



Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

# Highlights from the Midlands Climate Change Workshop

Here are the highlights and outcomes from the workshop organised by ADEPT, hosted at Grant Thornton's office in Birmingham on 20 January 2020.

Climate change and the environment is one of ADEPT's three strategic priorities. The Association has a key role to play in bringing local authorities and others together, to share knowledge and learning on the most effective actions to tackle emissions and overcome barriers. Where there is commonality in the challenges and opportunities, ADEPT will use this intelligence in its national lobbying work.

The Midlands Board led the way, organising the first of the regional climate change workshops. The session kicked off with an update from the ADEPT leadership team, [Ashden](#) and the [Local Government Association](#) before three LA case studies. The workshop then moved into group discussions. The presentations from the day can be viewed [here](#).



## ICE BREAKER

Participants were asked to pair up. In the context of climate change, they were asked to think about and write down potential challenges, resources and what type of support would be most helpful to them and their organisation. The word cloud below is an illustration of the feedback:





## IDEAS

Pairs then selected and discussed up to three of the topics which are either listed in the ADEPT Climate Change Policy Position or have been chosen by the LGA (see **Appendix B**). The pairs shared how they already worked or could be addressed in their organisation. Pairs were given the choice to discuss one topic not covered by the ADEPT Policy position but were restricted to no more than 3 topics in total. Ideas were captured by the pairs in readiness for the next stage.



## ACTION

Pairs joined with two other pairs. Each pair shared at least one idea with the rest of the group. Groups then talked about how these ideas could happen in practice, looking to address what the group can do to push the ADEPT membership to adopt the ideas.



## PLAN

Each group fed back to the whole room on actions and a facilitated discussion culminated in a set of actions from each of the six tables. Key asks included:

- An adequately resourced national strategy
- Revise the Green Book
- Better integration of central government departments / policies / funding streams – and better integration within local authorities themselves
- Recognition that there will be different responses between rural and urban areas e.g. the provision of active / public transport opportunities
- Make action on climate change a statutory duty with targets and associated funding
- Changes to town & country planning to ensure new builds are environmentally viable and climate resilient
- A common methodology to establish the true cost of carbon (included 'embedded' carbon)
- Need to take local communities along with you – provide more / better information to enable informed choices whilst standardising e.g. EV batteries and charging points
- How can LAs lead by example – more agile working, homeworking or sharing office space (between neighbouring LAs)





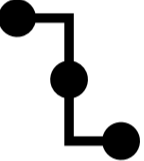







## END

ADEPT pledge postcards were made available to attendees, which they individually filled in with the actions they are taking away



## APPENDIX B: DISCUSSION TOPICS

	Which partners (in addition to the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP)) does ADEPT need to work with?
	How can you put the climate crisis at the heart of your work?
	What innovations and good practice in preparing for a changing climate are you aware of?
	What are your plans for engaging with your Local Enterprise Partnership to ensure that plans for economic growth and improved productivity, reflect (in documents such as in the Local Industrial Strategy) the need to tackle climate change?
	What can you do to influence your areas local supply chain to contribute to and promote clean growth and explicitly contribute to climate change mitigation, resilience and adaptation?
	How can you ensure that your local transport, utilities and digital infrastructure is designed and maintained to the highest standards to minimise their impact and reduce the need for costly retrofitting in future?
	Have you any key strategic infrastructure planned for your area that requires lobbying the Government to reflect the priority to tackle climate change?
	What are your plans to encourage reduced car use and more active travel and lower forms of transport?
	What are your plans around clean energy generation (including on-shore wind)?
	What are your plans around developing climate resilient places and future-proofing infrastructure? How are you building the expertise and with which partners?



What climate change plans or studies have you in place (or are planning) which support the direct and indirect benefits such as improved air quality, and physical and mental wellbeing?



What work have you underway with your local health leaders to better understand the health impacts of climate change?



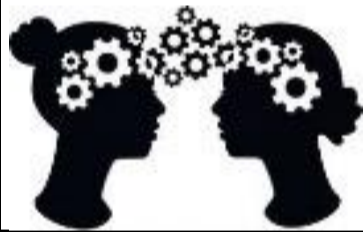
What work do you have around developing coordinated plans for extreme weather events, especially but not limited to older people and other vulnerable groups who need extra support when these happen?



Which aspects of climate change should local government be focussing on and why?



What key asks should the LGA be making to government?



What expertise and skills will councils need to tackle climate change?



What support from the LG would be most valuable?



If you feel there is a role for a benchmark/self-assessment tool for the sector. What topics in addition to: Governance, Emissions, Adaptation, Behaviour and Procurement would you want to see covered in an assessment tool?



One random climate change topic not listed