ADEPT
Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Our offer for senior officers in district councils

Special Honorary Membership for senior district council officers: access to ADEPT's networks, leadership development and policy work as local government reorganisation takes shape.

If you are a senior officer in a district or borough council, we would like to invite you to join ADEPT at a reduced rate through our Special Honorary Membership. As local government reorganisation progresses in your area, ADEPT membership can help you build your networks, profile and leadership skills ahead of the move to unitary local authorities.

Background

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) is the voice of local authority place directors and their teams. We provide a range of membership services, including networking, leadership development, policy influence, innovation and best practice (see below). Our members come from county, unitary, metropolitan and combined authorities. One of our main priorities, as set out in our 2026-29 Strategic Plan, is to support the effective delivery of local government reorganisation and devolution.

ADEPT's current constitution does not allow for district councils to join the association: this reflects our history as a body that originally represented local highway authorities. However, district council chief executives and place directors play an influential role in place-shaping and driving local growth. Local government reorganisation (LGR) will bring considerable movement across the workforce, with many senior district officers looking to move into roles in new unitary authorities.

The offer

ADEPT wants to ensure that all potential senior place leaders in the new unitary authorities can access our networks, development programmes and other membership services now and throughout LGR. For senior officers in district councils, this offers the chance to:

- build networks and a professional profile ahead of unitary appointments
- develop greater familiarity with county council functions
- access leadership development opportunities as new structures take shape.

We are therefore temporarily extending our Special Honorary Membership category to senior district council officers – those who are members of their authority's executive management team and their direct reports. Special Honorary Membership normally costs £59 per person/year but for anyone joining now, the membership fee will cover the period till 31st March 2028. Please note that this membership is offered to individuals, not to district councils.

What ADEPT membership offers

Membership services

- Networking, sharing intelligence and best practice, and engagement with central government through our regional boards, national subject boards and technical working groups.
- Opportunities to attend and speak at ADEPT's national conferences, workshops, webinars.
- Access to our highly valued, competitively priced learning and development programmes: the Leadership Development Programme for aspiring place directors, the Leadership Pathway Programme for those earlier in their careers and the PACE programme for executive directors. Further training programmes are also under development.

Innovation and best practice

- Access to the DfT funded Live Labs 2 programme and the Carbon Leadership Programme.
- Engaging with pilot projects such as the Gen Z recruitment campaign and the Digital Academy.
- Helping to shape practical support materials, such as the Highways LGR toolkit and the SEND transport toolkit. We will be publishing a Planning LGR toolkit shortly; and establishing a community of practice to develop an approach for embedding environmental outcomes into Spatial Development Strategies.

Policy influence

- Involvement in policy projects, including developing position statements, toolkits and best practice guides.
- Contributing to formal responses to government consultations, select committee inquiries and stakeholder groups etc.
- Regular engagement with government departments including DfT, Defra, DESNZ, MHCLG, DCMS.

To find out more, visit the ADEPT website (here).

Get involved

You are very welcome to join us. If you would like to find out more, please download a **membership form** and email it to **secretariat@adeptnet.org.uk** to register your interest and we will be in touch.