

Environment Board

28 October 2020, 10.00 - 12.30

NOTES

1.	Welcome and Introductions	Steve Read
	SR welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were no introductions as a list of attendees was circulated prior to the meeting.	
	SR thanked Paula Hewitt who chaired the group for the past couple of years before moving on to the Presidential hierarchy. Paula did a superb job.	
2.	Defra update:	Katherine Hunt and
	<u>Who's who at Defra</u>	Rachel Jackson, Natural
	Katherine Hunt is Head of Strategic Engagement Team in Environment.	Environment Strategic Engagement Team, Defra
	Rachel Jackson works in Katherine's team focusing on local authority engagement.	benu
	David Hill, Director General across Environment, Rural & Marine. Was Acting but now permanent and is a big advocate for local government.	
	Changes in structure across the environment space: Susanna May, Director of Environmental Quality	
	Tom Walker, Director of Environment Strategy	
	Susanna and Tom bring together everything cross- cutting, Environment Bill, climate change, green finance etc.	
	Edward Barker, Director of Natural Environment and Forestry	
	Andrea Ledward, Director of International Biodiversity and Climate, including leading on COP26 preparations.	
	ACTION: Katherine to share summary of Who's Who with the Board.	Katherine
	<u>Comprehensive Spending Review</u>	

This is confirmed as one year only. Defra are working on bringing together what was a three year into a one-year	
settlement bid and to take that Treasury relatively soon.	
The Treasury has set out 3 priorities to focus on 1) Covid-19 and jobs 2) supporting vital front-line public services and 3)	
investing in infrastructure plans and economic recovery.	
Environment Bill	
The Bill will resume in the Committee Stage on 3 rd	
November after a break and will conclude on 1 st December	
before going to the Commons and then Lords. Government made some amendments last week on 1) how should OEP	
enforcement function and 2) habitat and species conservation. See Bill fact sheets on GOV.UK.	
In August more detail on scope and targets were published,	
also available on GOV.UK.	
Kate Ryan from BCP asked about the waste consultation	
process. There are some further consultations expected on waste measures which are hoped to be at some point next	
year. Details will be shared when available.	
Steve Read welcomed Kate to her first meeting. highlighted	
the Waste Panel currently chaired by Ian Fielding and	
welcomed anybody to join.	
See <u>Nature Factsheet</u> .	
These 2 second contracts outlined in the Easter set will succeid.	
These 2 amendments outlined in the Factsheet will provide power to Natural England to deal with species and	
protected areas to bring partnerships together to drive that	
forward and address some stresses and strains faced.	
Jo Wall informed that The LGA will shortly be publishing a	
green finance guide focused on delivery of green projects	
Katherine clarified that Kick-Start is open to Local	
Government. If you can provide 30+ placements then you can bid yourself. If less you would join up with other	
organisations.	
 Dispains White Depart Dispains for the first sector 	
 <u>Planning White Paper Planning for the future –</u> <u>environmental consultation</u> 	
This is MHCLG led but from Defra's perspective there is	

interest in how it works with the environment and how it works with Defra consultation. Deadline is CoP 29th October. Defra's own consultation on environmental assessment has not been published yet but hoping it will be in next couple of months. They are taking time to ensure policy is well thought out an consider feedback from discussions with stakeholders and what has come back from MHCLG paper too to ensure aligned.

David offered to work with Defra on the environmental consultation by finding colleagues in local authorities willing to take part.

Liz Small queried process for feedback on protected landscapes (the Glover Review), there are not specific dates or updates. The team is working hard and trying to get agreement with Treasury on priorities.

• <u>Green recovery (including green finance, and skills & capacity)</u>

A £40m Green Recovery Challenge Fund has been launched to support environment projects and, as such, jobs and skills in environment sector. Deadline for applications has closed and demand has been high. Next steps are to work through the bids and confirm those progressed to the next stage and working with the organisations to take bids to the next level.

Kickstart scheme is DWP led scheme. Launched in Sept and provides funding to create jobs for 16-24 year olds on universal credit. We have been doing some outreach work to organisation to take up some of these placements and see the level of interest. This work will continue.

Green finance – Investment Readiness Fund is a £10m fund, announced earlier this year, in which is identified investment ready projects to help and improve the environment and generally private sector interest that can be scaled up. Expected to start in November 2020.

There will be some domestic engagement ahead of COP 26. Looking to hold 9 community events across the UK which will provide public and stakeholders with key information and importance of climate change and nature initiatives across the UK. Defra are actively looking for local authorities that want to be involved.

ACTION: If you are interested please get in touch with Katherine/Rachel.

David queried whether there was a timescale of evaluation and decision making. Katherine will check but knows that there are 2 types of process for big grant bids and one for All

	smaller bids. For the big grant bids, the applicants have been informed about the next stage. There is no specific timetable for smaller bids. It is happening quite quickly though, and they want to award it this financial year.	
3.	Friends of the Earth – England's Green Space Gap Paul works on a range of issues including green space. FoE have produced the England's Green Space Gap report. many neighbourhoods have a deficit of green space 1 in 5 people live in areas that are deprived of green space and shows a strong correlation between green space / ethnicity and green space / income.	Paul de Zylva, Senior Nature Campaigner, FOE
	See <u>presentation</u> for details and a list of 10 recommendations.	
	New data is becoming available all the time. The latest data set for individual councils is available on the website but it is stressed that it's not a league table, the question is what we do about it.	
	It was noted that it would be interesting to map the health data against Covid-19 as well as ethnicity and income.	
	Paul invited interest from anyone who would like to be a part of this and find the best way to take it forward.	
	David Dale suggested to send this to Defra, MHCLG and LGA.	
	Adam asked how we can drive it in a more joined up way.	
	On the rural urban dimension, Natural England are doing mapping work on accessibility which touches on rural. FoE are interested in finding out who wants to open up the conversation and will do webinars and seminars to follow through on this. FoE want to stress quality and not wanting green space just because it looks green, it should be functioning.	
	ACTION: Julia Beeden and Paul to discuss future parks	Julia/Paul
	accelerator projects.	
4.	Climate action tools for local authorities:	
	(i) <u>Carbon Literacy toolkit for local authorities</u> <u>https://carbonliteracy.com/local-authorities/</u>	Phil Korbel
	Phil is the co-founder of the Carbon Literacy Project. Recently trained 31 Liverpool Councillors They are looking to be the first council to have all councillors trained in carbon literacy.	

Work on this started in 2008 and was launched in 2012 with a breadth of experts. It has grown in Greater Manchester but even gone beyond that. This is much more about that awareness. The training would start with an endorsing statement from recognised leader, delivered by peers and would meet a flexible standard. Training always ends in action delegates create an action that they can do. This training is something that engages substantially. A way of bringing this home to a breadth of colleagues. Accreditation costs £10 per learner. Jacobs Engineering guesstimated 5-15% of carbon savings. BEIS/GMCA has provided funding to provide shareable toolkits. It's a close to an "off the shelf" thing as possible. There have been 28 downloads of the pack so far. Phil will follow up with sub-sets of course with leadership and councillors.	
Please see Phil's presentation for further details.	
 (ii) <u>Hampshire County Council mitigation and resilience decision-making tools</u> Chitra presented on the Hampshire County Council Climate Change Strategy 2020-2025 produced in July this year. They have 2 targets: 1) to be Carbon neutral by 2050 and 2) to be resilient to 2°C to the impacts of temperature change. The Strategy is structured around strategic priorities and how we take decisions around the targets. The Decision Tool – carbon and resilience – will support decision making and raise awareness of how climate change can be taken into account in everything we do. These tools were developed with the Carbon Trust and are quite complex and bespoke to Hampshire as they link to strategic priorities. The Resilience Tool looks at how climate may affect a project. Both tools will be used by all areas of council. However, they are first being tested as pilots in environment. 	Chitra Nadarajah
they are first being tested as pilots in environment department. Any issues to be ironed out before rollout to whole org in 2021. Work is being done internally to engage with Districts & Boroughs to implement the tools.	
Please see Chitra's presentation for further details.	
 (iii) Local Partnerships/UKCIP adaptation toolkit Local Partnerships (LP) is co-owned by LGA, Treasury and Welsh Government. Jo does fee earning and grant funded work. Last 12 months she has been working on the climate 	

response.		
LGA on Sco	year LP received a carbon accounting tool with pe 1 and 2 emissions and working on Scope 3. rea quite expensive for Local Authorities to	Jo Wall
pursue. UK	CIP lost most of its funding in 2011/2012 so not d tools but will put some of central grant into	
updating th		
Local Autho	erships plan to conduct survey to hear from prities where they want to see the focus, ADEPT blicise this when it launches.	
ACTIONS:		
practice in d sponsoring a	iece in January 2021 to share intelligence on best ecision-making, based on her involvement in and judging the MJ award for leadership in o the climate emergency.	oL
green financ opportunity (developing of this depen	rking with CIPFA to run some training webinars on e starting in December, and there may be an to showcase the LGA's work on green finance scope of emissions guidance) in the new year as part nding on the publication date LGA green finance aned for delivery in early December.	ol
Underlines to start. Go we start to ADEPT will	sed all 3 presenters. Really interesting. scale of challenge to Local Authorities on where od to have riches of tools out there but how do know what best fits in with our own action? be happy to work with Local Partnerships and racy to. Raise awareness.	
	ied that we need something that is consistent to thorities and is easy to use.	
accounting	ho that and stated that the reason the carbon tool was produced was to be consistent across It's very much about upskilling and embedding ne sector.	
the last electric change in c become car	o commented that they had a change in admin in ction. This means there will have to be a culture arbon literacy. They have tight timescales to bon neutral and need a transparent and standard for carbon neutrality	

Board business and Working Group updates:	
Board Terms of Reference and workplan	Steve Read
No major changes but the document is just expanded with mention of current challenges and updated things like working group representation Chairs etc.	
No comments received. Board agreed to adopt these changes.	
ACTION: Vice Chair required for ADEPT Environment Board – Please inform Steve Read/David Dale if you are interested or would like to nominate anyone.	All
Energy & Clean Growth	Carolyn McKenzie
No update received and Carolyn sent apologies.	
Flood and Water Management	Julia Beeden
The group provided comments into ADEPT's formal response to the Planning White Paper <u>https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/planning-future-consultation-adept-response</u>	
They have held a range of presentations on the Blue Roofs Guidance (water) and the Flood Re (potential flood resilience certificates using code of practice)	
The group is having a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy workshop with the EA next week to discuss the next step for developing the strategy actions. LLFA attention may shortly be focused on the Innovation and Resilience Fund <i>(details attached over 2 PDFs in Julia's e-mail to all Board Members on 28th October 2020).</i>	
<u>Natural Capital & Heritage</u>	Liz Milne/Liz Small
The group last met in September to go through priority list of actions including Environment Bill and Planning White Paper.	
They are interested in the FoE survey.	
An England Tree Strategy Consultation response has been submitted and is available on the ADEPT website.	
Got another working group get-together next month but also been engaged with Environment and Defra and their priorities.	
David commented regarding the various consultation responses: Nigel Riglar is very grateful for the work done on the whole range of responses and quality as well. This message of thanks will probably be repeated at the ADEPT	

	• <u>Waste</u>	Ian Fielding
	Ian circulated note from last meeting on 9 th Sept detailing a full agenda with usual representation from Defra, CIWM and LGA. The focus of the meeting was around interaction of the report from Defra in progressing the Environment Bill and feedback from reps from ADEPT.	
	Events held:	
	 Two-tier working and recycling credits under Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) x2 in July. Waste Reduction and Resource Efficiency Targets. 	
	Workshop to understand where Defra is involved. Indicator residual waste around landfill and incineration.	
	 Consistency and food waste collections. Continued to progress since Sept meeting. Feedback received is still targeting implementation in 2023. Things have ramped up over last few weeks and food waste is taking more prominence. 	
	 4) EPR payment model/systems approach. Working with Defra as to how that might work, where payments will go and what the risks are. 5) Waste Prevention 	
	BREXIT is emerging again as an issue. Defra are facilitating workshops for Covid as well as Brexit. Dusting off contingency plans and refreshing them and looking at how a no-trade deal will impact on waste collections etc.	
	The discussions that are happening with Defra on EPR payment, focussing on consensus within the LG family that	
	we shouldn't be constrained in choice of collection methodology. If we can deliver the right quality of material how we get there should not be important. It is up to the	
	Local Authorities to decide on quality and how to deliver. JP noted that TEEP still applies. It was noted that EPR is on packaging and the biggest	
	impact of co-mingled collection is not on packaging. However, it is difficult to distinguish between the 2. IF expected that eventually EPR will apply to non-packaging materials.	
6.	ADEPT business	Hannah Bartram
	Autumn conference	
	Hannah sent apologies for today's meeting.	
	ACTIONS:	
	David mentioned that there is a good line up of speakers for	All

		1
	next week's ADEPT Autumn Conference and encouraged the Board to register if you can.	
	Climate Action Blueprint published with a coalition of partners. Board members and partners are encouraged to sign up to support this if you haven't done so already.	All
7.	Any other business	All
	Julia Beeden – For many of the Directors the Lead Local Flood Authority will be focussed on innovation and resilience fund bids. It is expected that the details will be out this Friday and will be looking at appointment of 20 places with £5m each.	
	ACTION: Please support your LFAs and teams.	All
	Adam – 1) GI standards work – had update last year but if you want a further update then Adam could provide. 2) Tony Juniper (NE) due to be meeting Mark Lloyd (LGA) soon, please send through any suggestions for discussion.	All
	ACTION: David to look for a YouTube link to the Natural England Strategic Plan Event to circulate to the Board.	David
	ACTION: David offered to share with Adam the ADEPT response to the Comprehensive Spending Review as this highlights the key areas of interest.	David
8.	Notes of last meeting (22 July) <u>here</u>	Steve Read
	Approved by the Board as a true record of the meeting.	
9.	Dates of future meetings, and close.	Steve Read
	Next monthly meeting is Wed 25 th November 2020	
	Next quarterly meeting is Wed 27 th January 2021	