



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

Environment Board

Tuesday 28th September 2021, 15:00-16:00

via MS Teams

NOTES

1.	Welcome and Introductions Steve welcomed members.	Steve Read
2.	Covid-19 / HGV Drivers / Blue Collar staff / supply chain and general service resilience Steve Read commented that most immediate current concerns have shifted from blue collar issues to fuel issues. From a WSCC point of view, Place Services are not impacted by the current fuel issues as most contractors have access to fuel through priority agreement with suppliers or own stockpiles. The issue is mainly with staff getting to sites. Social care sector is key, as with Covid, and those that have to get round to critical clients and are likely to be high mileage users for this reason. As Government haven't declared a fuel emergency then we don't get priority access to fuel at designated stations. David Hickman, Lincolnshire, reported similar issues.. Seems to be patchy. Lincoln is heavily affected but outside in rural areas have limited impact. It is having interesting negative impact on optics around green agenda which ordinarily we would be seen as positive. Getting plans in place for critical services. Chloe Tringham, Cumbria CC, reported impact on district councils for waste collection. Highways seem to be doing okay as there is fuel in-house. Garden waste reduced to monthly instead of fortnightly but that is down to driver situation and not lack of fuel.	All

	<p>Simon Bowers, West Northamptonshire CC, reported no significant issues for services but definitely disruption to waste collection down to lack of drivers and some drivers being poached.</p> <p>Steve Read reported that Covid is still having an impact due to track and trace “pinging”. West Sussex have had a relatively stable positive test rate c 250-300/100,000 for the last few weeks</p> <p><u>Working Groups – brief updates</u></p> <p>Waste Apologies received from Steve Palfrey. In Steve’s absence, Hannah gave a brief update as she attended the last Waste Group meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Looking at refreshing ADEPT’s resources and waste position paper. • Consultations around environment targets and organics roadmap. • Defra are currently running a survey on HGV drivers and general staff shortage issues. There has been some dissatisfaction with the survey in not asking the right questions. LARAC fed in that it wasn’t well received and response rate was down which indicates lack of interest in participating. <p>Energy & Clean Growth Apologies received from Carolyn. Hannah informed that the last Energy Group meeting for September was cancelled. David Dale comments in context on Energy, reflecting on last week’s headline news on cost increase and difficulties of small energy companies, it will be interesting to see if the crisis has longer term impact and if government will fund retrofit etc.</p> <p>Flood and Water Management Last meeting was a while ago but there are a few things going on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been meetings with the Environment Agency and the group also have good links with Defra. The role of several groups (e.g. London Drainage Group, Sustainable Drainage Authority). Chairs to meet to help to ease communications with the EA. • Flood risk management plans, for areas identified as flood risk, will be consulted on soon. • Delivery of EA’s National Strategy was published last year with the Action Plan published this year. Now measures are being worked on with a lot that will go through the Flood and Water Management group. They are gearing up to ensure they meet 	<p>Steve Palfrey</p> <p>Carolyn McKenzie <i>(Apologies)</i></p> <p>Max Tant</p>
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	<p>delivery of Net Zero and climate change adaptation and Environmental Management and regulation. Minister Rebecca Pow's responsibilities include domestic natural environment, floods and water, 25 Year Environment Plan and the Environment Bill.</p> <p>Environment Bill: On 26th August a number of amendments were tabled. On 6th September it started Report Stage. On 15th September it completed its passage through Report State in the House of Lords. And the Third Reading in the House of Lords will be on 13th October and the Commons Consideration of the Lords Amendments will be on 20th October. The Bill is due to complete its parliamentary passage later this year.</p> <p>Other Updates: 28th July – announced Green Recovery Challenge Fund – round two. 19th August – launched a consultation on plans for the new LNRs as part of landmark Environment Bill. 25th August – launched a consultation to seek views on cautious approach to the release and management of beavers into the wild. 27th August – announced that £16m from Restoration Grants has been awarded to projects to restore England's peatlands. 28th August – announced that Defra will consult on banning a range of polluting plastics this Autumn. 30th August – announced a Chewing Gum Task Force to clean up high streets. 31st August – together with Forestry Commission have opened EoI to pilot a new scheme to protect trees from pests and diseases. 6th September – opened consultation to seek views on proposal for updating the UK Marine Strategy Part Three: Programme of Measures. 9th September – announced plan to publish a Soil Health Action Plan for England (SHAPE).</p> <p>Local Authority Engagement: Q&A product continues to be developed. Planning to share draft with ADEPT for feedback by mid-October.</p> <p>Environment Agency Julie Foley spoke earlier during Flood and Water Management update.</p> <p>Natural England Adam Wallace e-mailed the following update after the meeting: Natural England spending review process continues, Defra looking to</p>	<p>Jennie Donovan <i>(Apologies)</i></p> <p>Adam Wallace <i>(Apologies)</i></p>
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<p>settle early and predictably there is widespread pressure across all departments on any budget growth proposals.</p> <p>Key ambition within our Sustainable Development Programme Team (SDPT) remains efforts to provide additional resource at Area Team level for proactive strategic engagement with Local Authorities in relation to plan led placemaking that delivers for nature. We have a project to build capacity as part of a cross programme (SDPT, Resilient Landscapes and Seas, Greener Farming and Fisheries, Connecting People with Nature) package that will effectively be looking to work collaboratively with Local Authorities and others at a local level on strategic policy to help land LNRS, GI standards, Protected Site Strategic Solutions, Nature recovery network, Local Development Plans, Biodiversity Net gain amongst other elements. Seen as critical new roles to help progress the governments 25YPlan ambitions. AW is leading that work with a colleague across the four programmes.</p> <p>ACTION: AW to forward the link to job adverts to fill the additional resource requirements to help progress the government's 25YPlan ambitions.</p> <p>Link to job adverts: Nature and Place Making - Senior Adviser(Ref: 3639) - Civil Service Jobs - GOV.UK</p> <p>New closing date will be 18th November.</p> <p>Edinburgh Declaration has just come across my desk. This is the link to work that has been done by the Scottish Government that is seeking Local Authority signatories. It is quite wordy stuff but Manchester City Council and one or two others are wanting to sign up to it. I can see it helping to build momentum around the COP 26 discussions and it might be a useful thing for people to see.</p> <p>Other Issues, Risks and Questions</p> <p>Nothing raised.</p> <p>ADEPT</p> <p>David talked about ministerial reshuffle and M Gove appointed Sec of State for Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities Levelling up of big policy development - White Paper due to come out this Autumn tied with spending review and budget.</p> <p>Intention is to try and craft what we call a policy challenge paper on what ADEPT and partners feel Levelling Up means. Will have brainstorm during next Leadership Team meeting.</p> <p>LEP review announced a few months ago. Went quiet in Spring. Continues and had good conversation last week with LEP CEx leading with stand of working with Local Authorities.</p> <p>Events:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADEPT Autumn conference in November – Treasury Lead for 	<p>AW</p> <p>Councils</p> <p>Hannah/David</p>
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	<p>Dasgupta review is attending.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Marmot – papers on reviewing social inequalities, reflecting impact of Covid. • A lot of work has been done with DfT and spending review bid. • Carolyn McKenzie gave evidence to Environmental Audit Committee last month when doing enquiry into net zero. A joint submission to that enquiry has been submitted via blueprint coalition. • Climate change agenda – meeting yesterday with permanent secretaries, still waiting for dust to settle. ADEPT was represented by Sue Halliwell. Will be interesting to see how Whitehall is working on this. 	
3.	<p>Agenda for 27th October 2021 Quarterly meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Agency • FCERM strategy and investment programme • OxCam Arc LNCP • Government’s net zero strategy - if published in time. • Spending review to be announced on this date. <p>ACTION: Board Members to come forward with any other suggestions.</p>	<p>Steve / David / All</p> <p>ALL</p>
4.	<p>Any other urgent business</p> <p>Nothing to note.</p>	All
5.	<p>Dates of future meetings/calls</p> <p>Next meeting is Q4 on 27th October via MS Teams.</p>	Steve Read