



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## Environment Board

30<sup>th</sup> June 2021, 14:00-15:00

*MS Teams videoconference call – join via link in calendar invitation*

### NOTES

1.	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>SR welcomed everyone and gave a special welcome to those joining for the first time - Quinton Carroll, John Meehan and Dan Clayton introduced themselves. Dan standing in for David Hickman (Lincolnshire). John standing in for Sam Kennedy (Essex). Quinton (representing Cambridgeshire along with Emma Fitch).</p> <p>SR explained that the monthly meetings starting during Covid and proved useful. A decision needs to be made as to whether the monthly meetings continue after the Q3 meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July.</p>	Steve Read
2.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Covid-19 and general service resilience / recovery</li></ul> <p>Covid is still very much an issue in West Sussex Place but impacting social care and education more than Place services.</p> <p>Self-isolation of contractor staff after positive testing is having some, but so far limited, impact.</p> <p>Rates are rising but the bigger proportion is among young people.</p> <p>Feed from the CEx when talking to Government is that civil servants are losing interest and want to talk about something else.</p> <p>Peter Moore, Reading, reported they have had surge testing with people at national level attending.</p> <p>Quinton Carroll, Cambridgeshire, reported very low rates but a significant increase in infection rates particularly in schools.</p>	All

<p>Ralph Kemp, Cheshire East, reported high infections rates. Struggling to keep all 3 services running now due to infection of RCV drivers. The Waste Group is sharing information on how the shortage of HGV drivers is impacting locally.</p> <p>Shaun Askins, Luton, commented on the lack of interest in job vacancies (running at 10%+ of the blue-collar workforce) which is impacting right across the board, not only in collection services. Summer holiday season will bring further pressure. Pressures include fewer workers from the EU and an ageing workforce.</p> <p>Steve Read noted that the ESA have called on government to relax restrictions regarding driver training and working hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working Groups</li> </ul> <p><b>Waste</b></p> <p>Government consultation on elements of the Resources and Waste Strategy. ADEPT had responded to the consultation on the waste prevention program. Responses are also on the website for the EPR and DRS consultations. Consistency in Collections consultation deadline is Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July. This is the one that has most impact on local authority service provision with a mandatory collection of food waste and a separate collection of a range of recyclables (tetrapack and plastic films and flexibles). A working group meets weekly to discuss consultation responses. The final meeting is tomorrow morning 09:00-10:00 after which the response will be submitted. There are concerns around EPR around representation to get a local government voice.</p> <p>David Dale informed the Board of the plan to invite ESA (trade association for waste), who launched their Net Zero Strategy this week, to the next quarterly meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> July.</p> <p><b>Energy &amp; Clean Growth</b></p> <p>Next meeting – 26<sup>th</sup> July. Update to follow at quarterly Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Flood and Water Management</b></p> <p>Next meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> July. Update to follow at quarterly Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Natural Capital &amp; Heritage</b></p> <p>Peter Moore spoke on behalf of Liz Milne and Liz Small.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Phil Sterling FCIEEM, Programme Manager, spoke at the last</li> </ul>	<p>Steve Palfrey</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie</p> <p>Max Tant</p> <p>Liz Milne / Liz Small</p>
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meeting on verge management/designs for multiple benefits.

Hannah shared his slides:

[https://butterflyconservation-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/psterling\\_butterfly-conservation\\_org/Ek-Ahzq7uOdFme1Ua0eZACgBjqUzhfsKDXyITb88MP2yA?e=X8H7Xm](https://butterflyconservation-my.sharepoint.com/:f/g/personal/psterling_butterfly-conservation_org/Ek-Ahzq7uOdFme1Ua0eZACgBjqUzhfsKDXyITb88MP2yA?e=X8H7Xm)

- OxCam gave a presentation on eco assessments. There's a feeling that amazing work is being done but there's concern about how it can be replicated elsewhere due to lack of resource.
- ADEPT response to Environment Principles was discussed.
- DEFRA provided a written update on the Environment Bill. Clarity is needed on how and when additional burdens arising will be funded.
- Missed out on Treescapes Fund as the deadline was too tight, and an extension came too late.

David Sutherland reported that he was the sole local authority rep at a recent meeting giving evidence to the EFRA Select Committee enquiry on the England Tree Strategy. It covered a variety of issues, skills, funding, and the importance of local authorities.

#### **Defra**

Joe Wahla acknowledged that it certainly doesn't feel like Covid has gone away as we are all still working remotely. However, seeing less correspondence.

#### **Environment Bill:**

The Environment Bill Second Reading debate was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June and the Lords Committee Stage began on 21<sup>st</sup> June. Progress will continue after the Summer Recess ending 12<sup>th</sup> July. Lord Goldsmith announced a number of Government Amendments to the Bill for Lords Committee Stage:

- 1) Require a historic, new legally binding target on species abundance in England for 2030
- 2) Reduce the harm from storm overflows to rivers, waterways, and coastlines
- 3) Two devolution related amendments a) OEP to set out in its strategy how it intends to cooperate with equivalent bodies in devolved administrations b) consent requirements in Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006.
- 4) Devolution-related amendments to the Environmental Principles clauses.
- 5) Consultations on key policy areas e.g. DRS and EPR.

396 amendments tabled so far in Lords. More info at: [Hansard](#).

Joe Wahla

<p>Skills Survey: The Bio-Diversity Net Gain team are in receipt of the final report. Next steps are to go through Defra publishing process.</p> <p>Local Authority Engagement: First draft of the Local Authority Environment Bill Q&amp;A product prepared.</p> <p><b>ACTION: JW to share with the Board next week for their feedback.</b></p> <p>Other updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On 6<sup>th</sup> May announced a 10p plastic bag charge to be in force from 21<sup>st</sup> May.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Social Prescribing Pilots</a> highlighted on social media on National Social Prescribing Day, Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May.</li> <li>• On 14<sup>th</sup> June the Government published response to the global Dasgupta Review on the Economics of Biodiversity. <a href="#">Press Notice</a> and <a href="#">Full Response</a>.</li> <li>• On 24<sup>th</sup> June announced proposals to improve and create protected landscapes across England</li> <li>• The Outcome Indicator Framework (OIF) was updated in June.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION: JW to find out about timing of new burdens payments for Local Authorities.</b></p> <p>Glover Review A meeting with Defra took place yesterday. Written ministerial statement was published on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Defra are still formalising its response which will be part response and part consultation. There will be opportunities for Local Authorities as well as ADEPT to contribute. It was noted that the intention within senior levels is to press for primary legislation in terms of AONB and national parks. The Glover Review is being planned for the agenda of the next quarterly Board meeting.</p> <p><b>ACTION: JW to feedback re. approach to Government announcements to ensure that those local authorities directed affected are informed in advance.</b></p> <p>Ariane Crampton, Wiltshire, sits on the LGA Climate Action Group and has continuous experience of the tight bidding windows. They have been informed that the Treasury is only allocating one year's funding and so only able to offer things for a year. Funding was successful on Treescapes as this is possible to achieve within a year.</p> <p><b><u>Completed Action Points</u></b></p>	<p>JW</p> <p>JW</p> <p>JW</p>
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<p><b>ACTION:</b> Defra has a big link with protected landscapes. JW isn't involved will look into it with a view to bringing Sion McGeever to a future Board meeting</p> <p><b>JW</b>-Jon Taylor, Head of Future Landscapes Strategy and Governance, was meeting with few Board Members on 25/05 to discuss future engagement.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> JW to bring plans back to ADEPT Env Board to discuss and finalise.</p> <p><b>JW</b>-Working on Local Authority Environment Bill Q&amp;A Product and will come back and test draft with Board very soon when it is ready. Also looking into potential for Environment Bill roadshows, will advise when have more detail.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> JW to enquire about a deadline extension for EPR and DRS (Resource and Waste Strategy) Consultations so that all 3 can be considered at the same time. Consistency in Collections consultation is delayed until after the elections.</p> <p><b>JW</b>-Extension was not feasible, but Consistency in Collections Consultation was launched on the 7<sup>th</sup> of May (ending 4<sup>th</sup> July), and overlapped with DRS and EPR Consultations 24 March to 4<sup>th</sup> June.</p> <p><b>Environment Agency</b> Update to follow at quarterly Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Natural England</b> Update to follow at quarterly Board meeting.</p> <p><b>Other Issues, Risks and Questions</b> Quinton Carroll reported of hearing about issues with a shortage of archaeological field staff. Contracting units have been hit with massive increase in planning, NSIPS and shortage of European workers. A meeting is scheduled with the Home Office officials. David Dale asked whether there is a wider issue of work and skills? It was noted that most employment will be independent units rather than Local Authorities. Sheffield University is closing its archaeology department due to lack of placements. Quinton clarified that skills to work on sites are not taught in universities and so there is need for in-house training. Steve Read suggested this is discussed at Natural Capital and Heritage Group and has offered the help of the ADEPT Board where possible.</p> <p><b>ADEPT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Glover Review – more to follow.</li> <li>• London climate action week – how Local Authorities can turbo</li> </ul>	<p>Jennie Donovan</p> <p>Adam Wallace</p> <p>Councils</p> <p>Hannah/David</p>
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	<p>charge net zero strategy. Eddie Hughes. Cll David LGA. This Fri p.m. Blueprint coalition will be publishing/launching document on 'Recognising Local Authorities as key partners in Net Zero Strategy'.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ADEPT/CIPFA Webinar – 21<sup>st</sup> July 11:00-12:00. Register at <a href="https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/invite">https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/invite</a> or direct with CIPFA at <a href="#">Building the Business Case for Renewable Energy   CIPFA</a></li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> ADEPT Board Members to volunteer to be involved with Hannah and David in reviewing the ADEPT Climate Change Policy position for the run up to COP26.</p> <p>Peter Moore, Shaun Askins have offered to help.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Hannah to send COP26 toolkit for Local Authorities to Board members, when available.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>HB</p>
3.	<p><b>Agenda for 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021 Quarterly meeting</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESA decarbonisation - Waste Group colleagues to be invited to this part.</li> <li>Glover Review – Sustainable Growth Board to be invited for this part.</li> <li>Local Nature Recovery Strategy - checking with Adam Wallace to see if he or a colleague can join.</li> <li>National Audit Office – local government and net zero report due to be published in July.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> Please feedback in MS Teams meeting chat box or via e-mail on how you feel about F2F Board meetings. To be picked up in July meeting for a decision.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>All</p>
4.	<p><b>Any other urgent business</b></p> <p>None reported.</p>	<p>All</p>
5.	<p><b>Dates of future meetings/calls</b></p> <p>Quarterly meeting - Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2021, MS Teams.</p>	<p>Steve Read</p>