

ADEPT Climate Change Board

Terms of reference

Purpose

The Climate Change Board is the voice of ADEPT when speaking on strategic climate change issues. It is outward-facing towards government and our partners within and beyond the local authority sector, rather than an internal offer to ADEPT members. It aims to:

- identify high-level concerns about the national climate action policy framework and delivery progress
- offer a way for Place Directors individually and collectively (via ADEPT's subject and regional Boards) to escalate their concerns here
- offer a route to influence policy and delivery by engaging with the key national forums including the Local Net Zero Forum, the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel, the Climate Change Committee and the Local Government Association
- collaborate with a range of partners to raise strategic climate action issues
- highlight areas where local authorities have opportunities to make greater progress with their climate action plans.

Terms of reference

- Provide advice and support to ADEPT's representatives on the Local Net Zero Forum (LNZF) and the Local Adaptation Advisory Panel (LAAP) and to contribute to workstreams commissioned by these bodies, respecting confidentiality at all times.
- Lobby government departments, the LNZF and the LAAP to take a strategic, cross-government approach to local climate action, both mitigation and adaptation, with effective engagement of all relevant government departments.
- Identify key local issues where delivery of climate actions is constrained by government policy and funding, provide evidence of this, and articulate the issues into the national and political forum.
- Engage with the Climate Change Committee and other statutory bodies where they are seeking input in relation to the role of local authorities in delivering net zero and resilient places.
- Collaborate with the Local Government Association (LGA) to feed issues into the political arena and to help shape the LGA's climate support offer to local authorities.
- Collaborate with other partners to raise strategic climate action issues – partners including the Blueprint Coalition, corporate and commercial partners, the other chief officer associations (Solace, ADCS, ADASS, ADPH, CIPFA, LEDNet*), professional associations and industry bodies.
- Engage with the work of all ADEPT's subject and regional Boards to ensure that climate action is a central part of their work.

- Highlight areas where local authorities have opportunities to make greater progress with their climate action plans.

The Board is strategic and outward-facing rather than providing operational advice and support to local authorities. It is not intended to be a professional or collaborative forum for local authority senior climate change managers, this function is provided by the LGA Climate Action Group and other forums offered by a range of partners. These other forums provide good opportunities for colleagues to network, highlight case studies, share best practice, and discuss operational issues around the delivery of local climate actions.

Membership of the Board

- ADEPT's representatives on the LNZF/Chair of the LAAP
- Chair of Environment Board
- Chair of Energy & Clean Growth Working Group
- ADEPT lead members on LGA and UK100 climate groups
- One Place Director from each subject and regional Board (except where those Boards are already represented above)
- CEO and Policy Officer.

Board members may send substitutes when necessary.

This is an internal Board for ADEPT leaders and as such has no standing membership from government departments, Arm's Length Bodies, or partners except by invitation for specific items or pieces of work. Local authority senior climate change managers may also be invited to contribute to specific pieces of work commissioned by the Board or LNZF/LAAP.

Meetings

The full Board will meet quarterly or thereabouts and dates will be arranged around the scheduled LNZF and LAAP meetings to best support ADEPT representatives there.

Smaller group meetings, or task groups with additional members drawn from beyond the Board, can be arranged as necessary to support specific pieces of work.

Review

These terms of reference will be formally reviewed every 12 months.

* Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Managers (Solace), Association of Directors of Children's Services (ADCS), Association of Directors of Adult Social Services (ADASS), Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH), Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA), London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet).