



Association of Directors of  
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

## ADEPT President's Awards 2022

### Entry form

<b>Award category:</b>	3: Shaping places for people
<b>Title:</b>	Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project
<b>Entrant:</b>	South Gloucestershire Council
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<b>Partner/s (if applicable):</b>	Environment Agency, Bristol City Council
<b>Headline summary (<u>150 characters</u>, c. 20-25 words)</b>  The project will provide 17km of flood defences and new wetlands, benefitting 2,500 homes and businesses, unlocking 12,000 new jobs for the region, and boosting biodiversity.	

Please note we need **at least one supporting image** per award submission.  
Supporting images should be attached separately as jpg or png files.

Please paste links to any supporting video evidence here

Link 1	<a href="#">Avonmouth and Severnside Enterprise Area (ASEA) Ecological Mitigation &amp; Flood Defence Project update - YouTube</a>
Link 2	<a href="#">ASEA Ecological Mitigation &amp; Flood Defence Project: New hybrid glass flood defence on Severn Estuary - Bing video</a>



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**500-word project outline** (please ensure you do not exceed the word count and address all the judges' criteria – for more info see [here](#))

Adjacent to the Severn Estuary, the ASEA Ecology Mitigation and Flood Defence Project was initiated in 2015 in response to significant concern about flood risk posed by rising sea levels and to further unlock economic growth and employment land within the Enterprise Area. It also provides wetland habitat for migrating birds to mitigate for the loss of land to development, while also developing networks of natural new refuges for other wildlife. Construction commenced in 2020.

Once complete in 2026/27, the project benefits will comprise of:

- Construction of 17km of flood defences to manage the risk of flooding to keep pace with climate change and rising sea levels, using a broad range of innovative techniques such as hybrid glass, earth embankment and pre-constructed flood defence units.
- Creation of over 80ha of wetland habitat for birds along the Severn Estuary - an internationally important site for biodiversity.
- Reduction in flood risk to 2,500 homes and businesses and helping to unlock 12,000 new jobs within the West of England.
- Improved walking routes - making it easier for people to enjoy nature and the spectacular views of the Severn Estuary.

A landmark partnership between South Gloucestershire Council, Bristol City Council and the Environment Agency is delivering the project. The partnership provides a solution to addressing key issues on a regional scale and enables access to a greater pool of expertise and resources, including funding. The main sources of funding were accessed through both the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and DEFRA.

Potential environmental, social and economic impacts were assessed during the design and development stage. Extensive public consultation was undertaken ahead of a planning application submitted in 2018. The project was found to deliver social value through creation of employment, enhancing productivity, protecting key transport infrastructure for coastal communities, and allowing them to adapt to climate change.

There is increasing evidence of the long-term mental health impacts of being flooded or being anxious about the risk of flooding over prolonged periods. By actively adapting to climate change and reducing the risk of flooding the project affords people long-term security about their homes, jobs and local places. The project also improves mental health through access to nature, in particular the estuarine landscape, tree planting and wetland creation. An example of the innovative project work in this area are the hybrid glass flood defences which were installed in February 2022 at New Passage, a popular viewpoint and birdwatching spot on the Severn Way coastal footpath. Residents and visitors will still be able to enjoy the breath-taking views of the Severn Estuary while the panels provide robust flood defence for years to come.

Engagement continues with stakeholders as the project progresses. In 2021, a Community Forum consisting of parish councils and interest groups and an Environment and Economic Stakeholder Forum for local business and environmental representatives were established so groups can



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continue to have their say. This includes the opportunity for the construction contractor to further engage with individuals and landowners and participate within local community projects.