**ADEPT Environment Board update October 2018**

The meeting was well attended with representatives from nine councils plus colleagues from Defra, BEIS, LEDNet, the Environment Agency and Natural England.

Louise Leighton-McTague attended to talk about the current independent review of designated landscapes (National Parks and AONBs). Louise heads up the Secretariat supporting the review. The terms of reference for the review are [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/designated-landscapes-national-parks-and-aonbs-2018-review/terms-of-reference). The timing was ideal as the review team has just launched a call for evidence – closing date 18 December. This consultation is via an on-line survey, and the review team is hoping for a high volume of responses from individuals, councils, landscape authorities, organisations, interest groups, etc. ADEPT will submit a response to this call for evidence, and no doubt many councils will do so too. The consultation questions are [here](https://consult.defra.gov.uk/land-use/landscapes-review-call-for-evidence/supporting_documents/landscapesreviewevidencedocument.pdf). If your council is intending to submit a response or you would like to contribute to the ADEPT response, please contact David Dale [daviddale2401@gmail.com](mailto:daviddale2401@gmail.com)

Other agenda items included:

* Update from Defra – Adam Stewart talked about progress towards the publication of the draft Environment Bill following various consultations, and noted pressures on teams in Defra as some staff are temporarily seconded to work on EU exit preparations.
* Air quality – David Dale updated on the forthcoming Defra workshop on the clean air section of the forthcoming legislation, and Philip Williams gave a general overview of work towards clean air zones in the first wave of councils required to develop local plans (Birmingham, Derby, Leeds, Nottingham, and Southampton).
* Local Energy Programme – Patrick Alcorn (BEIS) updated on the development of local energy strategies by LEPs, tied in with the development of Local Industrial Strategies, and the five Local Energy Hubs are being set up across England to identify and prioritise local energy projects for support including proposals from community groups through the Rural Community Energy Fund.
* Reports from Working Groups
* Board terms of reference updated following a survey of members’ views

The afternoon workshop was on waste management, which is very much a live issue with a new national strategy expected to be launched next month and the possibility of new financial measures in the autumn Budget. The workshop covered:

* Extended Producer Responsibility – a presentation by Stuart Hayward-Higham and Adam Read (Suez) of the results of 25 workshops they have run covering all aspect of the supply chain and public views.
* Update on Waste & Resource Strategy
* Feedback from Ministerial round table meeting with Michael Gove, and other discussions with Defra
* Update from Waste Group
* Incineration tax (post-meeting update: glad to see that this wasn’t included in the Budget on 29th October and the threat seems to have receded at least for now)
* ADEPT waste policy position
* ADEPT Conference 22/23 November – Circular Economy workshop

**David Dale**

**ADEPT Policy Officer**