**ADEPT Environment Board meeting 30 January 2019**

The Board met at Ramboll’s office in London. The meeting was well attended with 18 people including representatives from 10 councils plus colleagues from Defra, LEDNet, the Environment Agency and UK100.

This comes at a very busy time for environmental matters with a series of important Government publications and consultations. The Resources and Waste Strategy, and the draft Environment Bill (principles and governance), came out in December, and the Clean Air Strategy followed in mid-January. Consultations have included the Landscapes Review – the Board’s submission is on the ADEPT website [here](https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/landscapes-review-submission) – the 25 Year Environment Plan performance indicators, biodiversity net gain, and trees & woodlands. A series of further consultations under the Resources & Waste Strategy are expected during 2019.

The ADEPT Resources & Waste policy position was published the same day [here](https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/policy-position-resources-and-waste) and attracted good coverage in the trade media.

In addition to updates on these current issues and consultations, the Board had two substantial agenda items:

* Climate change – Nick Jackson (Defra and LAAP) presented a draft of a self-assessment and guidance document for councils on climate change risks and adaptation, intended to fill a gap and set out what could be considered minimum standards and good practice, with case studies to support. He also presented an early draft of a climate change policy position to be developed jointly by the LAAP, ADEPT, and the LGA. This sets out some of the higher-level messages on climate change, describes what the organisations are doing, and states the key asks of Government and other partners. More advanced drafts of the documents will be ready for the climate change seminar with ADEPT’s corporate partners on 28th March.
* Air quality – Jason Torrance (Clean Air Director, UK100) gave an update on the clean ait timetable for 2019 now that the Clean Air Strategy has been published and will be reflected in the forthcoming Environment Bill. He outlined Defra engagement with councils via UK100 and ADEPT, and the hope for further opportunities to try to address funding issues and the lack of clear national leadership. The Mayor of London is hosting another Clean Air Summit on 14th February. Overall, there is still a lot to play for in terms of influencing clean air legislation and the future role of councils.

Julia Beeden (Cambridgeshire) was appointed to Chair the Flood & Water Group following Steve Willis’ retirement. The Board will also seek a new Chair for the Natural Capital and Heritage Group to replace Peter Chamberlain who is stepping down.

The afternoon workshop was on smart procurement – supporting environmental innovation through the procurement process. The workshop was organised by the Environmental Industries Commission (EIC) in partnership with ADEPT and LEDNet, and included a number of providers from the industry. The workshop was chaired by Stuart Cairns (Bird & Bird), and there were sessions on the drivers for environmental procurement, encouraging innovation, public-private collaboration, and commissioning outcomes. There were breakout discussion groups on flood & water, air quality, carbon/energy management, and waste & recycling.

The Board is very grateful to Matthew Farrow, Sam Ibbott, and their colleagues at EIC for organising this stimulating and successful event, we look forward to working with them again in the future.

**David Dale**

**Policy Officer**