

ADEPT AUTUMN CONFERENCE 2020

The world has changed significantly since the last ADEPT conference.

A December election brought a significant Conservative majority and we continue the process of exiting the EU. Resilience was tested in many parts of the country with severe winter flooding (the wettest February since records began) and supporting local communities to recover. A one-year budget settlement left us all looking askance at the future of local government funding. Then in March it all turned upside down with a global public health crisis and national lockdown. The lockdown has changed things, we have seen to improving air quality, people valuing their local communities and green spaces, and wholesale changes to working patterns hitherto thought impossible.

As we prepare for the potential of further, localised outbreaks of COVID-19, Place directors and their strategic partners have a key role in driving and supporting their local places to recover and renew from the pandemic. The ADEPT Autumn Conference will give time and space for reflection.

There are many lessons to be learnt. Has the lockdown pushed a new approach to patterns of commuting and working from home? Will we think differently about international travel? How will we deal with the largest economic crisis since the Great Depression of the 1920s? Will there be changes to some of the key local partners we have been working with? How well have we all responded to a long-term emergency? What will our town centres look like and how confident are our communities and businesses? Have we created a new environment where people respond positively to public health messages? What does it mean for tackling climate change? Do we have the right skills to drive this agenda? How is it all going to be paid for?

These will be some of the key issues for the conference - to reflect on the lessons learnt and to consider and develop our strategies to drive the recovery and renewal of our localities.

Two themes will dominate the agenda for place over the coming months and will underpin the conference – tackling climate change (reducing emissions and adapting) and meeting the funding challenge.

This event will comply with all Government COVID-19 guidance including social distancing. Unfortunately, this does mean we are unable to run workshops. We apologise in advance.

Programme Day 1 - Thursday 5th November (subject to change)

- 08:30** Registration and Refreshments
- 09:15** **Welcome & Introduction**
Nigel Riglar, South Gloucestershire Council / ADEPT President
- 09:30** Ministerial Address:
Simon Clark MP, Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government (to be confirmed)
- 09:45** **Plenary Session 1: Resilient Infrastructure**
Creating the right infrastructure for the future including digital, walking, cycling and public transport planning requires a major shift in our thinking. Decarbonising transport means breaking the link between economic growth and travel, so how do we do this? Is our existing infrastructure resilient to the changing climate? Strong public health messages and regulation have led to changes in long-term behaviours; how do we capture these?
- Decarbonising transport - where next?
 - Behaviourally informed interventions to reduce carbon emissions
 - Working to ensure the highways network is climate ready

- 10:30** Question & Answer session
- 11:00** **Refreshment Break**
- 11:30** **Question Time: Resilient Economy**
Place directors are key to driving the clean and green recovery and renewal of the economy in their places, working in partnership with local business and communities. Having a sound evidence base is critical. What is the role in business development, business start-up and reducing unemployment? What is the role of LEPs working in partnership with local authorities on issues including reskilling, retraining and research? Can green finance help? Join the debate with speakers drawn from the private sector, LEPs, academia and government.
- 12:30** **Lunch**
- 13:45** **Plenary Session 2: Resilient Places**
Open spaces, parks and access to the countryside have never been more important to local communities. How do we create vibrant places with quality green spaces, strong town centres and a range of low-carbon housing types, including retrofitting existing housing stock?
- What's the future for our town centres?
 - Tackling the elephant in the room – how to retrofit 26 million homes
 - OxCam: The Green Arc
- 14:30** Question & Answer session
- 15:00** **Refreshment Break**
- 15:30** **Plenary Session 3: Resilient People**
Dealing with COVID-19 has highlighted the unique role of Place directors. We deliver the bulk of universal services on a daily basis whilst also planning for the long-term future. It's a real balancing act and our response to the pandemic is highlighting that. How do we support ourselves? Are there new skills that we need? Does the way we work with other organisations need to evolve?
- Leadership disrupted
 - Mental health and wellbeing
 - Diversity matters
- 16:15** Question & Answer session
- 16:45** **Summary & End of Day One Programme**
- 17:30** **ADEPT General Meeting**
- 19:00** **Drinks Reception**
- 19:45** **Dinner & Presentation of President's Awards**

Programme Day 2 - Friday 6th November (subject to change)

- 08:00** Registration (new arrivals only) and Refreshments
- 09:00** **Excellence in Place Leadership Programme**
Chair: Neil Gibson, ADEPT Past President / David Ogden, Business Director – Transport Infrastructure, Amey
In Autumn 2019, ADEPT and Amey launched the Excellence in Place Leadership Programme. The aim is to bring together forward-thinking 'thought leaders' from across ADEPT to examine the key issues and opportunities affecting our sector. This is your opportunity to find out more about the programme.
- 10:30** **Refreshment Break**
- 11:00** **Plenary Session 4: Resilient Partners**
Reflections from key partners on what the COVID-19 pandemic has meant to them and wider impacts, including:
- Public health
 - Public transport
 - Local Resilience Forums
- 11:45** Question & Answer session
- 12:15** **Closing Remarks**
Nigel Riglar, ADEPT President
- 12:30** **Lunch and Close of the Conference**