



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## Environment Board

**22<sup>nd</sup> July 2020, 9.45 – 12.00**

### Attendees:

Adam Wallace	Natural England
Carolyn McKenzie	Surrey
Christine Wissink	Kent
Claire Brailsford	Derbyshire
Dafydd Evans	Environment Agency
David Dale	ADEPT Policy Officer
Gill Gillies	Doncaster
Hannah Bartram	ADEPT – Chief Operating Officer
Ian Fielding	North Yorks
James Potter	Hampshire
Jennie Donovan	Environment Agency
John Rumble	Hertfordshire
Jon Dyson	Bolton
Julia Beeden	Cambridgeshire
Katherine Hunt	Defra
Kerrell Walley	Wigan
Liz Milne	Kent
Nick Jackson	Defra
Owen McGivern	Dept of Infrastructure
Paula Hewitt (Environment Board Chair)	Somerset
Ralph Kemp	Cheshire East
Rebecca Moberly	Environment Agency
Sara Mein (Environment Board Secretary)	Somerset
Sarah Bentley	Staffordshire
Shaun Askins	Luton
Tracey Butcher (New Environment Board Secretary)	West Sussex

## Notes of Meeting

	Item	Action
1.	<p><b>Welcome and Introductions</b></p> <p>Paula welcomed Board Members and Guests to the meeting. Everyone introduced themselves and Paula went through the ground rules for the virtual meeting.</p>	
2.	<p><b>OxCam LNCP – Rebecca Moberly, EA</b></p>  <p>OxCam LNCP ADEPT Environment Board</p> <p>Rebecca Moberly shared her presentation over Teams and introduced the Oxcam Local Natural Capital Plan which is hosted by the Environment Agency and has been running for over a year now. It gives the opportunity to deliver sustainable growth in collaboration with over 90 organisations from across different sectors which brings consistent understanding and mapping opportunities across the Arc.</p> <p>A Natural Capital Baseline is created recognising natural capital assets and using local environmental data and Alison Smith from Oxford University has been working with OxCam on ecosystem services.</p> <p>Rebecca explained the benefits of the approach. Future outputs are based on the completed ecosystem services baseline, looking at a natural capital approach toolkit, environmental pressures and risk reporting and to join up with flood risk projects.</p> <p>There are opportunities to bringing different aspects of environmental work together and join up across boundaries and increase partnership working.</p> <p>Providing the foundations for the Green Arc include post covid green recovery and an opportunity to reposition OxCam as the Green Arc.</p> <p>If anyone wishes to contact Rebecca, her details are:  Rebecca Moberly OxCam LNCP Delivery Manager Email: <a href="mailto:rebecca.moberly@environment-agency.gov.uk">rebecca.moberly@environment-agency.gov.uk</a>  <a href="http://www.oxcamlncp.org">www.oxcamlncp.org</a>  <a href="mailto:OxCamLNCP@environment-agency.gov.uk">OxCamLNCP@environment-agency.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Paula thanked Rebecca for an interesting presentation and opened up for any questions.</p>	

	<p>There was a question around Accessing Additional Investment /Integrating green infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Investment comes in around step 4 or 5. Pulled together some guidance for LNP to look into investment and also working with Cambridgeshire and LENS project have done some early scoping.</li> <li>• Also working with Homes England on natural capital standards in new housing developments.</li> <li>• Flood work with EA – This work will come together next year.</li> </ul>	
3.	<p><b>Adaptation – Nick Jackson, Defra/Dafydd Evans, EA</b></p> <p>Dafydd started the presentation talking about how the climate has changed in the last 30 years, and how it is predicted to change in the future. It is important, going forward to focus on resilient places and infrastructure. Dayfdd talked about where or what might not keep pace with the adaptation needed. Likely to see infrastructure changes. Need to look at resistance vs resilience, investments, frequency of responding, partnership and community working.</p> <p>Nick continued with the presentation around Climate Change Adaptation and the role of Defra including coordinating adaptation actions across all government departments. Nick talked about the timeline and the top 6 priority areas and about the national adaptation programme (NAP). There is a Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) whose role brings together central and local government. The panel achievements include contributions to NAP. The adaptation guidance has been out for just over a year.</p> <p>Nick talked about a collaborative approach working with local government with a wide range of infrastructure.</p> <p>Paula thanked both for a very interesting presentation.</p> <p>Julia asked who ADEPT contact on the LAPP is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nick is secretary and if anyone wants to sit on any meetings should contact him and Hannah Bartram is the ADEPT contact.</li> <li>• Hannah will add info on ADEPT website.</li> </ul> <p>David Dale asked about level of investment;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is a 6 year programme of investment, the £5.2n recently announced by Government is for the coming period.</li> </ul> <p>James Potter asked if local government was engaging enough in this area;</p>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• there is a lot of raising awareness going on.</li> </ul> <p>Dafydd and Nick will be happy to answer other questions offline, please contact them direct.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b><i>Live consultations:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b><i>Biodiversity Net Gain</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>Tree strategy</i></b></li> <li>• <b><i>ELMS</i></b></li> </ul>	<p><b><i>Covered under National Capital/Heritage Update</i></b></p>
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Green recovery – Katherine Hunt, Defra</b></p> <p>Katherine heads up the Strategic Engagement Team at Defra. Currently managing the impacts of Covid on the environment (e.g. access to green spaces) and on environmental organisations. Looking at guidance and stronger comms on how to access these places safely and also working around the financial impact.</p> <p>Looking forward to green recovery, Katherine referred to the PM speech on Project Speed, and the Environment Secretary of State speech this week (link attached here).  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/george-eustice-speech-on-environmental-recovery-20-july-2020">https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/george-eustice-speech-on-environmental-recovery-20-july-2020</a></p> <p>A new Environmental Assessment Consultation will be launched in Autumn. In addition, there will be opportunities for ADEPT to engage on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nature recovery</li> <li>• Biodiversity net gain</li> <li>• Priorities include Improving access to green space and infrastructure,</li> <li>• How to make most of devolution</li> <li>• The Spending Review that was announced yesterday.</li> </ul> <p>Paula thanked Katherine for sharing and opened up for any questions.</p> <p>Liz Milne referred to the following links;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALGE and CIEEM EcIA checklist - <a href="https://cieem.net/resource/ecological-impact-assessment-ecia-checklist/">https://cieem.net/resource/ecological-impact-assessment-ecia-checklist/</a></li> <li>• EAC on biodiversity and ecosystems - <a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/work/448/Biodiversity/">https://committees.parliament.uk/work/448/Biodiversity/</a></li> </ul> <p>Katherine said it is not yet possible to comment on reports about a possible National Nature Service.</p> <p>In response to questions about a cross-Government approach to green recovery and climate change, she said</p>	

	<p>that Defra are talking to DfT about active travel, BEIS about energy, and MHCLG about the design of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.</p> <p>Adept members asked Defra to engage as early as they can on proposed approaches and requirement. The group is keen to contribute to this work.</p> <p>David Dale thanked Katherine for attending and referred to the PM and SOS speeches and some issues that were raised regarding LA's capacity etc.</p>	
6.	<p><b>Working Group updates</b></p> <p><b>Waste – Ian Fielding</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Weekly surveys moved to fortnightly but will keep it under review. Good high level of responses. Last survey showed little disruption to service. Things are settling down now. Change in commercial waste areas due to reduction in commercial premises.</li> <li>• Disposal services – continue to operate with limited disruption;</li> <li>• HWRC services continue to improve. Most operating as normal;</li> <li>• Waste volumes continue to be higher than normal</li> <li>• Good to see early engagement from Defra on various Resources &amp; Waste workstreams including EPR and recycling credits.</li> <li>• Defra proposing to survey local authorities re additional Waste costs during pandemic – Ian will complete for ADEPT</li> </ul> <p>Carolyn asked about the pros and cons of booking systems for CRC's/HWRC's – Ian will provide information offline.</p> <p><b>Natural Capital/Heritage – Liz Milne</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last meeting was cancelled due to staff capacity</li> <li>• A lot of staff from services were redeployed at the height of Covid – this could be an ongoing issue</li> <li>• Continue to engage with Defra re net gain and in ongoing discussions with them re: skills and capacity survey.</li> <li>• Ongoing discussions with Defra around Project Speed (Hannah Bartram to provide a briefing note on recent conversation with Marie Southgate)</li> <li>• The Group are currently responding to a number of consultation surveys : Biodiversity Net Gain pilot credits scheme, England Tree strategy (David</li> </ul>	

Sutherland co-ordinating), and ELMS

- Liz Small is coordinating the ELMS consultation (deadline end of next week)
- LGA is also to do a response to ELMS and asking about possibly doing a joint response
- Defra are running some interactive online webinars on ELMS if anyone is interested – details as follows:
  - Wednesday, 1st July – 12:00-1:30 pm
  - Tuesday, 7th July – 6:00-7:30 pm
  - Thursday, 16th July – 8:30-10:00 am
  - Thursday, 23rd July – 12:00-1:30 pm
  - Tuesday, 28th July – 8:30-10:00 am
  - Thursday, 30th July - 6:00-7:30 pm
- To register for one of these webinars, please go to:  
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/elm-policy-discussion-document-webinars-tickets-109605757772>

Next meeting in September.

#### **Water – Julia Beeden**

- Julia now back from redeployment
- Last Meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July by Teams was successful
- Main focus on environment plans
- New TOR to go on website
- Pick up writing response to Environment Agency Challenge and Choices consultation – closes 24 September 2020
- National Flood Management and other sub groups i.e. ASA also talking to Defra re the consenting process to the Land Drainage Act
- Planning related guidance
- Property projects
- Next meetings -September and October

#### **Energy – Carolyn McKenzie**

- Next meeting scheduled for next week
- Looking at the Clean Growth Strategy and how to deliver on that and also linking up to the Blue Print and Green Recovery
- An article requesting for more members for the group has appeared in the newsletter, a couple of people have come forward but more wanted. – please take back to your organisation and publicise.

7.	<p><b>ADEPT business – Hannah Bartram, ADEPT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Change webinar takes place on 30<sup>th</sup> July with over 50 interested to join. Speakers include Louise Marix Evans (Committee on Climate Change) and Cara Jenkinson (Ashden)</li> <li>• Will ask ADEPT members what they want from our climate change offer</li> <li>• Policy positions on active travel and e-scooters to be published in July and August will be looking at E scooter trials and the guidance around these</li> <li>• The Leadership Team wants to clarify its position on Devolution and set out principles what we would like to see in any devolution paper – this is on the LT agenda on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July.</li> <li>• ADEPT Autumn Conference – Resilient Places will take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> November in Bath.</li> </ul>	
8.	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>The Environmental Audit Committee is launching a new inquiry into biodiversity and ecosystems. There is a call out for evidence at the moment. See link here for more information:  <a href="https://committees.parliament.uk/work/448/Biodiversity/">https://committees.parliament.uk/work/448/Biodiversity/</a></p>	All
9.	<p><b>Notes of last meeting (23<sup>rd</sup> April)</b></p>  <p>Environment Board  NOTES 23<sup>rd</sup> April 20</p> <p>Actions:</p> <p>Quentin Carroll – not at meeting  Susanna May – not at meeting  Spring Conference reminder – Completed  Monthly calls – to continue. Steve Read will take over chairing and organising these</p>	SR
10.	<p><b>Board Chair, and dates of future meetings</b></p> <p>Paula reminded everyone that this was her last meeting as Chair. Paula said it has been an honour to be part of the Environment Board and her role with ADEPT will continue as 1<sup>st</sup> vice president. Director, Michele Cusack will attend future Environment Board meetings representing Somerset County Council.</p> <p>Steve Read from West Sussex will take over as Chair and his PA Tracey Butcher will take over the Board Secretary role from Sara Mein.</p> <p>Tracey Butcher to liaise with David Dale re October meeting</p>	TB/DD

and dates for 2021. Tracey will also set up the monthly 1 hour meetings

The Board thanked Paula and Sara for all their efforts on their behalf.

**Next meeting 28<sup>th</sup> October**