



**MAY 2016**

## From your ADEPT President

Although only my second editorial, sadly this is also my last. At the recent AGM, members confirmed Rupert Clubb as your new President. Rupert and I have been on the President's Team together for several years and I know the organisation will go from strength to strength on his watch. See [here](#) for the new President's Team line up.

Another decision made at the AGM was to introduce a Corporate Partner membership. I'm genuinely excited by this, as I think it will help foster longer term strategic relations with the corporate sector, increase revenue and new sponsorship opportunities. The Minutes of the AGM are [here](#).

The AGM was followed by a fascinating panel discussion on the potential implications of the EU referendum. There will be a (non-attributable) summary available soon. My thanks to Liz Waugh at Coast Communications for organising this.

I've had an amazing year as ADEPT President and feel very privileged you gave me the opportunity. Thank you once again, and all the very best.

**Heather**



*Sonia Davidson-Grant, Heather Barnes & Rupert Clubb at the AGM, 20 May*

## The latest from Parliament (Coast Communications)

The political debate that surrounds the Queen's Speech has followed its customary pattern. The Government inevitably declares it a comprehensive legislative programme that continues a positive social reform and economically advantageous agenda. The Official Opposition seek to characterise it as lacking in vision and philosophical sense, suggesting the absence of substance reveals the true extent to which the Government has run out of steam. Journalists and assorted political pundits make the point that "what's absent is as important as what's present", with the prize this year probably going to the non-existent

Sovereignty Bill (something that has exercised some Brexit supporting MPs).

Of course, the true joy of the Queen's Speech is to be found in the spectacle of the ceremony. Its pomp and circumstance from the very top drawer and an event where royal pageantry meets barbs from the Beast of Bolsover about the BBC. But what did the Queen actually say? Well; she mentioned 21 Bills the Government intends to introduce this parliamentary session. The Northern Powerhouse got a namecheck with reference to the Local Jobs and Growth Bill. This promises to, amongst other things, give locally elected mayors the right to raise business rates to fund infrastructure projects. The Bus Services Bill also seeks to empower new elected mayors, outlining further the direction of travel Whitehall and Westminster would like Local Government to head in.

Other measures of note will see the controversial sugar tax introduced (as part of the annual Finance Bill), the National Citizen Service enshrined into law and plans for the expansion of academies announced. This latter measure is one to watch given the recent Government change of heart on forced academisation and one suspects there's plenty more meetings to attend as this one makes its way through its legislative stages. Perhaps the most radical reforms proposed related to the prison network, whilst the British Bill of Rights has also made a reappearance, although one suspects no progress on this particular measure will be glacial until the forthcoming referendum is done and dusted.

The real story though relates to an amendment that has been proposed to the Queen's Speech relating to the impact of TTIP on the NHS. Interestingly, 20-25 Conservative MPs have expressed a willingness to back it. That's enough to possibly inflict the most embarrassing Government defeat in many years. The last Government to lose a vote on a Queen's Speech was Stanley Baldwin's in 1924. He resigned as a result. It's unlikely a similar action would follow in this instance but it does remind us all of one crucial lesson we should all start to heed. That's that Parliament is in a rebellious mood and the parliamentary majority the government enjoys is small. Whatever the result of the EU Referendum and whatever changes that ushers in, these facts won't change. We've seen substantial policy reversals already. We may see many more. Something for the local government community to ponder?

***For the May issue of Parliamentary Monitoring, click [here](#)***

### **President's Meeting, 11-14 May, Devon**

The ADEPT President's Meeting at Bovey Castle in Devon was a great success. Speakers at the policy sessions included Scott Wardrop, CEO of Eurovia, who talked about the public realm as a catalyst for development. He also drew members' attention to a [recent report](#) by the Office of Rail & Road on Highway England's supply chain capability. CEO of Viridor, Ian McAuley, spoke about the circular economy and how resource management can be a springboard for growth. Both speakers talked about ADEPT's messages to Government and our position going forward.

There was much vigorous discussion about the direction of devolution deals and building resilience throughout the policy sessions.

Developing the networking role of the Sub-



***Cranbrook Railway Station***



***Sir Peter Rigby***

National Boards both with Government departments and business and cross-sector partnerships was of interest to many members. The communities policy session included a tour of Cranbrook – a new town development outside Exeter – and the surrounding new infrastructure including Exeter Science Park.

We would like to thank our keynote speaker, Sir Peter Rigby for the hospitality shown to us by Bovey Castle Hotel and of course, event sponsors, Ringway, Viridor, WSP, Parsons Brinkerhoff and Tensar.



***Exeter Cathedral***

## What are PSCAs?

Public Sector Cooperation Agreements – PSCAs - have successfully been in use since 2013, setting out arrangements for the Environment Agency and an Internal Drainage Board, Lead Local Flood Authority, District Council or other Risk Management Authority to deliver flood risk maintenance works and similar activities by a partnership approach. They have proved a major step forward in securing efficient work practices at a local level. Either party with a PSCA may undertake work for the other using either their own resources or their respective contractors.

Based on section 13(4) of the Floods & Water Management Act, a PSCA can cover a variety of maintenance and similar activities such as inspections, maintaining structures, asset improvements, watercourse obstruction removal, weed control, grass cutting, tree work, vermin control, dredging, pump operation etc. It also provides for mutual support in managing flood incidents and flood recovery works. In some cases it can be used for capital improvement or replacement works. PSCA works to date have shown typical efficiency savings of 5-10% with some examples considerably more. Interested?

Click [here](#) for more info or contact Ian Russell at [ian.russell@environment-agency.gov.uk](mailto:ian.russell@environment-agency.gov.uk).

## Influencing strategic transport in the South East

The four South East LEPs - Thames Valley, Enterprise M3, Coast to Capital and Solent - commissioned WSP Parsons Brinckerhoff to undertake an assessment of the economic benefits of strategic transport corridors (both existing and potential) in the area, focusing on the wider economic impacts of the corridors and how they can boost connectivity and improve productivity. The report, entitled [Influencing Strategic Transport in the South East](#), will be discussed at the joint SE ADEPT Board (SEEEPT) / GTV8 meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> July.

## ADEPT / Campaign for Better Transport / BIS workshop on station regeneration

The Government is promoting high density housing and mixed used developments around railways stations in England. In April the first three pilots for this approach were announced.

ADEPT and Campaign for Better Transport, supported by BIS and the Cities & Local Growth Unit, are organising a workshop to explore this policy and to seek potential ways forward. The workshop will examine how to deliver high density development around stations/ transport hubs in market towns and smaller cities, and aims to bring together people from different backgrounds and disciplines to discuss this.

1. Date: Friday 15 July
2. Location: BIS Conference Centre, 1 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0ET
3. Time: 1230-1600 (including lunch)

All ADEPT members are invited to attend – however, places are limited and will be allocated on a first come first served basis. Contact Jasmin Carcary ([jasmin.carcary@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:jasmin.carcary@eastsussex.gov.uk)) to book.

## ADEPT Conference 2016 *Enabling good growth, everywhere: Place leadership in uncertain times*

With a significantly changing national landscape, place leadership and place services have never been more vital. The UK needs more housing, stronger economic growth, better connected and more resilient places. And as we face 2020, we will require healthy local economies to secure funding for vital local services through retained business rates.

Join ADEPT at our annual conference on 24/25 November, Manchester to:

- Hear from leaders across local government, LEPs and combined authorities to explore what works.
- Influence government and how local and central government can best secure prosperity in local economies
- Explore collaborations needed to deliver through devolution, securing good growth in our communities.
- See best practice in action and join together with colleagues from the length and breadth of the UK to explore the challenges and opportunities of contemporary place leadership.

The conference will blend together presentations, debates, industry insight and networking - ensuring delegates leave with the most contemporary experience of the challenges and opportunities facing place leadership in the UK. For more information contact [simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk](mailto:simon.neilson@walsall.gov.uk).



### Seeing is believing

ADEPT is supporting Highways '**Seeing is Believing**' 2016 - Europe's only event for indoor showcasing of highway products as well as outdoor demonstrations in all lighting conditions. Dave Johnson from TfL will be speaking on behalf of ADEPT. For further information visit [www.sib.uk.net](http://www.sib.uk.net)

## Upcoming ADEPT Meetings

- 6<sup>th</sup> June - County Council Network devolution working group, Local Government House, London
- 8<sup>th</sup> June - Waste Panel, Defra Nobel House, London
- 9<sup>th</sup> June – National Bridges Group, Westminster Archives
- 17<sup>th</sup> June - Engineering Board, RINA, London
- 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> June – CSS Wales AGM, Crughowel, Wales
- 24<sup>th</sup> June – President's Team and Management Board meetings, Local Government House, London

Please click [here](#) to find a full list of all the ADEPT meetings scheduled for 2016.