

ADEPT South West Sub National Board – 19 June 2020

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic the SW ADEPT Board has been holding regular virtual COVID emergency meetings to discuss the issues and challenges faced by members. The Board has held three meetings over April, May and June which have been well attended with representation from local authorities, LEPs, government departments; DfT, BEIS and Highways England as well as from partner agencies such as SW Highways Alliance, the CBI, LGA and ICE.

Key themes covered in discussions have included:

Transport: Regular updates from the DfT on guidance for transport operators and passengers on how to travel safely and manage social distancing, active travel funding, reallocation of space programme and temporary changes to highways for walking and cycling, management of public spaces and the Coronavirus Bus Operators Grant Scheme.

Highways: Updates to the Board from Highways England on travel patterns and traffic flow information during the pandemic.

Economy: Discussion has focussed on economic recovery and renewal linking to the work that ADEPT is doing nationally. Regular updates have been provided from BEIS on working safely during the Coronavirus and support to businesses through the Job Retention Scheme and Discretionary Grant Fund. More recent discussions have focused on restart such as opening up of City Centres as well as the call from BEIS to LEPs for infrastructure stimulus priorities over the next 18 months. The CBI has also provided the views from the business community and outlined their priorities for the coming months.

Waste: Safety at work and social distancing while operating a reduced service has been a priority leading to discussions on bringing these services back on line within safe systems of work.

The next formal board meeting is scheduled for 16 July 2020.