

Coaching for High Performance

The final two days of the Aspiring Place Directors Leadership Programme exceeded expectation. Hosted by Milton Keynes Council, day one began with an overview of the Oxford to Cambridge Arc and ambitious plans to making the city greener.

Geoff Snelson (pictured), Milton Keynes Director of Strategy and Futures, gave us a glimpse into the long-term vision to create a world-leading sustainable city which embraces innovation, generates high quality jobs and recognises its vital role in tackling the global challenges of climate change.



Geoff spoke about the importance of creating an eco-system of partners, building trusted relationships and striking the balance of strategic focus and open innovation. Key messages included taking risks to be extraordinary, having a compelling innovation vision to attract partners and a network of talented people.

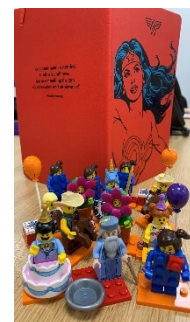
With our brilliant trainer, Andrew Odgers, we covered a lot of ground thereafter. From high performing cultures to talent management, through to situational leadership.



The evening involved a delicious Turkish meal and a trip to the Escape Rooms. Channelling our competitive streaks proved our brains work better under pressure. We all solved the puzzles and escaped from our locked rooms before the 60 minutes deadline.

Day two saw us practice our coaching skills and cultivating the capacity to thinking strategically. Our favourite quote from the two days: "*The early bird catches the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese*". Our final day was made more special by Luton Borough Council's Shaun Askins who kindly gifted us each a LEGO mini figure.

This represents the fourth and final update from the inaugural cohort. Without a shadow of doubt, this 8-month Programme has been a defining career shift moment for us all and has laid the perfect foundations to continue our individual leadership journeys.



Rest assured, this is not the end for this cohort. We will be sharing reflections and stories at the Autumn Conference in Bath on 21/22 November. Between now and then, we are each exploring options to remaining involved with ADEPT and planning a get together in February 2020.

18 September 2019