



ADEPT North of England Board Terms of Reference (updated December 2025)

Background

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) is the voice of local authority place directors and their teams. Our members manage vital local services – from highways, waste, recycling and planning – while also preparing for the challenges and opportunities of the future.

ADEPT is a membership-based, voluntary organisation with members across England. We bring together directors from county, unitary, metropolitan and combined authorities, along with sub-national transport bodies and corporate partners. Collectively, our members provide services for more than 42 million people, manage 164,000 miles of road and handle around 65% of all recycled waste in England.

ADEPT members develop long-term strategies, investment and infrastructure needed to make their places resilient, sustainable, inclusive and prosperous. They drive clean, sustainable growth, delivering the programmes that are fundamental to creating more resilient communities, economies and infrastructure. These services include housing, environmental and regulatory services, planning, economic development, culture and highways and transport.

Find out more at: www.adeptnet.org.uk

Purpose

The joint North West and North East Board provides an informal network for Place leaders within county and unitary councils, and Transport for the North in the region with an opportunity to consider the broad range of contemporary Place issues and opportunities they're facing, providing a forum for:

- Sharing intelligence
- Influencing emerging policy, strategy and responses to consultation
- Identifying issues which may need to be raised nationally through ADEPT
- Being recognised as the voice of the sector with a focus on regional body engagement
- Safe place to have dialogue on wider place agenda
- Peer support and networking
- Assisting those individuals on a learning and development journey such as those on the ADEPT Aspiring Place Directors Programme and Deputies

- Focusing on key themes and bringing subject group expertise around place
- Emphasis on key cross cutting themes important to us all

The Board seeks to keep members up to date on current issues, and to share knowledge and best practice between members, by circulating information between meetings. The Board has a broad and diverse remit and is able to discuss any issues which board members deem to be relevant for broader consideration. The Board will be agile and will discuss and consider emerging issues, Government policies and funding, consultations and other issues that are of current relevance or importance.

Remit

The North of England Board provides an informal network for place leaders within county and unitary councils in the region with an opportunity to consider the broad range of contemporary place issues and opportunities they're facing.

Frequency

Meetings are held for 1 hour on MS Teams, bi-monthly.

Membership

Who is represented on the ADEPT North of England Board:

- Blackburn with Darwen Council
- Blackpool Council
- Bolton Council
- Cheshire East Council
- Cheshire West & Chester Council
- Cumberland Council
- Durham County Council
- Halton Borough Council
- Lancashire County Council
- Liverpool City Council
- Middlesbrough Council
- Northumberland County Council
- Salford City Council
- St Helens Council
- Sunderland City Council
- Trafford Council
- Warrington Borough Council
- Westmorland & Furness Council
- Wigan Borough Council

Number of local authorities in the region: 36

Key personnel:

- Chair: Mark Jackson, Durham County Council (mark.jackson@durham.gov.uk)
- Secretary: Kathleen Bellamy, Durham County Council (kathleen.bellamy@durham.gov.uk)

Contact the Chair or email: secretariat@adeptnet.org.uk if you would like to join.

Meetings and Other Activities

The North of England Board meets periodically as agreed by members. Meetings provide opportunities to share updates, discuss emerging issues, and collaborate on solutions. Ad hoc meetings may also be called to address urgent matters.

The Board seeks to keep members informed and share knowledge and best practice between members by circulating information between meetings.