

ADEPT Minutes

Date: 30th July 2024

Time: 11:00 – 12:00

Location: MS Teams

Present:	
Sophie Broadfield - Chair Banes	Kylie Russell - ADEPT
Hannah Bartram - ADEPT	Sarah Valdus – Wiltshire Council
Emma Blackham – South Gloucestershire	Meg Booth – Devon County Council
Nigel Blackler – Peninsula Transport	Julian McLaughlin – BCP Council
Lynn Trigwell – Wiltshire Council	Wendy Lane – BCP Council
Paul Barnard – Plymouth City Council	Lisa Nash – Banes (Minutes)

Guest Speaker	David Glinos – Department of Transport
Guest Speaker	Tina Brinkworth – Plymouth Council

Item No	
1	Welcome and minutes – Sophie Broadfield - Chair
Apologies: Mickey G, Nicky W, Nigel R, Paul H, Paul B, Paula H, Anthony P, Sarah V, Sophie H, Vicky F, Miranda H	
2	Update ADEPT – Hannah Bartram
Transport	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We responded to the DfT consultation on its Transport Adaptation Strategy (here) and the draft network management duty guidance on implementing low-traffic neighbourhoods (here). We also published a blog on the transport adaptation strategy (here). 2. We have produced our ‘elevator pitch’ setting out our top transport asks (which will be on the ADEPT website in the next few days) – we’ve also written to the new SoS for transport. 3. The King’s Speech included a Better Buses Bill. DfT tell us the precise Bill content is still being finalised, but they currently envisage that it will focus on the franchising process and municipal bus companies and is likely to include measures such as providing automatic access to franchising powers, without a requirement for the Secretary of State’s consent, to all Local Transport Authorities; repealing section 22 of the Bus Services Act 2017 which currently prevents the establishment of new municipal bus companies; 3) updating and simplifying the variation process for franchising schemes; other improvements to streamline franchising, potentially including amendments to the audit and information provision aspects; 5) requirements to share or publish transparent data on performance and funding; and 6) a local network safeguard mechanism. They are expecting to move relatively rapidly, introducing the legislation to Parliament in the next few months, although 	

timing is not yet confirmed. They are planning some stakeholder events in the early autumn to get input and views from across the local transport authority and bus sectors.

Devolution / Growth / Planning

4. We are refreshing the ADEPT Housing Policy Position – to be published shortly – and we have written to the new SoS for MHCLG.
5. We launched a Leadership Pathway Programme for managers at the Spring Conference ([here](#)). Developed in partnership with Solace, the programme has been designed to meet the needs of middle managers looking to move into a more senior leadership role. It is the precursor to ADEPT’s highly regarded Leadership Development Programme. For further information click [here](#) and to download an expression of interest form click [here](#).
6. Widely trailed, the government will make a significant planning announcement later today. MHCLG gave us the heads up and we’ve provided a quote. Some headlines:
 - . All councils in England are to be given new, mandatory housing targets to pave the way to deliver 1.5 million more homes.
 - a. Currently just a third of councils have a Local Plan that is under five years old - government will take the tough decisions and step in where needed to drive progress, ensuring local areas get a say on how, but not if, homes are built.
 - b. In addition to restoring mandatory housing targets, the method used to calculate them will be updated. The first port of call for development will be brownfield land. Councils will have to review their green belt land if needed to meet their own target, identifying and prioritising ‘grey belt’ land. The update will make clear the requirement for councils to consider the proximity of new homes to existing transport infrastructure. In all cases, land that is safeguarded for environmental reasons will continue to be protected. Land released in the Green Belt will be subject to the government’s ‘golden rules’, which make clear that development should deliver 50% affordable homes, increase access to green spaces and put the necessary infrastructure in place, such as schools and GP surgeries.
 - c. A commitment to making it easier to build key infrastructure such as laboratories, gigafactories and data centres, as well as making changes to deliver more large onshore wind projects and solar development across the country.
 - d. The government will take steps to deliver quality affordable and social housing – including changes to Right to Buy, giving councils flexibility to use their receipts to build and buy more social homes. The government has also confirmed that at the next fiscal event it will provide councils and housing associations with the rent stability they need to be able to borrow and invest in new and existing homes – while ensuring that there are appropriate protections for both existing and future social housing tenants.

Environment

7. The Blueprint Coalition (of which ADEPT is a member) is hosting a webinar on *How can devolution deliver on environmental ambition?* Speakers include: Peter Moore, Co-chair of the Blueprint Coalition and member of the ADEPT Climate Change Board; Cllr Tom Ross, Greater Manchester Combined Authority Green City Lead; Cllr Marissa Heath, Cabinet Member for Environment at Surrey County Council; Dr Matthew Lane, University of Edinburgh; and Victoria Marsom, Head of England team, Friends of the Earth. This is being held 10:00-11:00am, 11th September 2024 – link to register is <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZModOCrqt0rGNUotOwH7JJ15rZRq2TtEB4I#/registration>.

8. We are reviewing / updating our Climate Change and Green Growth policy position and the Resources & Waste policy position, and our 'elevator pitches' – these will be published shortly. We will be seeking meetings with relevant ministers / civil servants.
9. In this month's climate change blog David Dale, ADEPT Policy Officer, looks at how climate change features in the new government's priorities (see [here](#)).

Events / Other

10. We have published updated versions of the Commuted Sums for Highway Infrastructure Asset Management guidance ([here](#)) and the ADEPT Digital Connectivity policy position ([here](#)).
11. Dates for your diary:
 - . Hot on the heels of a successful Spring Conference and Annual Awards Dinner (summary report [here](#)) – we are beginning to plan the Autumn Conference. This will be held in Bristol on 21st & 22nd November – and you can now book! See [here](#).
 - a. Booking for the 6th National Traffic Managers Conference is now open – taking place in Derby on 9th October. [Book your free place here](#) - open to members and non-members.
12. The 2024 PACE Programme is well underway – this year focusing on the strategic theme of 'making a stronger case for place'. The summary report for Session 1 – *Advocating the case for place* – can be found [here](#) and the blog is [here](#). Session 2 focused on *Planning for Stronger Places*; the blog is [here](#).

Update from Paul Barnard:

Publication today by Angela Raynard of the new National Planning Policy Framework, notes that some of the changes have under the previous administration have been reversed. With immediate effect this is subject to consultation for the next 6-8 weeks.

Policy change: reintroduction of mandatory housing targets, standard methodology has been changed to reflect levels of affordability.

3	What is everyone watching out for at the moment following our new government Sophie asks?
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Meg Booth

National Audit Office Report – Condition of maintenance of local roads in England. Published in the last week, Meg notes implications for ourselves and the DfT.

National Infrastructure – Minister, authority and the announcement yesterday also quite interesting, awaiting news on what the planning reforms bring today.

Unfunded Network North Monies – Lots in the pipeline, don't know what's going to happen going forward with regards to what is and isn't funded.

Curo – Housing Association – Chair Victor De-Cunha – Housing round table tomorrow Victor is attending – Sophie may be able to feedback after that.

4	Department of Transport Update: - David Glinos
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- Big audit announcement yesterday re cancellation of two road projects, A27 & also A303 Stonehenge scheme will be cancelled

- Restore your railway will be canned, does not mean individual schemes within that can't be progressed
- There will be a review of the transport infrastructure portfolio
- The announcement also referred to an unfunded funding capital gap at DfT of about billion, but after speaking to others may be more
- Likely to be written ministerial statement in Parliament this afternoon
- DfT will need to save 2% in administration budget
- A suspending review which will conclude next Spring, followed by departmental expenditure limits for 2025/26
- Chancellors Audit: unfunded items mentioned like £2 bus fare, (unfunded rail subsidy was used)
- Ministers are taking a break over the summer, so ministerial activity will be limited

Question:

Will the current £2 fare be removed quite quickly? It runs out at the end of this year, past that David does not know.

5

Best Practise: Skills Launchpad Plymouth – Tina Brinkworth

Please see the attached presentation

Questions:

What did you find the hardest in getting it set up to this point?

What sort of tip would you give to us all if we were going to take a similar approach?

Once we had the strategy in place, the employment and skills board was re-shaped, the strategy was there along with an action plan and mechanism to deliver; the rest was relatively easy. The trickiest part was trying to grow the number of providers, and work coaches. We have been able to progress and significantly as a city now we're outperforming other counties. The above is reducing the unemployment rates in the area.

Employment pathways are being put in place for vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals. How do you raise awareness of the huge range of an opportunity you can get working for a local authority?

Tina is happy to share case studies upon request. The magic number is 4, significant outreach is done, and it's embedded in research. Four inspirational opportunities to meet employers they are 4 times as likely to enter into that sector than their peers.

Looking at the front page of launchpad, it recognises cost of living issues, what is the relationship with young people staying in the area.

Work is completed across the system; this particularly impacts our care experienced young people. Where there is accommodation, we make sure that payment is above the national living wage, to enable them to afford their accommodation.

Where mental health support needs to be provided, we are providing training for employers. Training is also provided around trauma where and when required.

AOB:

Sophie and Emma have discussed meetings going forward and it's been decided they will take place more frequently and be one hour in length.

Links from Chat:

<https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/climate-change-blog>

<https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/events/adept-autumn-conference-2024>

<https://www.insidehousing.co.uk/news/rayner-set-to-raise-housing-targets-by-50-in-new-planning-framework-87828>

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/669c04b9ce1fd0da7b59295b/Joint_SoS_letter_to_eNGOs_on_Planning_Bill.pdf

Next meeting: **Tuesday 24th September 14:30 – 15:30**