



Excellence in Place Leadership programme

June 2019

Overview

ADEPT is proud to launch its new *Excellence in Place Leadership* programme in partnership with Amey.

- **Purpose:** to bring together forward-thinking 'thought leaders' from across ADEPT to consider the key issues and opportunities affecting our sector.
- **Key outputs:** thought pieces that can genuinely shape the way ADEPT members do business.
- **Objective:** to facilitate a forum for like-minded individuals to tackle issues of strategic interest – this will create an environment for change, driving thinking and influencing strategy across the industry.

The ADEPT *Excellence in Place Leadership* programme is sponsored by Amey, who pioneered a similar approach within the highways sector in 2018. Amey's *Leaders in Urban Excellence* programme brought together forward-thinking thought leaders across the local government spectrum to engage in discussion and debate around key issues driving the industry. The sessions focused on innovation, procurement and technology, with outputs such as blogs being produced.

Together, ADEPT and Amey want to develop excellence in place leadership.

Governance

- To hold four one-day sessions over a 12-month period (indicative dates are September, December, March and June).
- The sessions will be organised and publicised by ADEPT.
- Amey will host each session, shaping the agenda and programme material, whilst being responsive to external issues and members' feedback.
- Each session will be run by an independent facilitator.
- Topics will be selected by a steering group of two Amey representatives (David Odgen, Business Director, and Mark Saunders, Director – Centre of Excellence for Cities) and two ADEPT representatives (Darryl Eyers, ADEPT President 2019/20, and Hannah Bartram, Chief Operating Officer).

Format

- The topics will be defined at the start of the 12-month period, and will sit under one or more of ADEPT's strategic priorities:
 - Priority 1 – place-based funding post-Brexit
 - Priority 2 - communities and infrastructure
 - Priority 3 - climate change and environment
- Initial topic proposals include:
 - inward investment into local areas (Priority 1)

- innovation in procurement, linked to the developing Highways Sector Deal (Priority 1)
- citizen engagement in determining local services (Priority 2)
- unchaining social value (Priorities 2 & 3).
- delivering infrastructure and connectivity fit for the 21st century (Priority 2).

NB: this list may change as the group establishes and matures, and/or the political and policy landscape changes.

- Each session will include relevant keynote speakers, followed by structured discussions and activities coordinated by the facilitator.
- The target number for each session is 10-12 people. Critical to the programme's success is inclusive participative involvement from those who can and will make a difference.
- Each session will deliver an outcome such as a blog, article, interview, thought piece by one or more of the attendees. It could possibly lead to some policy work and/or lobbying activity for ADEPT, or a solution with an outline business case.
- It is hoped the group will become an enduring, self-sustaining professional network.

Membership

- Participation will remain relatively exclusive. ADEPT will put out a call for Expressions of Interest from its membership, which the steering group will review and then select those to attend.
- We will also ask ADEPT members to identify individuals they think could add value to specific topics. We will also approach other organisations such as central government departments, academia and professional bodies to nominate people to provide 'input to the day'. It is proposed to have a media partner such as The MJ.
- Participants will need to commit to the full 12-month programme.
- The steering group will encourage diversity across the membership (e.g. gender, type of authority, professional background).
- Programme membership will be free, other than travel and subsistence costs to attend the four workshop sessions.
- Amey will be responsible for any costs incurred from speakers, venue hire, refreshments, etc.
- While membership will focus on director level officers, we will also consider emerging 'place' leaders, as part of a pathway leadership development programme. We will also consider thought leaders who are not necessarily working at director level within their organisation.

2019 / 2020 outcomes

- The group will engage with key issues, gaining parity in knowledge and agreeing strategies for transformation and development in the coming years.
- The outputs will be seen as critical contributions to the place shaping agenda.
- New/accrued knowledge will be taken back to each individual organisation.
- The group will seek to add value to existing work programmes such as the ADEPT SMART Places Live Labs.
- The programme will facilitate networking and support new or existing relationships.