

## **Environment Board**

## Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2022, 10.00 – 12.30

## NOTES

		ACTION OWNERS
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	Steve Read welcomed everyone to the meeting especially our guests.	
	Steve Read noted that with Government changes we face an uncertain future around Net Zero. We have a tough winter ahead of us as a society. He recommended viewing Martin Lewis' message to incoming PM on YouTube (link below). Europe (including in the last few days fringes of London) continue to experience issues with wildfires. 1.5% is looking unachievable let alone 4%. We all have a role of holding the line and speaking truth to power.	
	<u>Martin Lewis issues stark warning to Tory leadership candidates to act</u> over 'financial time bomb' - YouTube	
2.	OEP: 1 <sup>st</sup> monitoring report on 25 Year Environment Plan Taking Stock	
	Dr Simon Brockington, Chief Insights Officer, OEP	
	Presentation	
	Simon introduced Ross Gillard, who is working with him on the Insights team. Simon commented on the good working relationship that the OEP have with ADEPT and their desire for it to be continued.	
	The OEP were commissioned in February 2022 and are a creature of the Environment Act 2021. It is built upon all of environment legislation that we've had up to now. The remit is for the protection and recovery of the Natural Environment.	

What does OEP do?

A third of OEP staff are environmental specialists and a third are legal specialists. Enforcement has gained most airtime so far. The OEP have the ability to receive complaints, conduct investigations and hold government to account in terms of breaches of environment law. The OEP also has a unique role in scrutinising environmental law.

The first job of substance that the OEP have completed is the publication in May, of "Taking Stock", the OEP's first annual report to government. The government's own annual progress report is due out today. The Natural Capital Committee made its last report in 2020 and the OEP have continued with this through Taking Stock.

Building Blocks have been put in place towards a national level environmental stewardship. Refer to slide 6 of the presentation. The last 3 building blocks are all around creating action.

#### Looking towards 2023

There are three overarching conclusions 1) urgency - time to get on with it and make progress 2) coherence, Defra is the lead department here, government can do more 3) increased role for accountability, particularly in policy evaluation. Process of public evaluation is key to understand what didn't work.

A letter was received from the Secretary of State that responds to the OEP Taking Stock Report – it sees the environment improvement plan as becoming the main work programme for the department and for wider government. It sees the need to revise to report on delivery.

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/defra-response-to-oepreport-taking-stock-protecting-restoring-and-improving-the-environmentin-england

Steve Read referred to the Executive Summary and commented that the 6 areas the OEP are calling for action on are spot on. He noted that it is quite critical and doesn't pull any punches. There's a long way to go. The underlying vision doesn't have support from all parts of the political spectrum. Simon responded explaining that they have tried not to pull punches, although the tone is diplomatic with the grain of government policy. Everyone is watching net zero, there is a dialog taking place amongst all Conservative Party leadership candidates and news channels. It was seen with the biodiversity crisis that dialog within government was constrained to Defra.

David Dale also referred to the Executive Summary and raised a question

	around governance across Whitehall and engagement with Local	
	government Should there be an environment equivalent of the Net Zero	
	Forum? Also, David is aware that Defra has said that cross-government	
	integration is brought about via the 5-year plan environment board.	
	Simon responded that the OEP felt that government was reasonably	
	strong on the first 3 building blocks – there's a target and improvement	
	plan in place. Looking at second three building blocks, an absence of action was noticed and decided that it's not for the OEP to set policy. It is	
	for people closer to it to set policy. There's a horizontal take-up across	
	government with no visible connection to the environment policy. The	
	OEP wanted to highlight the absence of visibility of the environment	
	debate. There's nobody in central government to make these	
	improvements or come up with policy and creativity to drive it forward.	
	Simon commented that if the Net Zero Forum is working then this model	
	could also work here. ADEPT members are much better placed to know	
	what the mechanism should be, and suggestions would be welcome as	
	they have insight and know what's needed.	
	Ross Gillard added that in the course of writing the chapter the OEP spoke	
	to a lot of LAs doing interesting work with capital framework etc. The LAs	
	were asked what the main barriers were. The relationship with central gov	
	came up a lot and so we need to find the right forum for improving that.	
	Ross is keen on polycentric governance and making decisions in a place-	
	based way, but this perhaps doesn't fit in for today.	
	Carolyn McKenzie raised the issue of coherence – she recently gave	
	evidence with levelling up bill and there are some really big gaps. How	
	does OEP help us to make the changes? What are the practical steps?	
	Liz Milne commented on the ownership of this agenda and that central is	
	not dissimilar to local government. There still seems to be a decision on	
	net zero that sits in the environment division. How much would the OEP	
	look to tackle? Simon informed that the OEP are after examples of good	
	practice and can congratulate Defra where they are making good progress. Steve Read said they are calling for articulation on vision around	
	environment, but it needs to form part of a greater vision.	
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	ACTIONS:	
	ADEPT to go back to the OEP with ideas on how to better engage with	ALL
	government.	
	Ensure ADEPT are taking every opportunity to respond to any requests	ALL
	and consultations around OEP's work.	
3.	Nature skills gap and update on Green Jobs Delivery Group	

Steve Read welcomed Sophie Tyldesley, Green Transition Team Leader, Defra.

#### **Presentation**

Sophie is Green Skills Policy Lead at Defra and sits in the environment team.

Sophie gave an overview of the evidence gap and then a look at new architecture put out on the Green Jobs Delivery Group and then thoughts on what that means for ADEPT.

There is a whole host of policies and targets for nature ambitions. There is a need for skilled people across the country and in a variety of sectors to deliver these. There are three categories of jobs: 1) existing jobs; 2) new roles driven by emerging technologies and policy; 3) enhanced.

#### What to do about it?

A nature skills workshop was held on 12<sup>th</sup> July, chaired by Defra. Hannah Bartram and Ian Bolton joined as well as Emily O'Brien and Paul O'Brien. Notes from the workshop are due to be sent out to attendees. There is space for a Nature Skills Working Group. Some themes coming through from the notes of the workshop are: increased demand for environment green skills, from private sector, and also a number of conversations on ways different organisations can come together to provide evidence on education provision etc.

A forum has been set up called Green Jobs Delivery Group (GDJG) and they have been working with BEIS and the Department for Education. They met for the first time in May and will meet again tomorrow, 21<sup>st</sup> July. The group includes ministerial representatives and across the economy. See slide 6 of the presentation for a list of members but this isn't the complete list, just those of more interest to ADEPT. Nature Skills is wanted as the priority area for the group to focus on. There's a lot of work to do to crystalise priorities for this group.

What it means for ADEPT:

Nature Skills Working Group have already got a relationship through Biodiversity Net Gain work through ALGAE.

How can we make best use of the Green Jobs Delivery Group?

Steve Read confirmed that ADEPT would like to be involved in the discussion. The overall body that is looking after this is actually BEIS and

	DFE led, with input from Defra and DWP. Sophie clarified that the Green Jobs Delivery Group is BEIS, and this is very much 4 departments working together. It's a membership list to be proud of as it included Natural Environment people and has a strong set of Defra nominated members. The group meet on a fortnightly basis and relationships are good. They are asking for more data. Government has bought into it. Now there's a need to follow up with what it looks like and what jobs are needed to deliver priorities.	
	Liz Milne asked how much higher education authorities are engaged in this discussion who are creating the new professionals that will be needed? Sophie supplied the press release showing who is on the member list of the GJDG: <u>Green jobs delivery steps up a gear - GOV.UK</u> (www.gov.uk)	
	The key priorities for the GJDG will be signed off at tomorrow's meeting. BEIS will be presenting the proposed workplan and priorities.	
	<b>ACTION:</b> Sophie to share the proposed workplan and priorities of the Green Jobs Delivery Group as well as another output of interest to ADEPT.	ST
	David Dale commented that, as well as all that is happening nationally and longer-term, there is still a need for conversations on shorter-term to address existing skills shortages.	
	Regarding the comment on the supply chain of skilled professionals etc, Liz Small added that North Yorks have been grappling with that and have carbon net zero targets. They have been working with Huddersfield University on supply chain on tree supply. They have spoken to education providers and industry colleagues on how to deliver LNRS and carbon net zero and need overview of what's needed. Data analysis is really needed with a lot of emphasis on net zero. Sophie agreed and acknowledged there's more work to do to sell the story that green jobs is a broader piece of work. The Natural Environment agenda is specifically place-based. Linkage has to be made between organisations at the local level.	
4.	Local aspects of National Adaptation Programme 3	
	Robert Mason, Deputy Director - Climate, Defra	
	Presentation	
	The National Adaptation Programme 3 is very local and place-based. Progress is being made on a strategic framework. The aim is to get this to parliament by June 2023. Ministers have agreed to look at all the risks and address them to be ready for the changing climate, as was evidenced by	

climate change committee.

Much is being done to address risks. Locally, this means to widen access to published adaptation advice. Defra are interested in how local climate plans have become adaptation plans. They are interested in improving data obtained locally and would like there to be a better local spatial perspective to support local action. It will be different in each area.

There is a need to be clearer on what resilience means. How the climate change risk assessment is used alongside the national resilience needs further thought around what is needed to do better. There is a difference between the national security risks and the climate change risk assessment which is over a longer time horizon.

#### County Deals

Defra have information from Levelling-Up where resilience is part of the devolution framework developed by DLUHC and the Home Office. They are suggesting that resilience is part of the changing climate, and we need to be better at how we improve resilience thinking. Hannah Bartram asked how climate change is embedded into County Deals? Robert is not close to the deals but will be looking at a decent local adaptation plan that the climate projections for that area were released so the impacts that are likely in that area can be understood and what can be planned to do in that increased risk. Dryer, hotter weather conditions etc needs to be reflected in the risk. It is suggested that any new deal should take account of the change in climate.

Hannah Bartram spoke about engaging the LAAP, competing priorities and linking into the LNZF. The mitigation agenda was the focus and Hannah has pushed for the LNZF to include adaptation. Robert would welcome Hannah's' help in getting through to that agenda and confirmed that he is now the Defra representative on the LNZF. Mitigation and adaptation have been separated as something that's not climate and we need to get this back together. It would be wrong to concentrate on net zero without thinking of overall climate.

Nick Jackson explained that the LAAP is liaising with DLUHC with the devolution deals aspect and it is something that the LAAP can get involved with as pilot organisation as to how these can be approached. There is a possibility for the LAAP and other local organisations to get involved. The overarching aim is to get feedback on 3<sup>rd</sup> National Adaption Programme and bring everything together.

#### 5. Environmental Principles policy statement and Environmental Improvement Plan review

Steve Read welcomed Charlotte Reynolds, EIP Team and Olawale Ladapo (for Env Principles Policy Qs)

#### Presentation (EIP)

#### <u>Timeline</u>

Charlotte informed that the EIP Team have consulted across government and consulted with stakeholders. Over summer the plan is to evolve content and plan to put in front of seniors and the Secretary of State in Autumn before publishing in January 2023.

The draft revised EIP structure will appear in the report.

The steer from Ministers is that this should be an ambitious document. Feedback from the last forum meeting was that they offered to act as a sounding board. The EIP Team are working out how that can happen and enable people to adequately feed in. In the meeting scheduled for later today the EIP Team want to focus on climate adaptation and cross over NAP3.

David Dale referred back to the contribution earlier in today's Board meeting from the OEP talking about the Taking Stock Report and asked to what extent are the EIP Team reflecting on the building blocks that the OEP have to government? Charlotte responded that they "100%" want to take that into consideration and will, as far as possible, embed in the EIP. David attended last month's Stakeholder Forum meeting and reported that it is a broad stakeholder group: Ramblers, CPRE, Greener UK etc as well as professional bodies and private sectors. As well as the refresh of the EIP, there was a short presentation on the Environmental Principles Policy Statement. They covered who it is going to apply to and also the length of time taken to get these out there was discussed. There was a feeling of a lack of urgency to get these finalised and out there. The group had an update on Outcome Indicators Framework... 66 indicators that Defra are using to measure progress. Hannah will attend the meeting this afternoon and has offered to feedback progress. (note: Tracey Butcher, Secretary, shared the ToR for 25 Year Environment Plan Delivery Stakeholder Forum by e-mail to the Board on 22<sup>nd</sup> July).

# **ACTION:** Hannah to share feedback to the Board from the 25YEP Delivery HB Stakeholder Forum held on 20<sup>th</sup> July.

Ola Ladapo reported that the 25 YEP Annual Progress Report, the first statutory report under the Environment Act, has been published and laid in Parliament. This meets Defra's statutory requirement to publish within 4 months of the end of the reporting period (31<sup>st</sup> March). See link below:

25 Year Environment Plan: progress reports - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

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	Environment Act FAQs for LAs were published 1 <sup>st</sup> February 2022 and are to be reviewed on a quarterly basis. ( <i>note: post meeting, these were also circulated by Tracey Butcher on 22<sup>nd</sup> July</i> ). Defra welcome questions from the Board, especially if there are any issues not touched on in terms of the Environment Principles. Defra want to ensure LAs are well informed on measures within the Act. Defra will provide any updates as they happen.	
	Ola commented on, and thanked the Board for, the written updates received from the working groups today. He thought them invaluable, and he is already passing them on to colleagues.	
6.	Updates from partners and local authorities	
	Natural England – Adam Wallace	
	Adam Would was keen to ask what further information/sessions/ presentations ADEPT may want from NE over the coming months. He would like to offer input from NE to the Board in a more structured and timely fashion.	
	<ul> <li>Things coming up and live:</li> <li>2022/23 action plan about to hit public space and will send link for distribution.</li> <li>Climate Change- internally there's a lot of focus on narrative.</li> </ul>	
	Work on a Climate Change Strategy, and Action Plan to sit alongside it, is ongoing.	
	<ul> <li>Solace – Conversation via the Chief Operation Officer has begun. A session at Policy Board has spawned a round table session in October. Invitations to CEx around LAs are imminent. Conversations around Env Act and how they feel around role of nature and environment and how they see it through lens and what NE can do to help. Solace Summit in October 2022.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Nutrient Neutrality mitigation scheme being published today. Working hard to make it a reality and aiming for an Autumn launch. Talks to the fact that there will be amendments to achievable limits in terms of nutrients. Being aired with LAs under the table at the moment and will go live today to effected LAs. NE be keen to have conversations with LAs on mitigation land with nutrient neutrality issues.</li> </ul>	
	<b>ACTION:</b> Adam to share with ADEPT members the info going out to CEx. <b>ACTION:</b> To pick up offline as to whether the Nutrient Neutrality mitigation scheme will pick up on water neutrality.	AW AW
	<b>ACTION:</b> Adam Wallace/David Dale/Steve Read to meet and discuss how ADEPT can help NE and how NE can input to the Board in a more	AW/DD/SR

	structured and timely fashion.	
	Steve Palfrey is interested in any follow up from the discussion initiated on how adept approaches all things related to climate change Steve Read reported that he had hosted 2 excellent hour-long workshops which proposed an ADEPT Climate Change working group in terms of net zero and adaptation. The first workshop had 26 delegates and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> had 15 delegates. The summary of discussions is due to be taken to the ADEPT LT strategy day tomorrow and, hopefully, with agreement to set up such a group.	
	Nick Jackson flagged to group that DLUHC are pushing for OLG and liaising with them in terms of its remit and its governance. The LAAP may well get involved with this. Remit is to look at how LAs' performance can be assessed and measured. Central Government will keep local govt sector informed on what's happening.	
7.	Board business and Working Group updates	
	<u>Energy &amp; Clean Growth</u> - Carolyn McKenzie Met on 27 <sup>th</sup> June - Items covered:	
	Net Zero Forum	
	Patrick Alcorn from BEIS and Hannah Bartram gave an overview of the first meeting which covered TOR and focus areas. There are four main areas of focus – roles & responsibilities; data, metrics and reporting; finance; capability and capacity support.	
	• Data	
	There was further discussion around the issues of data collection and the importance of reliable data for net zero. This will be one of the key areas that the Net Zero Forum will look at and ADEPT will work with BEIS on this.	
	• iChooser	
	iChooser delivers Solar Together - a bulk buying solar scheme. There have been some issues around capacity and delivery leading to delays. A further meeting is being arranged to discuss options.	
	County Deals	
	Many members are involved in developing County Deals. The Group discussed the value of, and how to get, a consistent approach to climate change and net zero . As a result a meeting was arranged by Hannah Bartram with those already negotiating County Deals to see if a more collective approach on this issue to provide consistency would	

be useful.       ACTION: Would be useful to have an item on County Deals in a future ADEPT Env Board mtg.       DD         • Green Finance – what new mechanisms are people developing e.g. Green Bonds.       There was a general discussion on who was doing what on finance and it was recognised this is a cross cutting ADEPT issue. This will also be an area of focus for the Net Zero Forum.       Image: Carolyn McKenzie gave feedback on the session. There are some significant omissions with regards to environment and net zero.         BEIS assured that some of these issues were being addressed but it was agreed there should be a follow up by ADEPT.       Image: Carolyn McKenzie gave feedback on the Lords Select Committee on a potential Land Use Framework (Gov)         Carolyn McKenzie gave feedback on the Lords Select Committee on a potential Land Use Framework nationally. There were some really positive discussions around ecosystem services and the links to nature recovery. A follow up would also be useful.         Flood and Water Management - Max Tant       The Group are looking at Defra's current review of schedule 3 of the Flood and Water Management Act on which Defra is due to report in Autumn. It is likely that they recommend That Counties and unitaries will adopt drainage = placing a new burden on them.         Recruitment struggles. Working with EA in different ways of manging this.         Natural Capital & Heritage - Liz Milne         The group met yesterday and focused on the progress being made locally with biodiversity net gain and Local Nature Recovery Strategies.         Waiting for secondary legislation and guidance for both. With that will come New Burdens funding. BNG will become mandatory in 2023. <th></th>	
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Environment Board. It was noted that there may be others relating to	
delays and uncertainties for the Environment Act and that this could be part of a wider discussion; or may just focus on the nature elements of the Act. These concerns include:	

Confirmation of new burdens funding for both BNG and LNRS; hindering preparations and budget/work planning.	
<ul> <li>Absence of secondary legislation. Concerns that delays are meaning that some LPAs are going ahead with things in local plan preparation that won't gel with the LNRS.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Timing of BNG and LNRS – issue with LNRS not being ready in time for BNG.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Suggested that Defra are not overly concerned about LNRS being in place for commencement of BNG; as long as there are the "bones" of the strategy. But noted that 12 months may not be time even for just this outline – not recognising the time it may take to recruit or commission the additional capacity/expertise needed by the RA and that commencement of work may well be delayed.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>All this uncertainty results in difficulties relating to planning decisions and Local Plan development.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>No firm deadlines for implementation of LNRS and BNG – not helpful to planning.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Some stakeholders have seasonal working patterns – if we want them to engage needs to be over autumn/winter in less busy periods; cannot miss that opportunity because of delays.</li> </ul>	
• LPAs are working ahead of game – risks associated with this.	
Resources and capacity, couple with recruitment difficulties.	
Length of time and timing for internal governance.	
<ul> <li>Unknowns and issues in terms of stacking benefits/credits.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Goldrush – credits being developed in absence of any regulation and standards; likened to the "wild west"!</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Need more guidance and support in respect of conservation covenants and preparing to lead on these.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>Land demand issues to deliver all the services – food security, BNG, trees, carbon etc.</li> </ul>	
The group also felt it would be beneficial to have someone from Natural England regularly attending in respect of Local Nature Recovery Strategies.	
<u>Waste</u> - Steve Palfrey	
1 - The group last met on 22 <sup>nd</sup> June via Teams. Key discussion items were:	
<ul> <li>Heat Networks – presentation from HNDU, making the link between Govt consultation on including EfW in the UK Emissions Trading Scheme and the potential to reduce emissions/claim credits through linking EfWs to heat networks.</li> </ul>	
<ul> <li>DIY Waste Charging at HWRCs – discussed Govt proposal to prevent charging – ADEPT T&amp;F group established to produce a response.</li> </ul>	
Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) Scheme Administrator –	

presentation from DEFRA officials working on establishing the SA. 2 - ADEPT Resources and Waste Policy Position Statement – to be updated in time for ADEPT autumn conference. 3 – Recent consultations responded to by the Waste Group: Public Accounts Committee call for evidence on fly tipping Developing the UK Emissions Trading Scheme ٠ Environmental Targets (contribution to wider ADEPT response) Preventing Charges for DIY waste at HWRCs and call for evidence on booking systems 4 - Key issues: Paralysis through uncertainty - still waiting for DEFRA to publish • responses to consultations on Consistency and Deposit Return Scheme (consultations closed in Jun and Jul 2021!!). Will then require secondary legislation, guidance etc. squeezing time for implementation and adding cost and/or delay. • Concern that EPR scheme for packaging waste will be delayed further / watered down in light of cost-of-living crisis • ETS has potential to add £500m to 1bn of cost to LA waste disposal. Environment Agency resourcing – so stretched that permit applications are taking over 12 months before the application is even accepted as 'duly made', at which point the EA then begins to process the application. Dave Dale commented on the thread linking nature and waste and challenges and delays LAs are facing. LAs are a key delivery agent on the Environment Act. There is paralysis through uncertainty. Seems to be a lack of urgency in delivery of Environment Act. Messages need to go back into Defra at every possible level. Steve Read will be attending a meeting with David Hill (Defra DG) on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July, along with Hannah Bartram, Paula Hewitt and Mark Kemp. Environment Board - Steve Read/David Dale Already mentioned within the NE update earlier about the climate change workshops for a possible working group and the outcome. Steve Read is keen on ensuring this is not just something branded from the ADEPT Environment Board, implications are right across the piece. Steve Read announced that he will be stepping down from Chairing the Board after the Q1 meeting in January. He had already advised the Group Chairs with a view to a successor being sought.

David Dale noted that this would be a good opportunity to review the ToR and Working Groups to ensure governance works going forward. It was noted that climate change will stay on everybody's agenda, Board by

	Board etc.	
	<b>ACTION:</b> Board to forward any agenda ideas for future meetings to David Dale. County Deals and Net Zero Forum outputs have been mentioned.	Board
8.	ADEPT business	
	Hannah Bartram	
	<ul> <li>ADEPT Leadership Team strategy day tomorrow – purpose is to start a refresh of the strategy from 2024. Looking through issues on levelling-up, finances, inflation and workforce pressures.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Levelling-up agenda –ADEPT is part of blueprint coalition and published a number of documents over the past 2-3 years. One published yesterday on how we must tackle climate change.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>ADEPT's Levelling-up for people and places project. Jess David reviewing literature and will produce a series of case studies where authorities and integrated delivery across agendas. Ambition is to produce ambition policy document setting out recommendations.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>County deals and climate change work – ambition to produce set of common offers and asks.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>ADEPT Policy Position: Climate Change and Green Growth published 26<sup>th</sup> May: <u>https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/adept-policy-position-climate-change-green-growth</u></li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Promoting scheme "Woodland Creation Accelerator Fund". Deadline closed and the Forestry Commission and Defra are now reviewing applications. Decisions will be made quickly, and money will be sent to successful authorities in August for a 2-year period.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Autumn conference 17<sup>th</sup> &amp; 18<sup>th</sup> Nov in Leeds. Theme is "Place leadership in a perfect storm" covering climate change, finance and policy coherence looking through lens of levelling-up. Registration is now open.</li> </ul>	
	<ul> <li>Live labs 2 programme – decarbonising local roads. DfT funded £30m for a 3-year UK-wide programme announced in April.</li> <li>Documents sitting beneath it are being finalised and will be published shortly. Partnership led programme.</li> </ul>	

	Climate Change Committee – report to parliament out in late June.	
	<ul> <li>Sandra Bell, FoE, presentation on case studies which total 45 now. A full day conference was held last week.</li> </ul>	
	<b>ACTION:</b> David Dale to send the recording of this conference to the Board when it is available.	DD
9.	Any other business	
	Ola commented that today's Board meeting was very useful, and he is going through the updates from the working groups. Timing and new ministers is on radar and Defra are conscious of moving at pace.	
	Enhanced Partnerships secondment	
	David Dale referred the advertisement last month that ADEPT raised on behalf of Defra for a 12-month secondment for Enhanced Partnerships. Ola confirmed that Defra are moving forward with this recruitment. There were 6 EoIs and 4 candidates were shortlisted who are being interviewed this week. The plan is to get someone in place for end-Aug 2022.	
10.	Notes of last meeting	
	All agreed.	
	Steve Read thanked Tracey for the notes particularly as these meetings are not recorded in the interest of free discussion.	
11.	Dates of future meetings, and close.	
	Monthly meetings arranged for September and November.	
	Q4 meeting - 19 <sup>th</sup> October. To happen virtually over MS Teams.	