

Transport Board Update – June 2019

The Transport Board met in London on 21st June. We welcomed Stephen Fidler, the new Director, Local Transport, at DfT. Stephen is an old friend of ADEPT having been Deputy Director both of Local Transport and Buses and Taxis in the past and so we were very pleased to welcome him whilst wishing Graham Pendlebury a long and happy retirement from DfT. Stephen had a very open discussion with us about some of the challenges that he sees moving forward including what does “Net Zero” mean for Transport. He also alluded to some thought being given to how the funding model for local government could be changed to support more efficient and effective delivery. The majority of the board’s time was spent discussing the recent consultation on aviation and the joint response from ADEPT and TAG. There are some very real challenges in the aviation industry and some disappointment from ADEPT members in the content of the consultation. Our response, which will be on our web pages, reminds government of our climate change challenges and asked DfT to consider the role of aviation in travel within the UK. It also challenged the “ad hoc” way that airports develop across the country based on individual business decisions by airport owners rather than taking a more holistic view of the national need. Progress from the four working groups that support the Transport Board were received and will be available in the minutes of the meeting and there was also a brief update on the progress of the CIHT Review on Local Roads – which is currently being drafted by CIHT prior to some further discussion with stakeholder groups including ADEPT.

Finally we learnt that two of our colleagues were stepping down from the board. Nick Tupper of Norfolk is retiring and so we thank him and wish him well but also Mike Ashworth is stepping down as Chair due to work load issues back at the ranch in Derbyshire (with their no CEO model). Along with Mike, Jim Seymour of Derbyshire is stepping down as Secretary. Many thanks to both of them – I think Mike has been on the board since they invented the wheel so he will be missed and we hope he finds time to join the board every once in a while.