

ADEPT Digital Connectivity Working Group update – January 2020

The ADEPT Digital Connectivity Working Group met on 14 January 2020. There were 9 attendees from local authorities, along with a representative from the Local Government Association (LGA) and guest speakers.

It was noted that the response to consultation on planning reforms for improved mobile connectivity has been submitted on 4 November 2019 ([here](#)).

Nicola M^cCoy-Brown, the Chair of the Group, confirmed she'd met with the Deputy Director, Mobile & Infrastructure & Spectrum at the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sports (DCMS) on 13 December 2019 which would pave the way for further dialogue with the new Chief Executive of Ofcom when she is in post.

Dan Shamplin-Hall, Adviser at the LGA, provided an update and insights into what might be coming up from the new government.

Gareth Elliot, Head of Policy and Communications, MobileUK (the trade body for mobile network operators) reminded the Group about the proposed Shared Rural Network (SRN) and shared insights into planning reform in readiness for 5G and extending coverage in rural areas.

Andy Carter, Operating Model, Governance & Stakeholder Lead, and Laura Battisegola, Commercial stream lead at DCMS, provided the group with insights into the Outside In Programme. An Outside In task and finish group is being established by Group members.

It was agreed that for the forthcoming year, the Group will focus on three items:

- 1) Review of the ADEPT Digital Policy in line with Government emerging policy (particularly the rural roaming piece given the Shared Rural Network)
- 2) What barriers local authorities experience within their sphere of influence in rolling out ubiquitous fixed broadband
- 3) Establish greater dialogue with MobileUK to influence rollout of mobile broadband where there is currently market failure