

MEETING SUBJECT	ADEPT Transport & Connectivity Board	MEETING DATE	09 September 2022
RECORDED BY	Karen Brown	TIME	10:00 -13:00
		VENUE	TEAMs

ATTENDEES PRESENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ann Carruthers (AC) (CHAIR) • Charlie Bird (CB) • David Boyer (DB) • Edward Shortridge (ES) • Gary Bartlett (GB) • Kamal Panchal (KP) • John Lamb (JL) • Paul Copeland (PC) • Paul Fermer (PF) • Simon McGlone (SMcG) • Simon Jeffrey (SJ)
IN PART	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex Dodds (AD) • Jessica Matthew (JM) • Myron Stevenson (MS) • Stephen Fidler (SF)
APOLOGIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adele Wearing (AW) • Adrian Gray (AG) • Andy Jackson (AJ) • Anthony Payne (AP) • Chris Henning (CH) • Clive Thomson (CT) • Grahame Bygrave (GB) • Hannah Bartram (HB) • Hannah Joyce (HJ) • Jamie Blake (HB) • Jamie Hlland (JH) • Julian Gould (JG) • Mark Kemp (MK) • Mark Tilley (MT) • Neil Gibson (NG) • Nick Skelton (NS) • Paul Crick (PC) • Peter Molyneux (PM) • Rose McArthur (RM) • Sarah Spink (SS) • Shona Butter (SB) • Tom Bryant (TB)

ITEM		BY WHO
1.	<p><u>Welcome and Apologies</u></p> <p>AC welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>The Board agreed that due to the low number of attendees at the meeting (sadly her Majesty the Queen passed away the previous evening) a separate session on Road Pricing would be arranged to ensure as many members can attend to feed into shaping ADEPT's thinking on road pricing to enable a challenge paper to be produced. AC confirmed the speakers agreed to this proposal.</p> <p>Action: AC to arrange a separate session in October/November for Road Pricing.</p>	AC
2.	<p><u>Minutes of Last Meeting and Matters Arising</u></p> <p>The minutes of the last meeting were deferred until the next meeting for approval.</p>	
3.	<p><u>Updates from National Organisations</u></p> <p>Department for Transport – Stephen Fidler and Jessica Matthew, Co-Directors of Local Transport, DfT</p> <p>SF updated the Board as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne-Marie Trevelyan appointed Secretary of State for Transport on 6 September 2022. There has been no suggestion of a major change of direction. JM commented that the new Secretary of State is focussing on the 'Green and Growth' agendas, which fits with the main direction as before. SF advised of two new Minister of State level appointments but unclear of their portfolios and the position of the other existing ministers. Awaiting confirmation. • SF referred to the announcement yesterday on energy and thanked AC and colleagues for the timely material provided from ADEPT which fed into conversations about energy and data. SF added that this was used to inform the Secretary of State and her contribution to Cabinet and helped ensure inclusion of the public sector in the energy support package. SF said that this was initially for 6 months and will be subject to review from a street lighting and light rail perspective. • Further work is to be carried out on this in terms of how this will operate. ADEPT members to work in collaboration with HB to investigate the best approach to building the evidence base. <p>Feedback/Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB commented that there was no clear guidance on ways to reduce energy use on residential streets and roads in terms of lighting levels. GB added that this may not be the forum but asked for any feedback. • AC commented that local authorities have a power to provide street lighting but not a duty. AC outlined that she was happy to have a separate conversation regarding these challenges to reduce energy costs. • JL offered to contact UK Lighting and Technology board (David Denner) and asked for this to be escalated. JL commented that the State of the Nation survey two years ago was to act on climate change. SF agreed that he did not think there was anything central and agreed that the production of street lighting was a power, not a duty. SF suggested GB consider researching best practice examples supported by evidence. SF supported JL contacting DD and to ask for the Street Lighting Board to act on this matter. This should also be linked with the Engineering Board. <p>Action: JL agreed to contact DD on guidance to reduce energy on residential streets.</p>	JL

<p>SF updated the Board on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SF referred to the £130m bus recovery grant from October to protect vital bus services across the country. The funding package will be paid in two instalments and the first 3 months would operate as the current system does. SF said that there were conversations to be had on the LTF calculation amounts. SF added the terms and conditions would remain the same so the DfT would expect operators to run at minimum 80% service level but likely there would still be some cuts in some places in terms of driver shortages and inflation even with the grant. SF advised that anyone who had concerns about the how the grant is being used to contact SF or Matt Crane. <p>Action: SF welcomed ADEPT’s thoughts and ideas for the allocation for the second 3 months. This should assess whether they continue the same as the first 3 months or implement an alternative arrangement. SF added that the context to secure this funding was to present choice to new ministers. The DfT view is if the commercial viability reduces then the level of tendered services needs to increase with more funding for local authorities. SF also asked for views on how this would be resourced in terms of overheads, timelines and how far it should go.</p> <p>Feedback/Comments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AC commented that it was important to look at how the public transport market is to be shaped beyond the £130m fund and to start the work now. Through ADEPT those conversations can be fed in but also keen that specific questions and concerns are raised. <p>JM updated the Board on LTPs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> JM advised that DfT would like to share with ADEPT Members the LTP guidance before publication in early 2023. JM said that quantitative carbon reduction guidance was being developed where local authorities would be asked to calculate the carbon caused by their transport. JM added that there were no targets. An early draft is to be shared with ADEPT Members. For smaller authorities, the STBs should be able to provide advice and assistance. <p>Feedback/Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PF commented that any indication of what was set out in the LTP guidance would be useful. Particularly as authorities are either updating plans now or nearing completion. JM envisaged the main themes to achieving an energy efficient transport system will relate to decarbonisation, active travel and the use of public transport, congestion points, bypasses, and growth. AC emphasised the importance of ensuring strong links are established with the work carried out by National Highways. This will help to drive those common objectives. AC highlighted the need to ensure equity issues across a range of matters whether it be rural, urban or relating to different types of authority. AC supported the use of STBs as centres of excellence. AC advised that Midlands Connect and Transport for the North were due to meet later this month (September 2022) to discuss collaboration and working together on delivering this agenda. <p>JM updated the Board on Active Travel England:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chris Boardman, Transport Commissioner and Danny Williams, Chief Executive Officer attended the Transport Select Committee. This is available to watch on the Parliamentary website. JM envisaged Active Travel England will continue as it is, despite change of leadership. 	<p>All</p>
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- ATE aim to publish guidance regarding bidding on the Capability and Ambition Fund by the end of the month. A bigger bidding opportunity is to come out soon.
- Devolution deals signed over the summer. Information in the Levelling Up White Paper.

Feedback/Comments:

- KP commented that in terms of active travel, direct engagement with Chris Boardman was important as well as raising awareness with elected members from DfT's end.

SF updated on:

- Government to provide up to £60m from January to March next year to help bus operators by enabling cap on single adult fares at £2 per journey.
- There will be a national formula around the broad level of revenue loss to operators and essentially to offer that to each operator based on their revenue data on a take it or leave it basis.
- Currently testing with the main operators and are hopeful 90% of the commercial market will participate.
- SF said that it would be particularly helpful for ADEPT's thoughts on how to deal with local authority tendered services.
- Current funding through BSIPs would not be double funded.
- ENCTS reimbursement expect to continue.

Feedback/Comments

- AC suggested a possible separate session with MS and members of the Board.
- KP commented that this decision puts a question mark over the whole local BSIP.
- GB commented that for the 3 months this needs to be promoted to ensure local engagement.
- SF said that there are plans to do national comms through social media, sharing, ministers.
- PF referred to the LA funding through Section 106 and pump priming which may need some further thought. PF flagged that the take it or leave comment may create some local challenges and difficult conversations.
- AC flagged the challenges on cost increases across highways and transport services and particularly on inflation increases on capital schemes and a way forward.
- DfT recognise challenges but confirm there are no more funds to be expected. This will raise a few question marks over the delivery of certain projects. SF commented on a staged process comprising consideration of the funding gap being absorbed locally. If not possible, consider if phasing, descoped feasible followed by further assessment of VFM. Following that a discussion with ministers required.
- AC commented on the projects being pulled whilst the Government is making announcements on other funds such as Levelling Up fund to other big projects.

Action: AC to contact MS about arranging a development/technical session on the £2 bus fare cap.

AC

Local Government Association – Kamal Panchal

- LGA correspondence to be sent to all the new Secretary of States offering support on key priority areas over the next 18 to 24 months. It will be important to flag cost inflation, buses, decarbonisation agenda and EV charging infrastructure.
- The first session on Decarbonising Transport Support Programme is on 12 October and is aimed at elected members/officers on the Action Learning Sets. Free to LGA Member Councils and places are available.
- KP shared areas of the work programme in terms of decarbonisation of transport and the 3 categories of 'shift, avoid and improve'.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADEPT meeting to be aware that at the Traffic Open Products and Specifications (TOPAS) AGM, its financial position was discussed and the need for further financial support identified. • TOPAS not likely to be fully financially self-funded from registrations (by manufacturers of new equipment against TOPAS procurement specifications) and financial support will continue to be needed. • Exploring the scope for TOPAS groups to provide annual funding. • To be discussed at a future meeting. <p>The Digital Connectivity Group – Ceren Clulow</p> <p>Due to the change of agenda this was not discussed.</p>	
5.	<p><u>Road Pricing Discussion</u></p> <p>As previously stated, a separate meeting to discuss this would be arranged.</p>	
6.	<p><u>Key Questions for Discussion to Generate a Policy Position for ADEPT</u></p> <p>This was deferred to the next meeting.</p>	
7.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17/18 November ADEPT Conference in Leeds. 	
	<p><u>Date of Next Meeting</u></p> <p>9 December 2022 – London, venue to be confirmed</p>	