



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Monthly Environment Board Catch-Up

30th March 2022, 10:00-11:00

Notes

		ACTION OWNER
1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>The following members joined us for the first time today:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christine Rumble, Defra Environment Partnerships team.• Caroline George, Principal Policy Officer and Project Manager at London Environment Directors' Network (LEDNet)• Ellie Bentham, Solace (Environmental portfolio)• Ben Boswell, Herefordshire (Waste Group) member• Alexandra Dodds, Midlands Connect, Principal Policy Officer (biodiversity and sustainability on transport projects)	
2.	<p>Biodiversity Net Gain – ADEPT response</p> <p>This is a generalist policy approach to the Defra/ DLUHC consultation on BNG. Shared at ADEPT Planning group and Natural, Capital and Heritage group last week.</p> <p>It is a draft response to the consultation which closes next Tuesday. The consultation sets some general comments, and answers to the 55 standard questions and David Dale has tried to answer as many as possible. There are some debates around things like exemptions. David tended to argue in favour of minimal exceptions, to maximise benefit on nature and wildlife.</p> <p>ACTION: Board Members to forward their views on this and also on the Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPS) and how BNG should apply to that on to David Dale.</p>	ALL

	<p>Habitat Banking is not an area David Dale is familiar with. Most BNG engagements will happen on site of development that the application applies to but if not possible then it is possible to purchase credits for offsite. David can see opportunity to develop habitat on councils' estates.</p> <p>Liz Milne added that the only other thing to possibly note for other LAs is a proposal to include habitat banking in the ALGAE response. There will be enough to do on the process and finding land would be a stretch too far. Perhaps there could be a suggestion for developers buying into a credit system that the credits can be held off for a year or longer for the council to buy back or bring back in for investment to local area. It will be difficult to secure BNG sites and get them ready for 2023.</p> <p>Liz Small added re. concern on pressure on LAs and the issue on impartiality. If we are going into habitat banking is there a conflict of interest?</p> <p>Ben Boswell commented on habitat banking and that it draws a comparison to phosphate quotes where we can do credits for phosphate. Demonstrating certainty on credits. Phosphates needs to be 80 years. Also ensuring we have nationally set and robust trading platform.</p> <p>ACTION: David Dale to pull together a covering note to the response picking out the broader issues.</p> <p>ACTION: Board Members to send any comments to David Dale by 1st April.</p>	<p>DD</p> <p>ALL</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p>Nature Recovery Green Paper</p> <p>Liz Small gave a short presentation on the Nature Recovery Green Paper which the Government have launched. It proposes to simplify designations. The Consultation is open until 11th May. There is a workshop with the OEP on 4 April.</p> <p>ACTION: David Dale to liaise with Liz Small/Liz Milne about pulling together a response on the Nature Recovery Green Paper on behalf of ADEPT. Perhaps also include the Glover Landscape Consultation response.</p> <p>A month extension has been requested for this consultation and others. Defra advised Caroline George that this is unlikely to be a full month extension as they have a legal deadline of 31st Oct for getting the secondary legislation through parliament.</p>	<p>DD/LS/LM</p>

	<p>Liz Milne also mentioned the ALGAE response.</p> <p>ACTION: David Dale to request input from colleagues leading on biodiversity, woodland cover, marine, waste and air quality, and coordinate the ADEPT response to the Environmental targets consultation response.</p>	DD
4.	<p>Environmental Target Consultation</p> <p>Covered above.</p>	
5.	<p>Current service issues, pressures and risks</p> <p>ADEPT LT had a discussion on pressure on fuel costs impact and Russian suppliers and resettling from Ukraine. David Dale asked the Board to please raise any comments they may have.</p> <p>Sam Kennedy has written to government as funding has been allocated for fuel poor homes. The first tranche of funding needs to be applied for by tomorrow or it reverts back to Treasury. An extension has been requested as there is no way the works will be completed by June which means the funds will be clawed back. Sam commented that particularly due to the cost-of-living crises this is even more unhelpful than normal. Carolyn McKenzie commented that a lot of discussion has been around conditions of government grants. SE's procurement failed. Surrey had to go through so many hoops that delivery has only just been done.</p> <p>ACTION: Sam/Carolyn to liaise on producing a formal e-mail from ADEPT to say it is impossible to meet demands of the funding for fuel-poor homes. Sam to send input to Carolyn to put forward on behalf of ADEPT. (letter attached as addendum to meeting notes)</p> <p>Sam Kennedy also reported that the Public Sector decarbonisation funding this year was announced so late, there was only a few months to deliver the project which wasn't enough time.</p> <p>Peter Moore provided the link to the NAO July 2021 report on Local government and net zero in England - National Audit Office (NAO) Report and highlights the key quote in context of this discussion: 'a fragmented funding landscape dominated by competitive funds brings the risk that money does not go to where the need or opportunity is greatest, and it can make it difficult for local authorities to plan for the long term. It can also mean that local authorities that have been successful in winning funding previously continue to win most of the funding, because they have people with the expertise and time to identify suitable grants and apply. These challenges can be more severe</p>	SK/CM

where funds have short timescales for application and delivery. Some local authorities we spoke to were particularly concerned about the Green Homes Grant Local Authority Delivery scheme's timetable, which had restrictively short timescales for both application and delivery'.

Working Groups

Waste – Steve Palfrey

- The Waste Group have received a response from Government on the Waste Strategy on Saturday 26th March.
- Defra published their response to EPR.
- The Waste Group met on Monday 28th March but not had a change to read and so will meet again next week, 7th April at 15:00-16:30) to go through detail in the EPR response. **Please inform Steve if you'd like to join.**
- Scheme Administrator (take money from producers and brands for packaging material and sent for delivery). It will be a public body. Although Government haven't published a response for DRS there will be a DRS, but it won't include glass. Glass will continue to go through LAs and EPR and money will flow through that. The strategic focus is on how the system will work. Steve Read pointed out a suggestion that EPR money will help LAs fund what they do on consistency.

Energy & Clean Growth – Carolyn McKenzie

- See notes above with Sam Kennedy re. government grants.
- Energy Catapult came to last meeting. Colleagues will be aware of energy area mapping where potential for heat zoning in different areas is being done by government. This is being done by Energy Catapult and they are considering whether there's a need for regional energy plans. It will be put in at county level and has statutory link, provided evidence based and priority based for funding. The concept is welcomed, but the plan felt complex, and more discussion is needed. BEIS gave impression that they are keen to go with something like the Energy Plan process to frame what's being done in local areas. BEIS were asked "where do regional LEP strategies fit in?" and they answered that they were old news, and we were moving on from that. It is not yet known whether BEIS will be funding the replacement to the original Local Energy Strategies. However, they are supportive, and work is in development. The comments were that the regional strategies were too broad and need to be brought down to local level. Dialog to continue within the ECG group but please keep ADEPT appraised.

Flood and Water Management – Max Tant

Apologies received.

Natural Capital & Heritage – Liz Small/Liz Milne

- A review of the group on work priorities is taking place to improve effectiveness and engagement.
- Receiving more debate on heritage side. Have historic heritage too.

ACTION: Please inform Liz/Liz if you know anyone who would like to take over as Chair of the NCH group.

ALL

Defra – Christine Rumble

- A consultation on the [2030 Strategic Framework for International Climate and Nature Action](#) was published last week. This [will define the UK Government's vision for our long-term role tackling global climate](#) change and biodiversity loss. It seeks to take an integrated approach to climate change mitigation, adaptation and resilience, and the protection, conservation and restoration of nature. The call for views opened on 21 March and closes on 17 April. If you have any questions, please send them to 2030SF@defra.gov.uk.
- The **Environment Agency's** [new flood management roadmap](#) has been released, with the objective to improve hydrological data, models and science to help adapt and minimise risks from rivers, surface water, groundwater and reservoirs. It will guide the allocation of £5.2bn of government investment in flood management over 2021-27, including the design and maintenance of flood defences, risk mapping, warning schemes, and the design and operation of sustainable drainage systems. The roadmap will also help us understand the impact of climate change on flood risk and will support modelling of past and future climate change impacts.
- On 16 March, we [announced](#) proposals for nature recovery, including the publication of the [Nature Recovery Green Paper Consultation](#), the launch of the [Environmental Targets Consultation](#), and new guidance on [Nutrient neutrality](#). The Written ministerial statement can also be viewed [here](#).
- The [Nature Recovery Green Paper consultation](#) launched on 16 March and is live for 8 weeks, closing on 11th May 2022. The Nature Recovery Green Paper sets out our ambition and proposed direction of travel to enable nature's recovery in England. We are setting out proposals to create a system which better reflects the latest science and the impending impacts of climate change, and which better reflects our domestic species and habitats. The proposals will support our legally binding target to halt the decline of nature by 2030 and our commitment to protect 30% of our land and seas by 2030.
- The [Environment Act 2021 Targets consultation](#) launched on 16

	<p>March and is live for 8 weeks, closing on 11th May 2022. This includes consulting on a target to reduce residual waste (excluding major mineral wastes) kg per capita by 50% by 2042 from 2019 levels. It is proposed that this will be measured as a reduction from the 2019 level, which is estimated to be approximately 560 kg per capita. We are also seeking views on how best to progress a possible future resource productivity target.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Extended Producer Responsibility for packaging Government Response has now been published. Links to the Government response, final impact assessment and additional PRN consultation can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/packaging-and-packaging-waste-introducing-extended-producer-responsibility <p>EPR for packaging will now be introduced from 2024, with payments to local authorities for managing household packaging waste, including packaging managed in street bins, to be determined from 1 April 2024.</p> <p>Defra and the devolved administrations will continue to engage with stakeholders, including local government, to enable successful implementation of EPR in 2024. Please note, the level of engagement may be limited during the upcoming Pre-election period.</p> <p>ACTION: Christine to come back to Board re. timescales on response to the LNRS consultation.</p> <p>Christine informed that the government response on the Environment Principles Policy position is due to come out shortly.</p> <p>ACTION: Please feedback to Christine on what you would find useful for Defra to update on.</p> <p><u>Environment Agency</u> – Jennie Donovan Apologies received.</p> <p><u>Natural England</u> – Adam Wallace Apologies received.</p> <p><u>LEDNet</u> – Caroline George</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEDNet is working with London Councils and London’s cross-party Transport & Environment Committee on a suite of pan-London climate programmes. This borough-led action will help deliver ambitious decarbonisation and climate goals across 	<p>CR</p> <p>ALL</p>
--	--	----------------------

London – across from retrofitting, low carbon development and renewable energy, to low-carbon transport and climate resilient infrastructure, via green and circular economies. Action plans were [published last week](#) and can be read [here](#).

- We are also collaborating with the London Office for Technological Innovation and digital innovators from the public and private sectors, to explore how digital, data and smart cities approaches could support our climate goals. At this stage the work is exploratory, but we are looking to identify new pilots or scalable tools to support decarbonisation projects and citizen behaviour change, and we will share any learning and tools that emerge.
- Air quality and low-carbon transport is currently a particularly key focus, particularly given the context of the prevention of future death report, Defra’s proposed revisions of air quality targets, and in London the GLA/TfL proposals to extend the Ultra-Low Emission Zone (ULEZ),. We are focusing our next network meeting on these questions and on actions people have taken to improve air quality outcomes, data/monitoring, or communication with citizens/vulnerable groups. We are interested to learn from other parts of the country who have taken action on air quality and low carbon transport, as well as share our own learning if helpful for others.
- At a policy level, we are preparing responses or consultation input on biodiversity net gain implementation, Defra targets, the levelling up white paper CBD registration, and mandatory digital waste tracking – often in collaboration or conversation with colleagues from ADEPT, NAWDO, the Blueprint Coalition and other national networks.

Solace – Ellie Bentham

No update this time but will bring something to the next meeting following a meeting with the Policy Lead for Environment tomorrow, 31st March.

Other Issues, Risks and Questions - Councils

Nothing to note.

ADEPT – Hannah/David

- ADEPT Env Board meeting next month is main quarterly meeting. A draft agenda is circulating with the major focus being on climate change:
 - Defra coming on climate adaptation – Rob Mason

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate Change Committee re. work programme for coming year ○ FOE on climate change case studies published recently. ○ Waiting for local net zero forum to kick off which will give us a good lead into it. <p>Hannah reminded all to register for the ADEPT Spring Conference on 26th May 2022. Focus is on Levelling-up.</p>	
6.	<p>Any other urgent business</p> <p>None noted.</p>	
7.	<p>Dates of future meetings/calls</p> <p>27th April, 10:00-12:30 – Quarterly meeting via MS Teams</p>	