

ADEPT - Energy & Clean Growth Working Group Minutes

Date & Time:	Monday 2nd December 2024, 13:00 – 15:00
Venue:	Microsoft Teams Meeting
Chair:	Sheryl French – Assistant Director, Climate Change and Energy Services, Cambridgeshire County Council
Attendees:	<p>Alison Dickinson – Project Manager, Worcestershire Local Enterprise Partnership (ADI) Chitra Nadarajah - Head of Service, Climate Change & Environmental Strategy, Hampshire County Council (CNA) Daire Casey – Energy Services Manager, West Sussex County Council (DCA) David Lewis – Senior Project Manager, South West Net Zero Hub (DLE) Doug Eltham – Head of Environment, Devon County Council (DEL) Jordan Clydesdale – Wiltshire Council (JCL) Katie Sargent – Greener Futures Group Manager, Surrey County Council (KSA) Kofi Adu-Gyamfi - Climate Change Service Lead, West Berkshire Council (KAD) Kyle Russell – Deputy Chief Executive Officer, ADEPT (KRU) Lynn Trigwell – Head of Climate and Environment, Wiltshire Council (LTR) Margaret Enstone – Sustainability and Climate Change Lead Officer, Darlington Borough Council (MEN) Marouane Azennoud – Energy Manager, West Northamptonshire Council (MAZ) Melania Tarquino – Strategic Energy Lead, Surrey County Council (MTA) Patrick Allcorn - Head of Local Energy, DESNZ (PAL) Stacy Sheppard – Retrofit Development Manager, Wiltshire Council (SSH) Thomas Day – Head of Energy & Low Carbon Programme, Essex County Council (TDA)</p>
Guests:	<p>Emily Bolton – Cambridgeshire County Council Fadi Alwadan – Greater South East Net Zero Hub Mark Holmes – Cornwall Council Peter Gudde – Greater South East Net Zero Hub</p>
Note Taker:	Bayley Wooldridge – Energy Projects Officer, Cambridgeshire County Council (BWO)
Apologies:	Alexander Beckett Steve Palfrey

Item No.	Item
1.	<p><u>Welcome, minutes and actions from the last meeting</u> SFR introduced Daire Casey as the new chair of the working group from 2025. The minutes of the meeting held on 24th October 2024 were agreed as a correct record.</p>
2.	<p><u>IUK Net Zero Living Programme: Locally Determined Contributions – Cambridgeshire County Council</u></p> <p><u>Innovate UK Net Zero Living</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £60 million, 3-year programme to accelerate the transition to net zero, focusing on non-technical barriers. <p><u>Cambridgeshire’s Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Findings so far indicate there is low investor confidence in low carbon activities due to changing government policy and different net zero targets in place in the region. • 3 conditions of success were identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordination of ambition and delivery across actors ○ Linking local and national targets ○ Develop skills • There is no current standard/framework/guidelines for developing locally determined contributions (LDCs). • Workshops have been held on a variety of topics so far: data, place (Cambridgeshire & Peterborough), and investment. <p><u>Deliverables</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A workbook/toolkit will be produced to support LAs produce their own LDCs. The workbook will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ LDC principles ○ Governance and influence ○ Carbon budgets and targets ○ Place-focused reduction pathways ○ Co-benefits and resilience ○ Investment <p><u>Feedback Workshops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members of the E&CG working group are invited to attend the ‘Replicability Testing’ workshop on 13th February 2025 – further details to be circulated. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCA offered to invite West Sussex partners to the Replicability workshop to get their perspective. • Boundaries of influence – a matrix is being developed to help LAs work out where their influence sits. • PAL raises concern over national carbon budgets including sectors that local carbon budgets don’t (e.g. aviation). EBO confirms discussions with the Committee on Climate Change have taken place to try and align LDCs with NDCs. • The NDC target has changed to reducing emissions by 81% by 2035. PAL notes that some local authorities who are not on track to reach their own 2030 targets could aim to meet the new NDC target. • Action: EBO to respond to PAL with further details via a separate discussion or email. • Action: EBO to send invites to the Adept Energy and Clean Growth Group for the February Replicability Workshop
3.	<p><u>Community Energy Case Study – Essex County Council</u></p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essex Climate Action Plan 2021 – includes commitment to community energy. • Emphasis to members of the benefits to place, people, and net zero. • Assessed barriers and skills gaps and created a bespoke mentoring programme, “Pathways”, to support community energy groups with accessing grants and networking.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 community energy groups established by March 2022, now currently engaged with 25 groups. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Many groups are in rural areas ◦ Aiming to have one community energy group in each district by 2035 • Business case extended to March 2026 by demonstrating the ROI. <p><u>Pathways</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Powering Up – renewables • Powering Down – energy efficiency • Energy Planning – developing local energy and decarbonisation plans <p><u>Lessons learned</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close community engagement is required to kickstart the process which is time-consuming. • High engagement levels – requires the Council to meet expectations to maintain community enthusiasm. • For every £1 ECC invest, £14 funding has been secured. • Huge potential still unexplored, particularly opportunities to engage with other teams within the Council (e.g. public health). • Growing pains – groups need support creating their own governance structures, etc. • Remains largely volunteer-led which is not sustainable. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short-term funding and grants are not sustainable. ECC have informed Community Energy South of this and will begin discussions with developers to explore opportunities for deals for community energy groups. • Action: DCA to pick up community energy in the new year to determine how ADEPT can support local authorities in this area.
<p>4.</p>	<p><u>LAEP Case Study – Cornwall Council</u></p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LAEP pilot using Energy System Catapult methodology funded via the South West Net Zero Hub. • Taking a consortium approach led by CityScience. • The LAEP will be used to support the Cornwall Good Growth Plan and the Local Plan. • Stakeholder engagement has been a key theme throughout the process. • Various scenarios were mapped and modelled. Public engagement and expert input was used to inform the Best Outlook scenario. • Net zero year has been modelled to 2045, but the Council's target is 2030, so the LAEP will help start some conversations around this. • Action planning engagement exercises followed by prioritisation workshops created a timeline of interventions consisting of 30 actions and 149 sub-actions. • Geographical focus zones were also identified. <p><u>Next steps</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation on draft LAEP is launching in January 2025. • LAEP going to cabinet for endorsement in March 2025 pre-local elections. • Aiming for adoption by the Leadership Board by the end of 2025. <p><u>In discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder list included key local authorities, utility companies and DNOs, residents, internal local authority services. Engagement has been very high, and the Council have had to push their consultant to ensure all the stakeholder input is recognised in this work. • University of Exeter provide quality assurance. • The first draft of the actions was quite generic and replicable across local authorities, but Cornwall refined to ensure local opportunities were reflected in the list. • Actions can be split into three sections: 1. deliverable now, 2. strategic involvement needed, and 3. policy and funding needed.
<p>5.</p>	<p><u>LAEP Offer for Local Authorities – Greater South East Net Zero Hub</u></p> <p><u>Greater South East LAEP Progress</u></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity in the rate local authorities are responding to the need to develop decarbonisation pathways • There are opportunities for growth • Uneven progress and resource allocation across the region • Some strong regional efforts • Need for a more coordinated approach <p><u>Hub offer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support from initiation to delivery • Tailored assistance for spatial and temporal net zero pathways • Focus on data, stakeholder engagement, and securing investment • Currently developing a means of navigating the digital and data tools available <p><u>Services</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping net zero terrain (e.g. SWOT analysis) • Securing support (e.g. political) • Data and digital tools • Stakeholder engagement • Local area net zero pathway development (e.g. writing procurement specifications) • Implementing pathway programme • Hub-wide support <p><u>Outside the Hub's offer</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for LAEPs • Full project delivery • The Hub provides feedback to DESNZ <p><u>In discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DESNZ have provided funding to a LAEP working group. An audit has just been completed across all hubs to capture each local authority's progress, which will feed into SR2. • All hubs have varying capacity/resource, but the aim is a universal approach. • PAL recommends discussing LAEP with other LAs in your RESP region. • Action: BWO to share LAEP tracker with PAL and PGU.
<p>6.</p>	<p><u>Update from DESNZ</u></p> <p>PAL gave the following update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GB Energy bill is hoping to achieve royal ascent in the new year. • Work on the Local Power Plan, National Wealth Fund, Clean Power Mission and Industrial Strategy is ongoing. • Mayoral round table to discuss net zero and devolution taking place on 5th Dec. • Working with combined authorities on Local Growth Plans. • Working with MHCLG on devolution and community cohesion. • Still reviewing SR and what this means for various budgets. <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Growth Plans – DESNZ are pushing for net zero to be embedded, PAL notes it is helpful for local authorities to push for this too so pressure is both top-down and bottom-up. • Community Energy – the hubs were given funding to build community energy networks, but outcome of this has not been reported yet. A pilot for 10 local authorities with Community Energy South and GSENZH looked at community energy pathways. All this information and evidence will be fed into GB Energy. • HUG2 – KRU reports the ADEPT October 24 letter has not received a response. Action: PAL to chase and BWO to share the letter with the group.
<p>7.</p>	<p><u>Update from ADEPT</u></p> <p>KRU shared the below written update:</p> <p>Transport</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Secretary of State for Transport Louise Haigh launched her vision for the Integrated National Transport Strategy on Thursday 28th November – see here and here. The Integrated National Transport Strategy will set out a 'people first approach' to getting people around the country. Recognising that different passengers have different needs, and the

quality of transport varies across the country, it will set out how government can support local areas to make all forms of transport work together better.

2. ADEPT responded to the Public Accounts Committee inquiry into local roads – see [here](#).
3. The Autumn has been very productive and exciting for ADEPT Live Labs 2. Here's our [round up](#) of key activity.

Devolution / Growth / Planning

4. In advance of the Autumn Budget, ADEPT joined forces with ADCS, ADPH and ADASS to publish a co-signed letter and briefing on local government finances ([here](#)). Our key asks were: 1) A fundamental review of local government funding 2) Introduction of multi-year funding settlements 3) Removal of siloed and short-term funding streams and 4) Clarity on the future of a wide range of fixed term funding pots. We are now drafting a joint response to the consultation on the NHS ten year plan.
5. ADEPT responded to the government consultation on its 'Invest 2035: Modern Industrial Strategy' Green Paper. We welcomed the government's long-term commitment to a Modern Industrial Strategy, emphasising that sustainable economic growth requires consistent, pro-growth policies, investment in infrastructure, and support for businesses, people, and places. Our response highlights the critical role of local authorities in addressing infrastructure gaps, supporting diverse economies, and ensuring the strategy benefits all communities, not just growth sectors or city regions. The response can be seen [here](#).
6. The 2025 PACE thought leadership programme concluded with a plenary session at the Autumn Conference. This focus this year was on 'making a stronger case for place'. The outputs of the three sessions, and the Stronger Places Assessment toolkit which came out of session 3, can be found [here](#).

Environment / Climate

7. We held the 3rd in the series of joint webinars with Natural England on 8th November, a successful session on nature and health with almost 60 participants and a panel of speakers from NE, South Gloucestershire Council, ADPH, UK Health Alliance on Climate Change and Intelligent Health. If you would like a copy of the recording, please ask [Hannah](#).
8. We held the 2nd in the series of joint webinars with the Environment Agency webinar on 19th November – 'Local authority staff webinar: What does the new flood and coastal erosion risk mapping mean for you?'. A great event with over 750 participants. Hannah introduced the event with the EA and Doug Hill, Chair of the ADEPT Flood and Water Management Group presented. The webinar score a usefulness rating 4.45/5 and 90% rated the slides as excellent/good. Our next joint webinar is on 12th Dec (see below).
9. ADEPT and EA delivered 3 Rapid Adaptation Pathway Assessment (RAPA) workshops during October, aimed at helping communities and stakeholders better prepare for the impacts of climate change. These pilot workshops were hosted in Marlborough by Wiltshire Council, Chichester by West Sussex County Council and Bristol by South Gloucestershire Council & West of England Mayoral Combined Authority. The workshops brought together local councils, experts and community representatives to explore adaptation pathways for managing increasing flood risk due to climate change. The findings from these pilots will inform a toolkit designed to guide local authorities in making informed decisions under climate uncertainty, ensuring they are equipped to handle both current and future challenges.

Events/Other

10. The ADEPT Autumn Conference took place in Bristol on 21st & 22nd November, with the theme of 'Creating places fit for the future: our past, our present, our future'. The event was attended by over 200 people, and provided place directors with an opportunity to reflect on the past and the present and consider how future spaces are created. More info [here](#).
11. We are looking for Expressions of Interest for the 2025 Leadership Development Programme – for more information, see [here](#). The deadline is 17th January.
12. Dates for your diary:
 - A joint webinar with the EA takes place 11am-12pm on 12th December. The focus is sharing learning from the 'Local Investment In Natural Capital' (LINC) pilot local authorities. To book see [here](#).
 - The next Lunch & Learn will take place on 18th December. Stantec follow up their workshop at the ADEPT Autumn Conference with a session on funding regeneration. To register see [here](#).
 - The next ADEPT / NE webinar will focus on 'Planning for nature & climate resilience' and will take place 1330-1500 on Weds 22 January. If you would like to attend, please email [Hannah Bartram](#).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are organising a 'Navigating Transition' training workshop, for people who are considering a new stage in their careers. It will be facilitated by Roger Paine and is being held in Birmingham on Friday 17th January. More information here. The Live Labs 2 Expo will be held in the Hilton Hotel, Liverpool on 25th March. More information can be found here. The Spring Conference and Annual Awards Dinner will take place in London on Thursday 22nd May. Save the date! <p>In discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CNA requests any ADEPT communications sent to government to be shared with the group. KRU notes most are available on the ADEPT website, but will share the HUG2 letters. 																												
8.	<p><u>Roundtable Feedback and Discussions</u></p> <p><u>Parliament Community Energy Call for Evidence</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essex will be submitting a response. Action: TDA to share response with ADEPT. Hampshire do not have capacity to submit a response but have asked Community Energy South and Hampshire CE groups if they can submit a response on behalf of Hampshire. West Sussex would like to submit a response if they have capacity. Surrey and Darlington would support an ADEPT response, but do not have capacity to submit their own responses. PAL advised that a response from ADEPT would be most useful and to provide evidence via the committee. Action: SFR to draft the ADEPT response. 																												
9.	<p><u>Forward agenda planning</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Warm Homes Grant EOI – many members report they are submitting EOIs. 																												
10.	<p><u>AOB</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank you to Sheryl for her excellent chairing of the E&CG working group over the last few years and to Bayley for her outstanding administration supporting the meetings! 																												
11.	<p><u>Upcoming Energy & Clean Growth Consultations/Calls for Evidence</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Consultation</th> <th>Deadline</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Capacity Market: proposals to maintain security of supply and enable flexible capacity to decarbonise</td> <td>10/12/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Capacity Market: call for evidence on proposals to maintain security of supply and enable flexible capacity to decarbonise</td> <td>10/12/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Additions to the CfD contract arising from the introduction of the Clean Industry Bonus</td> <td>10/12/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energy Company Obligation 4 and the Great British Insulation Scheme: mid-scheme changes</td> <td>12/12/2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Proposed licence changes to enable TMO4+ Connections Reform</td> <td>06/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Connections end-to-end review of the regulatory framework</td> <td>13/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unlocking community energy at scale</td> <td>13/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Framework consultation: electricity distribution price control (ED3)</td> <td>15/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK ETS scope expansion - CCS: non-pipeline transport of carbon dioxide</td> <td>23/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>UK ETS scope expansion: maritime sector</td> <td>23/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Environment Agency charges proposal for greenhouse gas emissions</td> <td>24/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heat networks regulation: authorisation and regulatory oversight</td> <td>31/01/2025</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heat networks regulation: implementing consumer protections</td> <td>31/01/2025</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Consultation	Deadline	Capacity Market: proposals to maintain security of supply and enable flexible capacity to decarbonise	10/12/2024	Capacity Market: call for evidence on proposals to maintain security of supply and enable flexible capacity to decarbonise	10/12/2024	Additions to the CfD contract arising from the introduction of the Clean Industry Bonus	10/12/2024	Energy Company Obligation 4 and the Great British Insulation Scheme: mid-scheme changes	12/12/2024	Proposed licence changes to enable TMO4+ Connections Reform	06/01/2025	Connections end-to-end review of the regulatory framework	13/01/2025	Unlocking community energy at scale	13/01/2025	Framework consultation: electricity distribution price control (ED3)	15/01/2025	UK ETS scope expansion - CCS: non-pipeline transport of carbon dioxide	23/01/2025	UK ETS scope expansion: maritime sector	23/01/2025	Environment Agency charges proposal for greenhouse gas emissions	24/01/2025	Heat networks regulation: authorisation and regulatory oversight	31/01/2025	Heat networks regulation: implementing consumer protections	31/01/2025
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12.	<p><u>Date of next meeting</u></p> <p>Thursday 6th February 2025 13:30 – 15:00 via Microsoft Teams.</p>																												