

Joint meeting of the Environment and Sustainable Growth Boards 25th October 2019

Following a previous successful joint meeting, the Boards came together again at the TCPA in London on 25th October to discuss climate change. The meeting was well-attended with approximately 35 people present including 6 guest speakers.

The first of these was Hana Chambers from the Cabinet Office, she is part of the small but rapidly expanding team set up to plan and deliver the UN Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow in November 2020. The UK will set the agenda for COP26 and manage the international negotiations around it in terms of delivering the Paris Agreement on climate change actions and targets. Hana gave a very helpful insight into the scale of the event, the challenges in terms of both national and international political dynamics, and the potential opportunities for regions and localities to engage with the process over the coming 12 months. There will be opportunities for ADEPT to promote and showcase council initiatives, and to contribute to the programme of events aimed at maximising clean growth investment that will run before and after the main COP26 event. We will also be talking to the Cabinet Office about the possibility of seconding a local government person into the team under the ADEPT banner.

Nigel Riglar and Hannah Bartram explained the ADEPT programme of work on climate change, some of which – the Advisory Panel, and regional workshops – are described elsewhere in this Newsletter. The meeting then heard from our local government partners, the LGA and LEDNet, about what they are planning to do – this gives a sound basis for making sure we work together, rather than duplicate efforts. The meeting also had interesting presentations from a number of partner organisations – Friend of the Earth, Ashden, and the RTPI – and again some of their resources for councils are described elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Finally, colleagues from Defra gave an update on the Environment Bill which had been introduced to Parliament after the recent Queen's Speech, and was due to have its 2nd Reading in the Commons on 28th October.