

ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Monday 23 January 2023, 13:00– 15:00
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Sheryl French - Assistant Director, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) (SFE)
Membership:	<p>Doug Eltham – Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer, Devon County Council (DEL)</p> <p>Edward Barlow – Head of Climate Change & Environment, Buckinghamshire Council (EBA)</p> <p>Chitra Nadarajah – Head of Service, Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, Hampshire County Council</p> <p>David Dale (DDA) -Adept</p> <p>Sarah Gilbert – Head of Climate Action, Oxford County Council (SGI)</p> <p>Ariane Crampton – Head of Climate Programme, Wiltshire Council (ACR)</p> <p>Emily Bolton – Climate Crisis Strategy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council (EBR)</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie – Director of Environment, Surrey County Council</p> <p>Patrick Allcorn – Head of Local Energy, BEIS</p> <p>Kerrell Walley - Climate Change Programme Manager, Wigan Council (KWA)</p> <p>Steve Palfrey – Assistant Director, Waste & Environment, Suffolk County Council (SPA)</p> <p>Katie Sargent – Environment Group Commissioning Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA)</p> <p>Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA)</p> <p>Hannah Bartram – Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT (HBA)</p>
Guests:	<p>Chris Parkin – Community Energy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council (CPA)</p> <p>John Taylor – Energy Projects Manager, Greater South East Net Zero Hub (JTA)</p>
Note Taker:	James Veitch – Energy Projects Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (JVE)
Apologies	<p>Thomas Day – Head of Energy and Low Carbon Programme, Essex County Council</p> <p>Daire Casey – Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council</p>

Item No.	Item
1.	<p>Sheryl French introduction, welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</p> <p>SFE introduced herself as the new Chair for the group as Carolyn McKenzie has now moved to chair the Environment Group.</p>
2.	<p>Emerging challenges for Schools Retrofitting Programmes (Cambridgeshire County Council)</p> <p>Chris Parkin (CPA) gave a presentation introducing Cambridgeshire County Council's Schools Energy Efficiency & Low Carbon Heating Programme and discussing the key challenges faced, slides attached.</p> <p>The key challenges included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting business cases to stack up for low carbon heating projects • The advance planning required for installation of ASHPs, eg not as quick to instal as gas boilers • The academisation of schools, meant that LAs will be less likely to invest in net zero measures <p>In response to questions raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CPA shared the Committee paper that agreed the funding model for the schools low carbon heating projects • CPA confirmed that Cambridgeshire schools have an annual maintenance budget which they use to replace heating assets, however, in the event of a catastrophic failure, CCC would step in and fund the lifecycle replacement. • PAL agreed to contact colleagues at the Department for Education (DfE) to gather their views on supporting Academy schools to reach net zero. Action Required • CPA informed the group that CCC have a framework agreement in place with two contractors on it who can deliver the works. The framework can be used by other local authorities, please contact Chris Parkin, christopher.parkin@cambridgeshire.gov.uk if you'd like to know more.
3.	<p>Update from BEIS</p> <p>PAL reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chris Skidmore's Net Zero Review had been published last week. The independent review makes 129 recommendations and sits alongside the Committee on Climate Change's latest progress report. 2022 Progress Report to Parliament - Climate Change Committee (theccc.org.uk) • The Government's Green Finance Strategy was aiming to be published in late March / early April 2023. • The Local Net Zero forum was meeting later in the week. The substantive item for the meeting was Chris Skidmore's Net Zero review with the aim of gathering stakeholders input to feed back to ministers.

	<p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PAL suggested that MPs agree with many elements of the report however, lots of the recommendations would take significant resource and legislative time to implement. He stated it was important to prioritise these recommendations. • PAL stated that BEIS were committed to designing a placed based approach to domestic retrofitting which maintained a balance between the consideration for fuel poverty and efficient retrofitting. A task and finish group would be meeting in February 2023 to discuss this. BEIS is aiming to feed this into the next spending review.
<p>4.</p>	<p>Carbon Offsetting/Insetting - development of guidelines (Greater South East Net Zero Hub)</p> <p>JTA gave a presentation outlining the Greater South East Net Zero Hub's work on developing support on greenhouse gas removals and offsetting, slides attached.</p> <p>The key points made in the presentation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To deliver the UK's balanced pathway for CO2emissions carbon removals were needed • There are a number of nature based greenhouse house gas removal options e.g peat restoration, tree planting along with other technological solutions such as Direct Air capture and building materials • LAs can be involved through supplying land, feedstock, purchasing removal credits etc <p>In response to questions raised, JTA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested they were looking at projects (covering oil wells, soil enhancement and above ground biomass) in the North Sea, Scotland, Norfolk and other areas to ensure they had sufficient capacity to store carbon in the long term. • Reported they were looking to set up a working group to discuss the scoping works around CCES in more detail, he welcomed any feedback the group may have. Please contact john.taylor@gsetzerohub.org.uk if you'd like to know more.
<p>5.</p>	<p>Update from Adept</p> <p>HBA reported:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Local Nature Recovery Strategies</i>: S31 seed funding for this FY (£32,500 each Responsible Authority) has gone out. Ongoing conversations with Ministers regarding contents of regs and guidance. Defra looking to set up a national stakeholder group for LNRS to help oversee the run in to April / May 2023 - first meeting probably early Feb. • <i>Waste</i>: ADEPT put out a media comment in response to Government / Defra publishing their response to the consultation on the Deposit Return Scheme – see here. • We also responded to Treasury on the proposed <i>Electricity Generator Levy</i> – follow up meeting 24/1. • <i>Environmental Improvement Plan</i>: due for publication before the end of January. The Environment Act requires government to publish an EIP; the government has pledged to set interim targets for each five-year period and lay out steps it intends to take to improve the natural environment. The 25-Year Environment Plan will be adopted as the first EIP. • <i>Live Labs 2</i>: Ministerial announcement on those LAs that have secured funding scheduled for later this week (see here for more detail). • <i>County Deals workshop</i>: taking place 2nd Feb. • <i>Green finance training day</i>: 25th April. Details to follow.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Value of Trees report</i>: we published new tree guidance published for local authorities last week (see here) • <i>ADEPT's Environment Board</i>: meeting on Wednesday, 25th January. • <i>ADEPT's Climate Change Working Group</i>: A set of informal workshops were held last year to scope out the TORs. TORs and membership to be agreed before the March cycle of meetings.
6.	<p>Chris Skidmore – Net Zero Review - Independent Review of Net Zero (publishing.service.gov.uk)</p> <p>PAL gave a brief overview of the Net Zero Review. SFE posted this useful link - https://www.endsreport.com/article/1810109/33-things-need-know-chris-skidmores-net-zero-review</p> <p>In discussion, group members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcomed a statutory net zero obligation as this would drive consistency and prioritise the importance of this agenda. • Agreed that carbon reporting needed to be standardised across the scopes. • Queried whether a report was being pulled together on the back of the Skidmore and Committee on Climate Change's review. PAL stated this work was ongoing. • Agreed to provide feedback ahead of the Environment Board meeting on Wednesday. Action Required.
7.	<p>Roundtable updates on key items from the Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was by exception only as there had been a lot of discussion.
8.	<p>Forward agenda planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members were content for the Environment and Clean Growth Working Group to meet every 6 weeks <p><i>Future Agenda Items</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Area Energy Panning, Greater Manchester. • Feedback from the Environment Board. • Innovate UK Pioneer Place Funding. • Invite the DfE to discuss their views on supporting net zero for schools. • Invite JTA back once the scoping works on CC&S had completed. <p>If you have any other feedback, then please let Sheryl French or James Veitch know.</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p><i>Financial challenges around external Wall Insulation (EWI) specifically the verge trim</i> – The cost of EWI is increasing and cannot be covered within the grant criteria and installers are struggling to work within the guidance. It was reported that the forthcoming HUG2 funding would provide more flexibility on funding. PAL reported that the Net Zero Buildings team were investigating this. It was agreed that ADEPT would provide a statement to PAL, who could then share this with colleagues and facilitate a meeting. Action Required</p>
10.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>1-3pm, 6th March 2023.</p>