

Yorkshire & Humber Board

01 October 2025 @ 13:30, via Microsoft Teams

In attendance:

Karl Battersby – chair	Kylie Russell (ADEPT)	Sarah Tyler (Connected by Water)
Rachel Balmer (NYC)	Richard Jackson (Rotheram)	
Justin Wilson (West Yorks CA)	Kirsty Patullo (Minutes)	

Apologies:

Hannah Bartram (ADEPT)	Ruth Stephenson (Hull)	Liz Hunter (West Yorks CA)
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Item	Agenda Item and Notes	Action
1	Welcome and Introductions KB welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members welcomed guest speaker: Sarah Tyler from Connected by Water.	
2	Connected By Water The meeting focused on regional collaboration for flood resilience and water management. South Yorkshire’s “Connected by Water” partnership was highlighted as a successful model, integrating local authorities, Yorkshire Water, and the Environment Agency to address flooding and climate adaptation. Key achievements include an Integrated Flood and Water Management Plan, internship programmes, and national consultation contributions. Funding challenges were discussed, with emphasis on the need for shovel-ready projects and integrated investment planning. The Environment Agency’s proposed changes to funding rules could unlock new opportunities, though concerns remain about budget limitations and competition. West Yorkshire and North Yorkshire shared updates on their efforts to develop integrated water strategies, with interest in replicating South Yorkshire’s approach. Innovation programmes and national initiatives were also noted, including ADEPT’s involvement in natural flood management and adaptation pathways. There was agreement from colleagues on the importance of political support, strategic planning, and continued collaboration to secure funding and deliver impactful schemes.	
3	National ADEPT Update Kylie provided members with the following updates: Transport / Infrastructure	

1. **Carbon Leadership Programme:** There's been significant interest in the [programme](#) since we launched it in June, and places are limited for the remainder of the 2025/26 programme. Created in partnership with Proving Services and supported by the Department for Transport, the programme is designed to support local highway authorities measure and identify ways to reduce their carbon emissions. Rather than each authority investing considerable time and resources into developing its own carbon baselining tool and working in isolation with limited visibility of comparative performance, the programme offers a coordinated approach.
2. **Live Labs 2:** As part of the programme we commissioned the Behavioural Insights Team to explore the behavioural changes needed to run alongside technological change (see the report [here](#)). We have launched a pledge that invites stakeholders to drive meaningful decarbonisation across all aspects of the UK's road network and rethink how the highways infrastructure reduces carbon – for more information and to sign the pledge, see [here](#). The latest Live Labs 2 blog focuses on the Devon A382 project ([here](#)).
3. The 7th **National Traffic Managers Conference** is now being held online on Weds 8th Oct (it was meant to be held in Birmingham). The programme, and registration link, can be seen [here](#).

Devolution / Growth planning

4. **LGR & Devo webinars:** Our programme of support for members on Devo and LGR issues has now completed. We delivered 6 webinars: 1) becoming a unitary council 2) becoming a combined / statutory authority plus issue-specific webinars on Environment & Climate Change, Highways & Transport, Planning and Waste & Recycling. If you would to see any of the recordings & slides, please get in touch with [Hannah Bartram](#).
5. **Workforce issues:** Our Gen Z 'Find Your Path' campaign has been shortlisted for an award in the CN Workforce Awards 2025. The campaign was designed to inspire the Gen Z generation to explore careers in local government, directly addressing our urgent skills shortage. We've just published the debrief report, that captures key learnings from the campaign – read the report [here](#).
6. We have published a policy position paper on the **Devolution Bill** ([here](#)). Whilst the association welcomed the introduction of the Bill, and the opportunity it presents for strengthening local leadership and place-based service delivery, we are very disappointed that the Bill does not propose to transfer or introduce new statutory environmental or climate-related functions to Strategic Authorities.

Environment / Climate

7. In the most recent **climate change blog**, ADEPT policy officer David Dale discusses recent developments in some local authority climate policies and the implications these changes may have (see [here](#)).

	<p>8. PACE Programme 2025: The outputs from session one are now available, including a summary, video and blog. The first session: <i>'Translating global trends into local place leadership: opportunities and challenges'</i>, explored four critical megatrends reshaping place outcomes: climate volatility, spatial inequality, erosion of trust and demographic and digital shifts. The session summary brings together the key learnings and discussion points from the day. The video provides an overview of the session's key themes and insights from the expert speakers. We've also published a blog from Matt O'Neill, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council.</p> <p>9. We held a joint webinar with the Environment Agency on the Living with Change: Coastal Communities and Climate Resilience with over 45 attendees. To receive the slides and recording please email kylie.russell@eastsussex.gov.uk.</p> <p>Events/Other</p> <p>10. In the 2nd of our ADEPT/Environment Agency webinar series we will be focusing on lowland resilience. This webinar will focus on the unique Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) challenges faced by lowland catchments through innovative and sustainable approaches. The webinar takes place on Wednesday 12th November 16:00-17:00. For an invite, please contact kylie.russell@eastsussex.gov.uk.</p> <p>11. Dates for your diary – for more detail please visit the Events page on the website (here):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. National Traffic Managers Conference, 8th October, now online – booking site now live (here) ii. ADEPT will be at Highways UK (15&16 October) – Andrew Cook, 1st VP will be speaking and there are several Live Labs 2 presentations. To register for this free event, see here. iii. Webinar on highways run off and water quality - Friday 14th November 14:00-15:30. To register interest and receive an appointment please email kylie.russell@eastsussex.gov.uk iv. ADEPT Autumn Conference, 20 & 21 November, Manchester – booking site now live (here) - Andy Burnham, Mayor of Greater Manchester is confirmed as keynote speaker. 	
5	<p>Roundtable and AOB</p> <p>No items raised.</p>	