

## ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

<b>Date &amp; Time:</b>	<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2023, 13:00– 15:00</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Microsoft Teams Meeting
<b>Chair:</b>	Sheryl French - Assistant Director, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC) (SFR)
<b>Attendees:</b>	<p>Brian White – Clean Energy Manager, Cumbria LEP (BWH)            Chitra Nadarajah – Head of Service, Climate Change &amp; Environmental Strategy, Hampshire County Council (CNA)            Daire Casey – Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council            David Dale – ADEPT (DCA)            Edward Barlow – Head of Climate Change &amp; Environment, Buckinghamshire Council (EBA)            Hannah Bartram – Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT (HBA)            Jill Edmondson – Wakefield Council (JED)            Katie Sargent – Environment Group Commissioning Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA)            Kofi Adu-Gyamfi – Climate Change Service Lead, West Berkshire Council (KGY)            Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ)            Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA)            Patrick Allcorn – Head of Local Energy, Department of Energy Security and Net Zero (PAL)            Sue Davies – Corporate Energy Manager, Luton Borough Council (SDA)            Victoria Burvill – Senior Climate Officer, Wiltshire Council (VBU)</p>
<b>Guests:</b>	<p>Hannah Swinburne – Principal Climate Change Officer, Peterborough City Council (HSW)            Clare Ibbeson – Project Director, Sustainability and Climate Change, Department for Education (CIB)            Sarah Wilkinson – Carbon and Energy Manager, Cambridgeshire County Council (SWI)</p>
<b>Note Taker:</b>	James Veitch – Assistant Project Manager – Large Scale Energy Projects, Climate Change & Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council (JVE)
<b>Apologies</b>	<p>Ariane Crampton – Head of Climate Programme, Wiltshire Council            Carolyn McKenzie – Director of Environment, Surrey County Council            Doug Eltham – Environment and Sustainability Policy Officer, Devon County Council            Gareth Candlin - Assistant Director of Inclusive and Green Growth, Westmorland &amp; Furness Council            Ian Wheeler – Head of Clean Energy, Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership (CLEP)            Nicola Stringer – Energy Programme Manager, West Sussex County Council            Steve Palfrey – Assistant Director, Waste &amp; Environment, Suffolk County Council</p>

Item No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Sheryl French welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u></p> <p>The minute of the meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2023 were agreed as a correct record. The action log was reviewed.</p>
2.	<p><u>Local Area Energy Planning (LAEP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Peterborough City Council (PCC)</li> </ul> <p>HSW presented the Peterborough Local Area Energy Plan (<i>presentation attached</i>). The following key points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The LAEP was developed by Energy Systems Catapult, funded by Innovate UK. The LAEP was adopted on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2022 and seeks to identify how Peterborough will reach net zero.</li> <li>- The LAEP was developed in partnership with a number of stakeholders including representatives from Planning, Transport, Property, Mapping, IT Services, Network Operators, low carbon projects leads and Councillors.</li> <li>- A range of net zero scenarios were considered (i.e Net zero by 2030, 2040, 2050 and business as usual) which varied in methodology and financial implications.</li> <li>- The LAEP identified that a £8.8b investment was required in order to reach net zero by 2040, including £2.1b in domestic property retrofits and £1.6b improving existing energy infrastructure. It was highlighted that: 67% of buildings would require some form of retrofit, 100% of existing fossil fuel heating systems would need to be replaced, significant work would be required in order to cater for the significant increase in the uptake of electric vehicles, and finally 88% of Peterborough's total energy use would need to be supplied from local renewable sources.</li> <li>- Going forward, consideration must be made into how frequently the data sets need to be reviewed against current policies and technology to ensure accuracy and relevancy.</li> <li>- HSW drew attention to Peterborough Accelerated Net Zero (PANZ).</li> </ul> <p>In response to questions raised, HSW:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Stated that projections indicated that Peterborough's electricity demand will increase by 47% by 2040, and the most cost-effective route for meeting this demand is through local renewable energy generation. However, electricity generated nationally could also be used.</li> <li>- Confirmed that the senior sponsor for the LAEP is PCC's Director of Place and Economy.</li> <li>- Suggested that further work was required to understand how the LAEP would be implemented and integrated throughout the Council.</li> <li>- Stated they had received positive engagement from both their Distribution Network Operators (DNOs), Western Power and UKPN. Both organisations are reviewing the data coming out of the LAEP.</li> <li>- Confirmed that hydrogen use within an industry setting had been considered by the LAEP.</li> <li>- Confirmed that much of the data collected originated from national data sets, with insights from local teams within Peterborough.</li> </ul> <p>PAL offered to approach UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) regarding the cost breakdown between CapEx and Operation &amp; Maintenance (O&amp;M). <b>Action Required</b></p>
3.	<p><u>DfE supporting the net zero transition for existing and future academies</u></p> <p>CIB gave a presentation (<i>to follow</i>) on the work DfE are undertaking in supporting the education system to reach net zero. The following key points were raised:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In April 2022, DfE published their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy which had a vision for the UK education system to be a world leader in sustainability and climate change by 2030. This would be achieved by preparing young people for a world impacted by climate change, driving the transition to net zero by reducing direct and indirect emissions, adapting our education and care buildings to prepare for the effects of climate change and enhancing biodiversity, and improving air quality.</li> <li>- DfE are looking at a number of innovations across their estate to ensure schools have better, greener spaces which are net zero. These innovations include resilient school projects, energy pods and energy management pilots.</li> <li>- Funding streams for the transition to net zero included the Low Carbon Skills Fund (LCSF), Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS), condition funding and capital funding from local authorities.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion, CIB:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Advised that the DfE want to work with Local Authorities to identify regional opportunities.</li> <li>- Stated that DfE will be exploring measures and innovations that are cost effective to schools and to ensure that all schools are catered for.</li> <li>- Explained that DfE have been looking into other forms of funding to ensure that local authorities have a more cost-effective route to deliver decarbonisation projects. It was noted that under PSDS, local authorities need to provide a capital investment as the grant funding does not cover the entirety of the project costs. CIB offered to explore this. <b>Action required.</b></li> <li>- Advised that DfE are exploring ways in which to fund the transition to net zero for the education sector.</li> </ul>
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>Update from DESNZ</u></p> <p>PAL highlighted the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UKRI's Net Zero Living: pioneer places programme - <a href="#">Net zero living: pioneer places – UKRI</a></li> <li>- The Local Net Zero Forum has set up a task and finish group to look at a developed model for domestic retrofits. A paper has been drafted and will be shared with Ministers in September.</li> <li>- Investment Zones - <a href="#">Investment Zones policy prospectus - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></li> <li>- Skidmore Review – Government is having further conversations with the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE).</li> <li>- His role (Head of Local Energy) at DESNZ will be split into two. Olivia Blunn will focus on policy and finance, Patrick Allcorn will focus on demonstration and delivery.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Officers reported that they were not receiving a lot of communications from the Local Net Zero Forum. PAL advised that information was being sent to Nigel Riglar however full policy papers could not be shared. PAL agreed to provide a communications update to the next Local Net Zero Forum which could be disseminated more widely. <b>Action required.</b></li> </ul>
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>Update from ADEPT</u></p> <p>HBA provided the following written update after the meeting.</p> <p><b><u>Devolution / Growth / planning</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Consultations:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. We are responding to the consultation on the new system of Environmental Outcomes Reports (replacing SEAs and EIAs).</li> <li>b. Also responding to the Office for Environmental Protection <a href="#">call for evidence</a>, as part of its scrutiny of Government's plans and environmental targets for improving nature.</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Devolution – considering whether to establish a 'Devo &amp; Environment' working group, under the Environment Board.</li> </ol>

3. One of the OFLOG team from DLUHC will attend the next meeting of the Sustainable Growth Board and the Waste Group (both 14 June) – waste management is one of the proposed priority themes (see [here](#)). Let me know if you'd like to attend.

## Environment

4. Regular catch up with Defra DG David Hill – focus on roll out of Local Nature Recovery Strategies and BNG, not much to say about waste reforms. Defra also leading on developing a national Land Use Framework.
5. Defra is leading on developing the 3<sup>rd</sup> National Adaptation Programme – we've seen the local government chapter but are pushing to see the whole document. Andy Gutherson (Lincs CC, chair of Midlands Board) is the new chair of the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) which brings together central & local government.
6. We have established a Climate Change Board – read David Dale's blog [here](#) – Carolyn McKenzie (formerly of this parish 😊) sits on this as chair of the ADEPT Environment Board. We are also part of the Blueprint Coalition – the group has developed a set of [manifesto asks](#) which it is now sending to all the main political parties.

## Events

7. Colas and ADEPT co-hosted a well-attended round table last month that focused on recruitment of young people into place services and retention issues. Those who attended the Spring Conference will have seen the outputs of that event a) a concept for a recruitment campaign and b) a good practice guide for staff retention. Both were really well received. We are now working up options for rolling out the recruitment campaign – the intention being to share with DfT / Defra / DfE to seek support and funding. **A second workshop on EDI issues and future skills will take place 29 June in Chester – draft programme attached. Please do send a colleague if you can.**
8. The ADEPT Spring Conference, AGM and Annual Awards Dinner took place in London a couple of weeks ago – all successful events. The award winners & highly commended can be seen [here](#).
9. Dates for your diary:
  - a. Navigating Transition workshop – Birmingham, 13 October
  - b. Autumn Conference – Nottingham, 16&17 November
  - c. Plus many other webinars that take place under the auspices of the national subject boards and the monthly [Lunch & Learns](#).

## ADEPT news

10. We published the new Strategic Plan 2023-26 at the Spring Conference ([here](#)). This has six priorities; the last two are focused more on ADEPT:
  - a. Ensuring resilience in local government structures and governance
  - b. Levelling up for people and place
  - c. Delivering green growth
  - d. Taking action on climate change
  - e. Our most valuable asset is our people
  - f. Being the best we can be
11. Kylie Russell joins ADEPT on 21 July as deputy CEO.
12. Shared Intelligence carried out a review of ADEPT member perceptions – you may well have been interviewed or responded to the questionnaire. Overall conclusions (see [here](#)) were that members value ADEPT and its offer - the focus of recommendations were around internal comms.

## 6. Improving collective approaches e.g Solar Together

SWI ran through the presentation (*attached*) and raised the following key points:

- The Solar Together Cambridgeshire scheme helps residents to reduce their household carbon footprint, save money on their electricity bills and invest in solar panels and battery storage at a more competitive price. The scheme also helps Cambridgeshire County Council to reach its net zero targets.
- Cambridgeshire County Council has run two very successful schemes but experienced issues with one of the three solar installers chosen as part of the 2022 auction. The issues with this installer led to a significant number of complaints directed to the Council and iChoosr (the company who manages the Solar Together scheme). This installer has now instructed liquidators. Before participating in another scheme, Cambridgeshire

	<p>County Council is looking to make amendments to their contract with iChoosr to reduce the risk of this scenario occurring again.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- More information about the Solar Together scheme can be found here - <a href="#">Group-buying for solar   Solar Together</a>.</li> </ul> <p>In discussion, officers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Commented that iChoosr had not been forthcoming with their installer due diligence processes.</li> <li>- Reported that they had made minor amendments to their contract with iChoosr to improve performance reporting.</li> <li>- Agreed that local authorities would have greater contractual leverage if they joined up collectively and approached iChoosr. <b>Action required.</b></li> </ul>
7.	<p><u>Roundtable updates on key items from the Grou</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
8.	<p><u>Forward agenda planning</u></p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
9.	<p>AOB</p> <p>Nothing to report.</p>
10.	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b></p> <p>1.30-3pm, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.</p>