**ADEPT Waste Group meeting 19 September 2018**

The Waste Group met in September with guests from Proving Services, DEFRA and the Environmental Services Association in attendance.

Karen Farquharson from Proving presented on the work they have done with ADEPT on benchmarking Highways services, and explained the proposal to establish similar functions for waste & recycling. There was a keen response from the group with volunteers putting themselves forward to work with Proving to help develop this tool. The Waste Group will continue to take a close interest in this work.

An update on progress in developing the national Waste and Resources Strategy was provided by Ian Atkinson from Defra. Ian advised the group that Defra had run a series of stakeholder engagement workshops over the summer, where ADEPT was well represented. The Government are now looking to pull the outcomes of those events into the new Strategy which is planned to be launched later in the year.  The publication of the Strategy will be closely followed by consultations on Extended Producer Responsibility, new targets for packaging recycling, and a deposit return system. There is also likely to be a separate consultation on consistency of collection systems.

The limited ability to release sensitive information constrained some of the discussion but it was noted that there is potential for further action on a potential ban of single-use plastics, and that the consultation on EPR is likely to focus on three models. It was pointed out to Defra that, pending the outcome of the consultations, the lack of clear direction is prejudicing effective decision-making within local authorities.

The contribution from the ESA to the debate was welcomed, with clear overlap and common issues between the sectors.  Commitment was given by both ADEPT and ESA to continue to work together and share thinking on EPR and other issues of common interest.

The action for ADEPT members is to follow the development closely and be prepared to contribute to the consultations when published.

Hannah Bartram led the discussion on a proposed ADEPT policy position on waste, with attention focused on a draft circulated prior to the meeting (thanks to David Dale and Steve Palfrey for pulling it together). The discussion identified areas of improvement and a general desire for the statement to be firmer and stronger in terms of opinion and ambition.  A revised draft is being developed.

The group received a briefing from Kate Hands (LEDNet) on the single use plastics directive, and then discussed proposals to maintain the dialogue with Government about a potential incineration tax. It was noted that a meeting had been arranged with HM Treasury for 3 October.

Post meeting note: Ian Fielding as Chair of the ADEPT Waste Group was subsequently invited to attend a round table session with Michael Gove, Secretary of State for the Environment on 26 September.  ADEPT and the LGA were the only representatives of local government at the session and the opportunity was taken to lobby on the ambitions and opportunities for local government in the emerging waste and resources strategy, as well as the needs and wants to help us deliver.  ADEPT will continue to take every opportunity to engage in this process.

**Ian Fielding**

**Chair**