

## **ADEPT Midlands Board update – January 2020**

The ADEPT Midlands Board met on 20 January 2020, hosted in the Birmingham offices of Grant Thornton. There were 11 attendees from local authorities, along with representatives from Highways England, Department for Transport (DfT), East Midlands Councils and ADEPT. The guest speakers were from the DfT and Midlands Engine.

Briony Jones and Phil Keynes (Officers from Nottinghamshire County Council) provided the Board with an overview of the ADEPT Midlands Climate Change Workshop which had taken place earlier that day. The workshop had come about because the ADEPT Leadership Team had made climate change and the environment one of their three strategic priorities. Establishing a climate change programme (of which the policy statement is one element) was the focus of discussions and how the Programme will be delivered on-the-ground. The Midlands Workshop was ADEPT's first of seven scheduled to take place during the first quarter of the year.

As ADEPT intends to develop a further policy statement on clean growth and improving air quality, the feedback from the morning will now help shape what actions the collective can take forward. The Workshop started with presentations from experts, policymakers and practitioners (representatives from Ashdens, the LGA and three Midlands Local Authorities), followed by conversation clusters focussed on networking and collaborating on ideas, action and planning.

Andy Rhind (Deputy Director, Midlands, South West and Regional Projects, Regions, Cities and Devolution Directorate, DfT) presented an update on Government Transport Policy.

Rachael Greenwood (Programme Director, Midlands Engine) shared an update and insights into the work of the Midlands Engine.

The Board felt they should be exploring Brexit opportunities for further international openings. This along with the following further six topics will form the agenda for 27 May 2020 meeting:

- Strategic Transport Board - galvanise Midlands Partnership. As there is no STB policy position in Government, assist in the development of the Midlands proposition. Identify where there are problems and issues
- Following the ADEPT/LGTAG joint response to Aviation 2050 consultation, discussion on ADEPT's (yet to be produced) Aviation thought-piece
- Discussion with DfT (Barbara King?) around the upfront cost of infrastructure investment and the requirement for local contributions
- Discussion on Future Mobility Zones Fund and encouraging learning from the Live Labs model for DfT
- Touch base on MIPIM (10-13 March 2020) Midlands UK Pavilion to take stock and how the group can assist in the wider place-shaping agenda and preparing for 12-15 March 2021 show
- Update from 21 May ADEPT Spring Conference and Annual Awards Dinner 2020