Climate Change Member Advisory Board – September 2020

Item 4.   Best Practice/Other Local Authorities

4.1 **Spotlight on Green Reset (LGA) webinar**
Available at: https://www.local.gov.uk/spotlight-green-reset-blog-1-july-2020

- The past few months have shown how important the environment is to us nationally with more cyclists and wildlife booming, communities are reflecting on how we get back to work in a sustainable way.
- The speed of change has been incomparable. You Gov poll on how work lives have been affected, with much of the population now working from home as best they can. About one in five of those with jobs before the coronavirus outbreak (20%) have made the leap from never working from home to doing so constantly.
    - Can we help staff with increased energy costs? Can salary sacrifice be extended to home energy efficiency?
    - Working at home, moving less > potential impacts on health
- Demand for commercial office space low > opportunities for residential conversion of portfolios
- Wirral Council highlighted some key resources/ways of working including:
    - Metrics dashboard
    - Aiming to be a carbon literate organisation - Carbon Literacy training for key staff e.g. report writers, carbon toolbox talk (for everyone else)
- Identified and including "Opportunities Not To Be Lost" in emerging action plan

4.2 **ADEPT Climate Change webinar**

Presentation from Committee on Climate Change - 2020 progress report to parliament
https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/reducing-uk-emissions-2020-progress-report-to-parliament/

- Takes stock of progress in reducing UK emissions. They offer a commentary on progress in each sector and the steps that can be taken now to achieve a green and resilient recovery.
- The fundamental requirements include infrastructure investments and reskilling of workers – both of which can help the UK to recover from the COVID-19 crisis. Also upgrades to our homes, action to make it easy for people to walk, cycle and work from home and tree planting, greenspaces and other green infrastructure.
- Advice is grouped by Government department to bring extra clarity to the steps required across government and to emphasise that this is indeed a task for the whole Administration, not one limited to a few Departments
- The pandemic has also demonstrated how quickly social change can occur – and the role of government in driving that change.

- These are strong conditions for Government to reinforce the climate-positive behaviours that have emerged during the lockdown, including increased remote working, cycling and walking.
- Recommend Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) support local authorities to play a full role in the Net Zero transition, including guidance and a statutory reporting framework on the emissions from their estate to enable delivery of low-carbon and climate resilient measures. Without any current duty or guidance on Local Authority reporting it makes it hard for LA's to know where they fit in.

Presentation from Ashden on Blueprint for Climate Action and Green Recovery
https://www.adeptnet.org.uk/documents/blueprint-accelerating-climate-action-and-green-recovery-local-level

- Coalition of partners including Ashden, Friends of the Earth, Grantham Institute, Greenpeace, ADEPT have developed a blueprint for local green recovery
- A good fit with the priorities set out in the CCC report and is a starting point for discussion