

Joint East and West Midlands Meeting

The West Midlands ADEPT Board met in early March to discuss the recent budget announcement, Industrial Strategy Green Paper and the Housing White Paper with colleagues from DfT and DCLG.

We also hosted the very first joint East and West Midlands ADEPT Board meeting. This important meeting focussed on shaping the draft proposal for a Sub-national Transport Body (STB) for the Midlands Engine. The meeting was used as a workshop with the team leading the STB proposal on behalf of the Midlands Engine (known as Midlands Connect). We focussed on a number of priority areas including the development of a statutory strategy, how we influence Highways England and Network Rail, the role within rail franchises, Smart Ticketing, prioritisation and governance.

The meeting brought together all local authorities from across the Midlands Engine and was valued by the team pulling together the STB proposal. There is no doubt this joint ADEPT board has influenced the next iteration of the proposal and the STB team were clear they would want to use this group again in the future. This puts ADEPT in a good position to be a major partner in the development of the Midlands Engine Strategy over the next few months.