Pavey, Atkins</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stephen Chandler, President, ADASS • Paula Hewitt, President, ADEPT • Jim McManus, President, ADPH • Charlotte Ramsden, President, ADCS • Mark Lloyd, CEO, LGA
09:45	Q&A
10:15-10:30	BREAK
10:30	<p>Session 5: Looking back at Live Labs 1 and forward at Live Labs 2</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Yogesh Patel, - Live Labs Commissioning Board member</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview - Giles Perkins, Live Labs programme director • Panel discussion with the Live Labs & DfT • Live Labs 2 – Neil Gibson
11:45	<p>Closing Remarks</p> <p>Paula Hewitt - ADEPT President</p>
12.00	Close of the Conference