

## **ADEPT Environment Board update – April 2020**

The Environment Board held a virtual meeting on Thursday 23 April via Microsoft Teams which went well. 18 local authorities participated, plus partners from a range of other organisations.

We were joined by Susanna May, Director of Environmental Quality at Defra, who updated us on Covid-19 work in relation to access to green spaces, waste management and air quality. There was also an update from the Environment Agency on the challenges faced moving floods emergency response in February to Covid-19 in March. Natural England provided a written update for the Board. We heard from our Working Group chairs on their work and how Covid-19 has impacted on their work across waste, natural capital, flood and water, and energy.

Susanna May briefed the Board on progress with the Environment Bill up to 19 March when all regular legislation was postponed. While government intends to reintroduce the Bill at a suitable time there is no indication of when this will be. Defra will share its implementation plans with stakeholders including ADEPT I due course.

The Board is planning monthly 1-hour virtual catch ups on Thursday 28 May and Thursday 25 June. The next full meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 22 July and we assume this will be another virtual meeting.