



Autumn Conference 2020

Resilient places: from recovery to renewal

Thursday 5th & 6th November

The world has changed significantly since the last ADEPT conference. A December election brought a significant Conservative majority and we continue the process of exiting the EU. Resilience was tested in many parts of the country with severe winter flooding and the wettest February since records began and supporting local communities to recover. A one-year budget settlement left us all looking askance at the future of local government funding. Then in March it all turned upside down with a global public health crisis and national lockdown. The lock down changed things, we saw improving air quality, people valuing their local communities and green spaces, and wholesale changes to working patterns hitherto thought impossible.

As we prepare for the reality of further, localised outbreaks of Covid-19, Place directors and their strategic partners have a key role in driving and supporting their local places to recover and renew from the pandemic. The ADEPT Autumn Conference will give time and space for reflection.

There are many lessons to be learnt. Has the lockdown pushed a new approach to patterns of commuting and working from home? Will we think differently about international travel? How will we deal with the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1920s? Will there be changes to some of the key local partners we have been working with? How well have we all responded to a long-term emergency? What will our town centres look like and how confident are our communities and businesses? Have we created a new environment where people respond positively to public health messages? What does it mean for tackling climate change? Do we have the right skills to drive this agenda? How is it all going to be paid for?

These will be some of the key issues for the conference - to reflect on the lessons learnt and to consider and develop our strategies to drive the recovery and renewal of our localities.

Two themes will dominate the agenda for place over the coming months and will underpin the conference and the plenaries – tackling climate change (reducing emissions and adapting) and meeting the funding challenge.

DAY ONE – THURSDAY 5TH NOVEMBER	
09:00	Welcome & introduction Nigel Riglar – ADEPT President / South Gloucestershire Council
09:15	Opening address: Dine Romero, Leader, Bath & North East Somerset Council
09:25	A look into the future Rohit Talwar, CEO, Fast Future
10:15-10:30	BREAK
10:30	<p>Plenary Session 1: Resilient Infrastructure</p> <p>Creating the right infrastructure for the future including digital, walking, cycling and public transport planning requires a major shift in our thinking. Decarbonising transport means breaking the link between economic growth and travel, so how do we do this? Is our existing infrastructure resilient to the changing climate? Strong public health messages and regulation have led to changes in long-term behaviours; how do we capture these?</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Ann Carruthers - Deputy chair, ADEPT Transport & Connectivity Board / Leicestershire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decarbonising local transport - where next? Stephen Fidler, Director, Local Transport, Department for Transport • Behaviourally informed interventions to reduce carbon emissions Toby Park, Principal Advisor, Head of Energy & Sustainability, Behavioural Insights Team • Working to ensure the highways network is climate ready Nick Goddard, Regional Director, Ringway and Elliot Pritchard, Worcestershire County Council Highway Operations Manager
11:30-11:45	BREAK
11:45	<p>Plenary Session 2: Resilient Places</p> <p>Open spaces, parks and access to the countryside have never been more important to local communities. How do we create vibrant places with quality green spaces, strong town centres and a range of low carbon housing types, including retrofitting existing housing stock?</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Sue Halliwell - Co-chair, ADEPT South East Board / Oxfordshire County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What’s the future for our town centres? Professor Cathy Parker, Co-Chair of the Institute of Place Management and Research Director of the High Streets Task Force

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning White Paper: from policy to practice Joanna Averley, Chief Planner, MHCLG • OxCam: The Green Arc Bev Hindle, Director, Oxfordshire Growth Board and Oxford to Cambridge Arc Leaders and CEx groups
12.45-14:15	LUNCH
14:15	<p>Question Time: Resilient Economy</p> <p>Place directors are key to driving the clean and green recovery and renewal of the economy in their places, working in partnership with local business and communities. Having a sound evidence base is critical. What is the role in business development, business start-up and reducing unemployment? What is the role of LEPs working in partnership with local authorities on issues including reskilling, retraining and research? Can green finance help?</p> <p><i>Join the debate with speakers drawn from the private sector, LEPs, academia and government.</i></p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Professor Jon Shaw, Head of School of Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences, and Professor Geography, University of Plymouth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nicole Wang, Director – Economic Advisory, EY • Jim Stewart, Chair, Dorset LEP • Richard Dorney-Savage, Area Manager, Careers & Enterprise Company • Dr Elizabeth Harnett, Smith School of Enterprise & the Environment, University of Oxford • Laura Church, Corporate Director, Place & Infrastructure, Luton Borough Council
15:15-15:30	BREAK
15:30	<p>Plenary Session 3: Resilient People</p> <p>Dealing with COVID-19 has highlighted the unique role of place directors. We deliver the bulk of universal services on a daily basis whilst also planning for the long-term future. It's a real balancing act and our response to the pandemic is highlighting that. How do we support ourselves? Are there new skills that we need? Does the way we work with other organisations need to evolve?</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Paula Hewitt – ADEPT Vice President / Somerset County Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership disrupted Jes Ladva, Partner – Government, Odgers • Mental health & wellbeing Arabella Tresilian, Bath Mind

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Diversity matters Graeme McDonald, Managing Director, SOLACE
16:30	Summary & End of Day One
DAY TWO – FRIDAY 6TH NOVEMBER	
09:00	<p><i>Excellence in Place Leadership workshop</i></p> <p><u>Chairs:</u> Neil Gibson - ADEPT Past President / David Ogden - Business Improvement Director, Amey</p> <p>In Autumn 2019, ADEPT and Amey launched the <i>Excellence in Place Leadership Programme</i>. Its aim was to bring together forward-thinking 'thought leaders' from across ADEPT to examine the key issues and opportunities affecting our sector – this is your opportunity to find out more about the programme, and next steps.</p>
10:30-10:45	BREAK
10:45	<p>Resilient Partners</p> <p>Reflections from key partners on what the Covid-19 pandemic has meant to them and wider impacts.</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Laura Church – ADEPT Vice President / Luton Borough Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public health Jeanelle de Gruchy, ADPH President / Tameside Council Public transport Graham Vidler, Chief Executive, Confederation of Passenger Transport The New Zealand experience Professor Michael Baker, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, New Zealand
11:45	<p>Closing Remarks Nigel Riglar, ADEPT President</p>
12.00	Close of the Conference