**ADEPT Natural Capital and Heritage Working Group forward agenda**

**January 2020**

The following themes have been identified for the working group:

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| **Theme** | **Working group lead** |
| Environment Bill (and associated legislation) | Adam Stewart, Defra (as point of information) |
| Biodiversity net gain | David Sutherland, Buckinghamshire  Liz Milne, Kent |
| Local Nature Recovery Strategy /  Nature Recovery Networks | Adam Stewart, Defra (as point of information) |
| Local Natural Capital Plans | David Sutherland, Bucks |
| LEP Industrial Strategies | Peter Moore, Reading  Andrew Leeming |
| ELMs | Adam Stewart, Defra (as point of information) |
| 25 year environment plan connections | Adam Stewart, Defra (as point of information) |
| Glover Review | Peter Chamberlain, Devon |
| Climate and ecological emergency (carbon net zero) | Liz Small, North Yorkshire  (David Dale to assist with links to broader ADEPT net zero agenda) |
| Data and evidence |  |
| Capacity and capability of local authorities in respect of natural capital and heritage | Liz Milne, Kent |
| Health and wellbeing of sector | Liz Milne, Kent |
| Increasing tree coverage / tree planting | Liz Small, North Yorkshire  Peter Moore, Reading |
| Tree and plant diseases | Jeremy Pickles, East Riding |
| Joint national task force |  |
| Heritage (tbc) |  |

The following outline work plan prioritise work for the next year (subject to amendment and Environment Bill influence):

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| 0-3 months | How do we meaningfully respond to Climate and Ecological Emergency, focussing on the practical approaches and natural capital elements to carbon offsetting (biodiversity lost, natural solutions etc). In first instance, this will focus on pulling together an evidence base for natural solutions; and look at making the business case for natural capital investment as natural solution to climate change. |
| Capacity and capability of local authorities in respect of natural capital and heritage - identifying what skills are needed within local government to respond to this agenda (in particular, delivering biodiversity net gain). To also consider the role of apprentices in the local government natural environment field. |
| Development of heritage issues and priorities (identify and programme into work plan accordingly). |
| 3-6 months | What's next for 25 YEP (assuming new Minister in post and position/outline policy known), including:   * Woodland strategy * Biodiversity Net Gain * Local Nature Recovery Strategy / Nature Recovery Networks * What can we learn from pioneer projects? |
| Local natural capital plans - feedback from Ox Cam and other pilots to build up knowledge on how we develop these plans and natural capital evidence base. |
| Engagement of planners with natural capital plans, BNG, NRN/LNRS to support delivery |
| Collation and signposting evidence of carbon storage potential of natural solutions (ongoing) |
| Glover review - watching brief and respond accordingly (will need to await Government response, which we may wish to make a call for if not forthcoming within this timeframe) |
| Tree and plant diseases - environmental issues, public health and safety and implications for LPAs (where are LPAs in respect of assessing and understanding this?). |
| 6-12 months | ELMs - will be affected by new minister |
| Nature Recovery Strategies |
| Natural Capital Plans |
| Biodiversity net gain |
| 12-24 months | Public health agenda - place-based research |