

Environment Board

Wednesday 27th April 2022, 10.00 – 12.30

Notes

		ACTIONS
1.	Welcome and Introductions	
	Steve welcomed everyone and in particular: Rosily Jones, Defra, who will be our contact for future ADEPT Environment Board meetings,	
	Piotr Mahey, Policy Team Leader in Defra's Climate Adaptation Policy Team appreciated for joining last minute as Rob Mason is on Jury Services.	
	Nick Jackson (Defra/LAAP)	
	Liz Parkes (EA)	
	Lyn Trigwell, Wiltshire, and Tom Fourcade, Strategic Manager – Climate Change, WSCC, both joined for particular subject matters on the agenda today.	
2.	Climate Change Risk Assessment CCRA 2022 and review of National Adaptation Programme NAP 2018-2023	
	Piotr Mahey – Climate, Defra	
	Piotr gave Rob Mason's apologies (Defra's Environment Strategy Director working on the climate change policy and also on climate risks to the environment and UK.	
	The government laid out its <u>3rd Climate Change Risk Assessment</u> built on an independent climate change risk assessment that was done last year by the CCC and the IPCC. The independent assessment set out that the UK is facing 61 risks and opportunities from climate change. The government risk assessment in January reinforced that but also that there are 8 priority areas for action in the next adaptation cycle. We are now in the 3 rd national adaptation cycle, and this will set out the government response.	

The risk assessment includes a valuation report which tries to set out the potential cost and damages on "no action" and also the order of magnitude of the risk of inaction.

Defra are working across HMG to develop policy responses to the risks. There is a requirement to be robust in developing the policy response which is due to be published next year.

By summer Defra hope to be able to say what the government objectives will be for the LAAP. Defra understand the importance of engaging with the public, in particular young people, to get their perception of climate risk. Findings from a public dialog using IPSOS (recommended by ICC) are currently being pulled together and the full findings should be available next month. This dialog builds on external research and looks at gaps to address and adapt England. There were 6 workshops across 4 cohorts with 120 participants and a national summit with 30 members from cohorts. Participants felt proactive action should be addressed immediately, educated on risks, priorities and navigating uncertainty, protecting health and infrastructure, everyone is responsible, but government should lead.

ACTION: Piotr Mahey to update the Board once IPSOS public dialog findings are available.

Liz Parkes, EA, commented on the fact that this is the first time public engagement has been sought however she had concerns that climate change and the traction it needs within Govt. An oversight group that Liz sits on met yesterday and agreed they'd sit with this longer and are looking at a June publication date for the report. This is quite a small cohort and done at pace. It highlights a lot of work done by Outreach etc. There is a need to ensure this has as much credibility and traction as possible. Net

zero continues to drown out adaptation but we need to get this

right for people and the economy.

Carolyn drew on her experience having come from Kent County Council, which did a lot of work around adaptation, and moved to Surrey County Council who have had a different approach. She noted that the inequal approach is really valid and not on people's agendas. People still wonder whether it is really happening. It would be useful to have simple information on how to take this forward. It needs to be integrated with net zero as they are linked. Some actions will be adaptive as well, but it also gets away from the confusion over another strategy and "another thing" and treating them separately. It would be good to clarify the local government role on this work and how we work with

PM

white noise.

Piotr introduced Nick Jackson, who leads the LAAP which is chaired by Nigel Riglar, and they have recently had an update for the ToR and the way the LAAP is seen as an advisory body. Inconsistency in approaches can be discussed here and making the role of local authorities clearer for NAP3. Defra are working closely with housing communities to see how to get the best information on what's happening. Piotr agreed with the importance of integrating net zero adaptation.

Adaptation is a really important pillar of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy which has been published.

Piotr answered David Dale's question to confirm that adaptation is very much seen as a cross-government endeavour. Risks and opportunities are being owned across government.

Asked by DD as to whether there's a view from Defra or the EA on how local authority climate emergency action plans tackle adaptation rather than mitigate issues, Nick Jackson advised Defra are definitely continuing to emphasise the importance of integration of net zero and adaptation. BEIS have asked for LAAP to have a rep on the net zero forum. Defra are finding out who else should be included and so advises the Board that they are keen to have a local representative but need to ensure it is the right one.

Liz Milne commented as to whether the local authority plans are dealing with adaptation. There have been cuts but the FOE agenda item will provide a picture of what this looks like. According to research by P-CAN, about 11% of local authorities were recognising this as an issue to be tackled. There are no more than 10 officers specifically to do adaptation. People need to realise there are 2 parts to tackling climate emergency. A resilient net zero plan is needed. It is still a struggle to get traction across Whitehall, in particularly around the BEIS ownership and, for example, who owns flooding. Liz noted that she has had useful discussions with the Climate Change Committee.

Adaptation Reporting Power is where you can ask people what is being done on adaptation. At the moment the reporting power is voluntary.

Carolyn McKenzie commented on reporting and suggested it would be better to be joined across the piece at county level and to include mitigation. This would help to galvanise things and put structure in. Piotr agreed with the need for it to be joined on reporting for mitigation.

In principle, Defra are very keen to support a workshop on the LAAP.

ACTION: Piotr Mahey, Defra, to investigate possibility of a workshop on the LAAP.

PM

3. Climate Change Committee work programme and engagement with local authorities

https://www.theccc.org.uk/2022/01/12/doubling-down-on-climate-delivery-in-2022/

Eoin Devane, Senior Analyst, Climate Change Committee

Eoin Devane is leading the work on the transport sector but more recently has been involved in governance and delivery, cross-cutting coordination etc to take the ambition through to policy, delivery etc.

Eoin explained what the Climate Change Committee (CCC) are doing on local engagement issues, delivery and interface between local government and central government. Their focus is around how the CCC ensure things are joined up and aligned to net zero.

A progress report is being drafted which gives an annual update for Parliament every June. It is targeted toward central government and looking at what they are doing, how they are progressing and what they need to do to address upcoming issues.

In terms of local delivery, there are 3 areas of focus for the progress report: 1) the need to clearer roles and responsibilities. Government knows that delivery relies on local delivery but there is a lack of a clear framework on divisions of roles and responsibilities. This should be co-developed between local and central government. There is intent to produce local net zero forum, which is in progress involving high level coordination with line policy engagement. However, it risks a lack of coherence as different departments have different needs of engagement. 2) capacity and skills – if there are roles set for local government then an assessment needs to be carried out on capacity and skills to deliver. Better use of shared resources plays a role. 3) to assess whether policy is aligned to net zero, in particular the policy tools. Are things like planning, framework and appraisal tools set up to do this? If so, these should be used to ensure the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) are set up properly to assess all is in order.

Carolyn McKenzie noted that minerals and waste is a good

example of where there's a conflict between planning policy and net zero strategy. SCC are working on their plan but are unable to put in too many policies due to NPPF. They need to treat hydrogen and any gas/oil exploration... they are directed to agree to it.

Peter Moore acknowledged that the July 21 National Audit Office report is good, and its recommendations need to be acted on. Eoin agreed that it is a fantastic piece that the CCC are drawing on and amplifying the messages.

For councils implementing their climate emergency action plan and net zero, Dave Dale asked whether CCC could produce high level guidance on what good offsetting would be. Eoin informed that a team working on business delivery of net zero are planning to produce a report later this year. This will include some analysis on setting out the role and effective good use of offsets. It should include recommendations of what government want to do with the role of offsetting. Carolyn McKenzie suggested it would be good to link up to nature recovery as SCC are getting input from landowners on how BNG is delivered. It is not known what is happening with private sector residents and what they are doing with their properties. The exercise is around data and knowing if we are getting anywhere near our targets. Eoin said that the targets were piecemeal and seemed to be cherry picked. Something more comprehensive at a national level and how to collect at a local level would be useful. Eoin would like to hear from SCC are doing on data monitoring and offered to help with amplifying messages on the struggle to find resources.

ACTION: Carolyn to invite Eoin to the next Energy and Clean Growth meeting for an item on data.

CM

4. Council climate actions – case studies

https://friendsoftheearth.uk/climate/40-councils-leading-way-climate

Sandra Bell, Senior Sustainability Analyst, Friends of the Earth gave a <u>Presentation</u> summarising the case studies

FoE have been working with ADEPT for a few years now and have more common ground than differences when it comes to climate action. As campaigners, FoE will always push councils to do more. The proposal for the climate case studies came out of wanting to provide resources that work for councils and campaigners.

FoE have brought a campaign perspective to the case studies. The benefited from a reference group to give good input on the case

study selection and format. Now FoE are reflecting on how to make the process better for future case studies.

There is a 50-point FoE plan for climate action which is around raising money, decision making, influencing others, and setting targets. The format is to be both informative and inspiring.

FoE view

Reading Council are going above national standards to require zero carbon homes yet received push back from local campaigners, but FoE felt it was an important one to feature. It is an interesting example as case studies show how councils are overcoming barriers and putting action in place.

Lessons learned

got figures from NE Derbyshire of savings per household. Some councils have been successful in gaining national funding. These case studies back up challenges.

Community engagement

Green skills gap – where we need national support and where councils are boosting training locally.

The importance of early community engagement is noted.

FoE have got media coverage in the local press and are getting a good number of visitors to their website.

FoE have written to Michael Gove and Kwasi Kwarteng.

Next steps

Additional case studies.

ACTION: Board members to feedback to FoE on case studies and inform of any new studies that FoE could work on.

Board

Peter Moore commented on the positive experience he had working on the Reading case study. He commented on the danger of them becoming dogmatic and suggested that in ongoing comms FoE should ensure it's a source of guidance to be applied appropriately. Sandra Bell informed that FoE try to avoid a ranking process. Links are added to case studies so that if you can relate to one then there might be others that you might find appropriate.

David Dale spoke about the local authorities working as part of

the community engagement with action plans and working with activists - David agrees with the case study approach that has independent scrutiny but how does it feel on the ground and being helpful? David suggested that if Board members have better examples then please send them to Sandra for inclusion.

Ariane answered David regarding how it is on the ground to say that so far the activists have not asked why Wiltshire isn't included or why certain things are not featured. The problem is that, from the outside, it looks like we should all be doing all of it well but it's difficult because we have limited resources. Wiltshire have worked hard with activists have turned it around to a significant extent so that the conversation is now less negative.

Sandra Bell explained that it is impossible to give credit to every council for the good things they are doing. FoE encourage their groups to be critical friends with local councils and engage constructively. Another role local groups can play with local councils is to bring local communities on board. The reality is that FoE do need all councils to do more in order to get to the point needed in terms of meeting targets. FoE will continue to put pressure on councils for this but do understand the challenges on resourcing. FoE will aim to help to bring better resources to councils and be seen as allies.

Tom Fourcade noted that it is a good thing to provide opportunities for scrutiny but focus sometimes shifts down to specific examples that pop back out in local media etc. Is it possible to put more context in the way these case studies put the position into more context as councils have different ability to act and different political process? It would be good to also talk about how local elected representatives arrived at these decisions as well as having good examples of practice. It is a case of what is good practice in a certain political structure or economic area of the county.

ACTION: Sandra Bell to report back on the case studies and more context around them to know what is good practice in a certain political structure or economic area of the county.

SB

Barry Wyatt also commented on the good experience he had as South Gloucestershire was featured. He commented on the scale and proportionality and how it's tempting to identify low hanging fruit. He noted being off trajectory by a significant amount and suggested the need to get to the big challenging disruptive case studies and not just the run of the mill stuff.

5. Updates from partners and local authorities

WSCC

Steve Read reported rising risks around workforce recruitment and retention. contractors under pressure due to blue collar shortages and the Council finding it difficult to recruit to professional posts.

Supply chain and inflationary pressures are adding to difficulties in delivering capital projects.

WSCC are also grappling with funding for decarbonisation of the county's buildings and securing political support for this. Linking with that is smarter working in terms of reviewing the amount of estate that is required.

Liz Milne, Kent, reported similar recruitment issues but have had good candidates come forward and have advertised roles as hybrid.

Kent are identifying sites for carbon off-set for net gain, nutrient neutrality, and tree planting. Liz spoke to senior members this week about the "invest to save" approach and there was reluctance to put money into it despite potential to make money back. Liz would like to convince members that it's the right thing to do and would be interested to hear what others are doing? Steve Read reported that WSCC are having similar discussions re. land and are taking a look at future benefits of particular land for offsetting. Barry Wyatt received a report from Eunomia that was commissioned to develop a natural capital evaluation tool to look at sites and provide the value for nature etc. It gives a combination of 8 evaluation tools into one metric. It gives a social value and value of nature presenting it in a £s figure.

ACTION: Barry Wyatt to share the natural capital evaluation tool for sites at a future Board meeting.

Carolyn McKenzie informed that SCC has a large estate and received transformation money for regeneration and also carbon and BNG stuff. SCC had a conversation with a developers' forum, and they are keen to look at pipeline of land parcels of existing land that they need to do BNG that is already set up.

Dave Dale summarised to say there is clearly a need/opportunity to get together to share best practice on BNG, off-setting, banking etc. Some issues will depend on whether it's an urban

BW

authority or county. This needs to be on ADEPT Environment Board's future agenda of work.

Defra - Rosily Jones

Environment Improvement Plan: Analysis work is ongoing as we look at examples of local delivery of the 25Year Environment Plan, what has worked and hasn't and lessons we can learn: start to flesh out what the 'local offer' is and move to a more systems approach. We are keen to hear thoughts, ideas, and examples.

<u>Secondee:</u> We have sought approval for someone to get seconded into Defra to join the team and look at local delivery and how we can better join up central and local, including aspects of Levelling Up and EIP.

Hannah Bartram mentioned experience with a secondment from Buckinghamshire in the waste team and would be happy to facilitate this for Defra.

<u>Nutrient neutrality</u>: following new guidance published last month the Policy team are pulling together the responses of the various affected LPAs to get an idea of how they're feeling so that we can consider how to support and to identify specific issues that need dealing with. Note that the team has been invited to take part in ADEPT planning WG and will also going to attend Planning Advisory Service workshops to gather views.

Consultation: Implementation of mandatory digital waste tracking: proposals for the-practical-implementation-of-digital-waste-tracking, is closed, but you can still review the proposal document for info.

Air Quality: open until 6 June Consultations on measures to help local authorities tackle air pollution. The proposals aim <u>to help</u> ensure that air quality standards are met in our communities.

The <u>first</u> seeks views on increased engagement between local authorities and the communities that they serve, and an increased focus on the impact of air quality on people's health. The consultation will also look at the stronger requirements introduced in the Environment Act 2021 for other organisations to collaborate with local authorities in delivering Air Quality Action Plans (AQAPs).

The second consultation proposes to designate National

Highways relevant public authorities" who must play a role in improving local air quality, in order to ensure more consistent collaboration with local authorities to reduce road pollution.

Government announces new crackdown on fly-tipping

Plans to save money for households disposing of DIY waste, alongside new grant funding for Local Authorities to clamp down on fly-tipping. The changes re outlined in a <u>technical</u> <u>consultation</u>. Households will no longer have to pay to dispose of DIY waste under plans set out by government to change the rules that currently allows some Local Authorities to charge for DIY waste from households.

Alongside this, a call for evidence on the use of booking systems at recycling centres has been launched.

Tree Production Capital Grant:

The Forestry Commission will open a new Tree Production Capital Grant this Spring. The Tree Production Capital Grant (TPCG) will provide funding to increase the domestic production of tree seed and saplings, supporting investments in expansion, automation and mechanisation of facilities and equipment. To receive the latest news on the grant, sign up to the Forestry Commission's e-alert. For more information, please contact tpcg@forestrycommission.gov.uk or read the Forestry Commission's latest blog.

Farming: Farmers in England who wish to leave the industry can now apply for the new <u>Lump Sum Exit Scheme</u> which will provide a payment so they can exit the sector in a managed way. In return, farmers will be expected to either rent or sell their land or surrender their tenancy in order to create opportunities for new entrants and farmers wishing to expand their businesses.

Natural England – Adam Wallace

Adam Flagged the Natural England Nutrient Neutrality advice that was issued in March to relevant Authorities, important to be aware of this and related tools and support provided through NE.

(Water Neutrality query referenced and noted by NE, water resources in the context of Habitat Regulations will continue to be an issue and air quality and Nitrogen deposition (from intensive livestock units in the main and alongside diffuse water

pollution/NN issues) is a growing area of concern.

NE working with LGA on funding an LRNS/Nature Recovery Network role

NE board to consider formal Nature Recovery Green Paper response in advance of submission on 11th May, NE will share response when able to.

NE have completed recruitment to a suite of senior adviser roles (60+) in area teams under the banner of 'Strategic plans for Places' that will help lead local collaboration and policy shaping work with partners on LNRS, GI, BNG, Local Development Plans and Strategic Solution. NE ambition to help ensure they provide integrated advice across these areas and focus on clear priority activity where they can work with others to deliver greatest gains for nature recovery. NE to provide contact details when they are able to.

SOLACE- NE in discussion with SOLACE (Sharon Kemp and Oliver Harmar, NE Chief Operating Officer) re a potential roundtable to discuss local delivery needs and join up.

Hannah clarified that Solace, who represent Chief Executives are part of the are part of the Blueprint Coalition group and have a collaborative relationship with ADEPT.

Hannah confirmed that DLUHC want to use regional directors as main conduit for levelling up.

Steve Read mentioned the issue of water neutrality which is affecting part of West Sussex. It is so far the only area where this is causing similar issues to nutrient neutrality impacts but others could follow. Could it pick up on water neutrality too? AW confirmed this is red flagged and likely to be in issue arising in the future. We need to be sighted early on issues materialising in order to be on the front foot.

Trevor Bishop spoke about pressures on water resources, which Hannah suggested to share with the Board. Adam Wallace informed of the Integrated Water Management Plan which the EA is leading on. It may be of interest as it evolves and develops.

	Peter Moore referred back to David Dale's comment on BNG	
	difference between urban and rural and would keen to hear more	
	about LedNet experience. David Dale will ensure we continue to	
	have this conversation.	
	nave this conversation.	
	ACTION: Adam Wallace to share a list of contacts or an	AW
	organogram for the area teams that NE have recruited to.	
	ACTION: Adam Wallace to share with the Board the NE response	
	to the Nature Green Paper once it has been signed off.	AW
	to the Nature Green aper once it has been signed on.	
	ACTION: Liz Milne to share a report, part funded by NE, re	LM
	impacts in Kent once completed and signed off.	
6.	Board business and Working Group updates:	
	Energy & Clean Growth – Carolyn McKenzie	
	Next meeting due on 16 th May 2022.	
	At the last meeting:	
	 there was a lot of discussion on funding streams and 	
	constraints.	
	• Energy Plan – a regional plan created, and a case being put	
	forward to BEIS for support for a regional and county level	
	plan to bring in network providers and partners. Hope to have	
	news for next month's Board meeting.	
	Upcoming items:	
	Data question spoke about earlier on measuring success and	
	monitoring; funding and how we fund Net zero and other	
	green finance; 2 areas to focus on at next meeting – 1) How	
	do you know it's working and 2) how are you going to get it	
	delivered?	
	Refreshed climate change clean growth will be done before	
	the ADEPT Spring Conference.	
	ACTION: David Dale to send text for the refreshed climate change	DD
	clean growth piece to Carolyn McKenzie.	
	Flood and Water Management – Alys Bishop	
	Next meeting is scheduled for this Friday, 29 th April, and so no	
	detailed update today. Agenda included data sharing between	
	organisations.	
	The issue with recruitment currently amongst LAs and for	
	technical flood/environmental roles, is starting to impact some	

LAs service delivery, leading to a potential future strategic risk for delivering statutory duties and best practise. Is this the case with other groups/services? Would like to explore if there is an emerging national position on LA capacity and mitigating risks.

The group was represented at the NICs workshop on surface water resilience standards, this is in response to the Gov asking NIC to undertake a <u>study of how responsible bodies can better manage and mitigate surface water flooding in England</u>. Hannah Bartram also attended. Essentially there is work underway to better understand whether a standard is achievable, this will impact on all LAs delivery of the service if a proposal is made/realised. It would be good to keep this on the agenda.

ADEPT has been asked to support the Environment Agency's delivery and oversight of the Innovation Programme (FCRIP), which 25 LAs have been awarded up to £6m funding under. This is under exploration with the EA, ADEPT would host an officer level peer support group which will feed back into the programme and generally into the EAs other areas of development for funding, best practise etc.

Natural Capital & Heritage - Liz Milne

Submitted to response on BNG consultation last month.

A further task in terms of Environment targets and green paper for nature recovery.

Environment Targets - David is coordinating and asked a range of colleagues to look at relevant parts and feed comments back by next week. The deadline has been extended but no particular date given. Now confirmed as 27 June.

Nature Green Paper is due 11th May – Liz Small is organising a workshop for the Natural Capital & Heritage group to go through questions in the paper but do let Liz know if you'd like to join.

Last meeting was mostly reviewing priorities for the year ahead, making the group more efficient and deliver better.

NC&H don't link in with the Public Health agenda but need to link that into the work being done.

ACTION: Hannah Bartram/Liz Milne to discuss possibility of having a shared site like SharePoint for ADEPT Environment Board to share documents/drafts outside of the public domain.

HB/LM

David also added:

Air Quality consultation – This is a Defra consultation about updating policy guidance on air quality management plans. June/July deadline. Defra have offered a workshop if sufficient numbers are interested. Please let David Dale know.

Glover Review of Protected Landscapes has been submitted.

Waste - Wendy Barratt

The last meeting focussed on consultation and EPR for business which was generally welcomed by local authorities. The Waste group continues to work with government in terms of developing and thinking. DRS is "all in" but will exclude glass with scheme administration as public body and so will be open and transparent. Funding for local authorities will be from April 2024 but there is no additional funding for local authorities. Plastic film will be by 2027 and coffee cup take back by 2024.

The group are involved responses for 4 new consultations including packed note recovery for packaging business waste; charging for DIY waste at HWRCs or rather stopping charging; looking for call for evidence on booking systems (which will be kept in place and will save fly tipping).

Environment Targets consultation - feeding into David Dale.

Recover residual work -kg/head by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels.

Held a successful workshop on moving to net zero waste, 40 attendees and 3 presentations. Hannah Bartram, Steve Palfrey, David Dale, and Wendy Barratt meeting next week to develop further.

<u>Environment Board - Steve Read/David Dale</u>

Monthly catch-ups – schedule one for May and discuss future of them during that meeting. No meeting in August.

Face-to-Face meetings to be discussed. July quarterly meeting will remain virtual. David Dale suggested it would be nice to have a F2F meeting and to also put on an afternoon workshop.

ACTION: Board members to inform Steve Read/Tracey of your views on F2F quarterly ADEPT Environment Board meetings.

Board

7. | ADEPT business

Hannah Bartram

ADEPT Spring Conference – there is still time to enter the awards. 500 words required with pictures on any of 3 categories: clean growth; digital innovation; people and place. Deadline is Friday 29th April. ADEPT President's Awards 2022 | ADEPT (adeptnet.org.uk)

	E-mails for monthly newsletter and lunch & learns.	
	Response to Defra's fly tipping consultation.	
8.	Any other business	
	ACTION: Hannah Bartram to re-run the survey to ADEPT members looking at issues like workforce, resources, cost, and Ukraine pressures. A document has been sent anonymised which can be shared with Board.	НВ
	One Run event "Running Out of Time" leading up to COP27. 67km across 18 countries. Route being shared in chat. Please help to publicise if the <u>route</u> goes by your local authority. Starts Fri 13 th September and runs for 6 weeks.	
	Ariane Crampton informed that Luton have done a road map to net zero which has a challenging outcome. Have other local authorities done one and, if so, with what consequences?	
	ACTION: Ariane Crampton to publicise the question of whether other local authorities have done a road map to net zero more widely in order to gain insight into outcomes.	AC
	Hannah Bartram spoke about the EY Tool to measure carbon footprint of public buildings. Example used with Hannah was Kingston. Initial cost was 50m and with use of the EY toolkit it came out at 9m. It is hoped to launch this tool at Spring conference but note there is a cost as it's EY.	
9.	Notes of last meetings	
	Agreed.	
10.	Dates of future meetings, and close.	
	Monthly – one for May to be arranged. Quarterly - 20 th July.	
	ACTION: Please send ideas for the quarterly Board agenda items to David Dale. National Adaption Plan is one idea.	Board