

ADEPT welcomes new President

Heather Barnes, Strategic Director Place for Devon County Council, has become the new President of ADEPT, the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

The new president is stepping up from her role as the Association's Vice President.

For Heather, ADEPT is a vital organisation, particularly now: "Local Authorities have been experiencing an ongoing period of profound internal change, whilst having to transform how we deliver services,

"ADEPT members have responded by delivering differently, creating more resilient communities, economies and infrastructure. We have seized the opportunity to change how we work with our communities and partners, and that closer collaboration enables us to innovate and change our approach.

"Devolution will be a game-changer as different models develop across the country. ADEPT members are at the very heart of these changes, working closely with our partners in Local Enterprise Partnerships, national and local government to set strategic priorities for the future."

Heather's local government career began in 1989 after leaving the WRNS. Initially in HR, in 1995 she moved to a role working for the Secretary of State for Scotland looking after the welfare and justice system for children. Returning to HR at Devon County Council in 2001, she became Director of Personnel and Performance in 2004, Deputy Chief Executive in 2009 and Strategic Director Place in 2011.

A member of ADEPT since taking up that appointment, Heather becomes president after a number of years serving on the Association's Management Board.

Heather continued: "I'd like to thank our outgoing President, David Bishop for his commitment and hard work over the past 12 months. Under his direction, ADEPT has continued its own process of transformation at pace."

ADEPT is the voice of Local Authority county, unitary and metropolitan Strategic Place Directors across England with responsibility for the key place based services, including transport, environment, planning, economic development, housing and waste.

For more information and further case studies, please contact Julie Everett at Coast Communications on 01579 352600 or 07866002635 or email Julie@coastmarcoms.co.uk

The ADEPT Prospectus for Growth can be downloaded here: [www.adeptnet.org.uk/Policy Statement.pdf](http://www.adeptnet.org.uk/Policy%20Statement.pdf)

About ADEPT

The Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport (ADEPT) represents local authority county, unitary and metropolitan Directors. Operating at the strategic tier of local government, members are responsible for delivering public services that primarily relate to the physical environment and the economy, but which have a significant impact on all aspects of the nation's well-being. ADEPT represents members' interests by proactively engaging central Government on emerging policy & issues, promoting initiatives aimed at influencing Government policy and through the development of best practices and responding to European and UK Government initiatives and consultations.

For more information on ADEPT please visit the website: www.adeptnet.org.uk