

Meeting notes

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| Meeting Title: | Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting |
| Date: | 14 January 2022 |
| Time: | 09:30 – 12:00 |
| Location: | via Microsoft Teams |
| Present: | Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Carolyn Cadman (CC) Deputy Chair, Wesley Smyth (WS), Oliver Baines (OB), Karen Burrows (KB), Cllr Martyn Alvey, Stephen Marks (SM), Tanya Saker (TS) for Paul Masters (PMas), Julian Branscombe (JB), Martin Howlett (MH), Peter Marsh CEO (PMar), Nick Bruce-White (NB-W), Cherilyn Mackrory MP (CM), Sophie Hosking (SH), Cllr Steve Watt (Cllr SW), Sian Rees (SR) |
| In attendance: | Philippa Hoskin (PH), Lorna Gaunt (Minutes) |
| Guests: | Glenn Caplin-Grey (GC-G) Service Director Economic Growth & CEO of Local Enterprise Partnership, Jessie Hamshar – Service Director Strategy and Engagement, Tess Ax – Policy Specialist, supported by Oscar Marsh – Graduate. |

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| 1 | Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair's report |
| 1.1 | Apologies, items for AOB <i>Apologies:</i> Ilya Maclean (IM) <i>Welcome:</i> The Chair welcomed Sian Rees who joins the LNP Board as member with experience in the marine sector. SR replaces Tom Hooper and thanks was noted for TH's contribution to the LNP Partnership since he joined in 2016. <i>AOB:</i> None |
| 1.2 | Minutes of previous Board Meeting Minutes approved. |
| 1.3 | Matters Arising and Actions <i>Matters arising</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LNP Strategy – coming up later on the agenda • Communications around the LNP declaring an Ecological Emergency – completed • Cornwall Council declared an Ecological Emergency; motion Lead by Cllr Bastin and seconded by Cllr Mustoe |
| 1.4 | Chair's report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. Recommendation: to note – NOTED |
| 2 | Executive Report (full report circulated with the board papers) |

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| | <p>The report was taken as read. Some of the report highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LNP Summit at the end of March 2022 will be an important next step for the LNP to position ourselves in the eyes of members and the public. • G7 legacy – invite to board to join – for Peter Marsh to instigate. • Significant structural changes and redundancies and changes to the Council budget taking place. The budget plan is out for consultation at the moment. <p>(CM joined the meeting)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although there will be less human resource it's clear from the council's declaration of a Climate Change emergency and an Ecological Emergency that commitment has been made in this area of work. <p>Board members had the following comments: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MH: Services - it would be helpful if town and parish councils could see figures relating to reduced grass cutting. It was felt that an update to the board on the Making Space for Nature project might be helpful in answering that query. CC suggested the following might help explain the benefits of different grass cutting regimes Managing road verges for wildlife The Wildlife Trusts. NB-W suggested On The Verge - Discover Dearne is an example of some very successful public messaging on grass cutting. • MH: raised a query regarding the Cornwall Development Company – PM provided some information regarding the current staff restructuring. PM also said that the CEOs of LEP and LNP would continue to keep a strong communication link for issues such as rural farming. <p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p> |
| 3 | <p>CloSLNP Summit/Conference (paper circulated ahead of the meeting)</p> <p>RT explained the rationale for this year's theme. The LNP declared an Ecological Emergency and is doing something about it.</p> <p>The National Trust, amongst others, have made pledges and the LNP is keen to gain commitments from communities, charities, land owners and managers, public authorities and businesses to help to tackle the ecological/biodiversity crisis. The LNP also wants to raise the profile of the emergency in Cornwall and Scilly and to imbed it into the public conscience. See https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/press-release/some-of-the-nations-largest-landowners-make-unprecedented-pact-to-jointly-tackle-the-climate-and-nature-crises</p> <p>Board participation is crucial. Any support that can be given will strengthen the strategic commitment in terms of pledges. Additional support for outreach and communications would also be welcomed.</p> <p>Pledges: PH and team will be setting up a framework to capture the pledges against the KPI target of <i>30% of our land and seas are positively managed for nature by 2030.</i></p> <p>(SH joined the meeting)</p> |

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| | <p>Feedback from the board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB-W is happy to drum up pledges with partners/contacts. Follow ups in 3 months would be beneficial. This was echoed by KB. PH reassured that they are working on something everyone can use to capture pledges in a consistent way for stakeholders at all scales from organisations, through to individuals. • MH is supportive of this approach and is meeting with NFU soon and will check they are happy to support. • SR: Grace Twiston Davies at Exeter Uni is currently working on a natural capital handbook for Duchy tenants - climate actions are a focus. Perhaps this could also be integrated into the LNP conference. They will be providing some marine suggestions. • KB suggested it would be good to involve schools. • CM offered the use of her office and contacts if that would be of any assistance. • TS: can help to push out communications which will link with the IoS Biodiversity Policy communications and other IoS work. • WS: supportive and suggested reaching out to SW Peatlands Partnership and Imerys, for example. <p>Recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the Board comment on and approve the outline proposal in the report 2 - APPROVED 2. That Board members commit to developing meaningful personal or organisational pledges for nature and support the process of securing pledges from partners ahead of the Summit – APPROVED |
| 4 | <p>Isles of Scilly (verbal update)</p> <p>Some highlights of current work: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council has commissioned ERRICIS to compile a dossier of nature data for the Islands t –supported by Natural England and lead by Tanya Saker. • Council partnership - working towards how the whole islands can become an AONB. • Wildlife trust – hoping to make 3 or 4 appointments in 2022. • Funding for the Adaptation of Scilly Project is inadequate. There is a £3.6m budget from ERDF and EA but tenders for all the islands are double that. However, an investment boost of £.5m has just been awarded by SWRFCC. • There has been some talk of IFCA losing new burdens funding but this hasn't been verified yet. • The consultation on the climate change action plan ran in November and December and is now closed. • FiPL – all the funding for year 1 has been allocated. |
| 5 | <p>LNP Strategy (revised strategy circulated with board papers)</p> <p>PM: The LNP strategy was discussed at the board meeting on 18 November 2022. It was generally supported by the board with just a few comments which have now been incorporated into the revised strategy.</p> |

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| | <p>Recommendation: That the board endorses the new strategic focus and sub-group structures - ENDORSED</p> |
| 6 | <p>Environmental Enforcement (report circulated ahead of meeting)</p> <p>NBW introduced the item. He outlined the top priorities of the group for the year ahead and recommended the LNP support the actions as set out below. It was important to note that the role of the LNP sub group was distinct from the role of regulatory bodies, NGOs, Cornwall Council etc.</p> <p>The board had the following comments: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was felt compliance through raising awareness was key to avoid enforcement. On the IoS part 2 of the Environment Act doesn't apply therefore communications, awareness and mitigation are very important. • OB would welcome some clarification/education of the roles of different agencies in different circumstances. • SM: the 3 recommendations are helpful for the EA; SM to take the LNP views to Mark Rice during their business planning exercise with a view to integrating them. • The EA are expecting Defra's funding settlement in March which will give clarity to what they can do as an agency in this area. • CM flagged up that the Office of Environmental Protection will have a role to play in the investigation of breaches. • SH: in terms of the Council's current reorganisation, all enforcement (which is currently dispersed) will go into Neighbourhoods Directorate which will increase flexibility and capacity of resource. • Tougher consequences of breaches are considered to be essential. • NE have limited enforcement powers but now has national enforcement team which has become more rigorous. • It was agreed that there can be complexity over damage/pollution incidents as multiple partners can be involved. <p>Recommendations: That the LNP supports the sub group's action, as follows:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Advocating for better/ appropriate resourcing of environmental enforcement by the appropriate agencies (and their Gvmt Depts) - SUPPORTED 2. Fostering better understanding of environmental regulation, how it is applied and enforced - SUPPORTED 3. Advocating for better coordination of enforcement responses where multiple agencies are involved - SUPPORTED |
| 7 | <p>Green Skills (a report and supporting documents were distributed with board papers)</p> <p>KB introduced the item and explained that there are currently a number of high level strategic reports talking about skills however not much could happen on the ground until the need was understood. All reports suggest green skills are not being recognised as an option.</p> <p>As stated in the board report a short questionnaire to collect information from the LNP member organisations, and a list of Cornwall stakeholders likely to be recruiting for nature based skills, would provide evidence which educational bodies can use to review the</p> |

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| | <p>provision they offer and develop further provision likely to be needed. Since the board report had been circulated a consultant had been appointed to do a deep dive so it wouldn't be necessary to complete the questionnaire. However, the LNP were asked to give comments on the questionnaire and the list of stakeholders and to send them to KB by email.</p> <p>KB would come back to the board after the work to gather evidence of what employers need was completed; it could be available in time for the LNP Summit.</p> <p>The board had the following comments: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement through Job Centres and DWP was recommended and schools and colleges • Was there something that could be done at Local Authority (LA) level to address the imbalance highlighted in the LA labour market report (appendix pg 170) where green skills are barely mentioned? • CM was involved in the Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into green jobs last year and would be happy to be included in this piece of work. <p>Recommendation: To note the information in the report and discuss the best way forward – NOTED.</p> <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the board would feedback to KB who would come back when the questionnaire had been undertaken - KB • RT & KB to discuss setting up Green Skills Sub Group. |
| 8 | <p>City of Culture</p> <p>Glenn Caplin-Grey (GC-G) gave a presentation about the City of Culture bid. Some of the main points were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It will be signed off at a Steering Board meeting in the next couple of weeks. • It's caught the imagination of people and has made it to the longlist of eight. The shortlist will be announced in March 2022 and the winner will be informed in May. • With three themes, <i>people, place, planet</i>, the planet focuses on environment, climate change and biodiversity. • Global brands such as the Tate, Falmouth Uni and Eden Project are supporting the bid. <p>GC-G was keen for the LNP, and their associated networks, to support bid over the next couple of months. The website to support the bid offers the opportunity to sign up and be a supporter Home - Cornwall City Of Culture 2025 (cornwall2025.com)</p> <p>Comments from the board: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR: Have artists in residence been considered? CG-C has had conversations with Falmouth Uni and Uni of Exeter with regards to environmental advisers and would like to discuss with SR outside of the meeting. • Place based projects would be welcomed and CC said she would like to see genuine green legacy. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was recognised that the success of the bid would have the potential to bring in skills, at all levels. • RT would keep the LNP Board up to date with progress. <p>ACTION: SR and GC-G to have a conversation about artists in residence aspect– SR & GC-G</p> |
| 9 | <p>Cornwall Plan</p> <p>JH introduced this item. The vision for the Cornwall Plan was presented to the LNP one year ago. It included an outcomes framework and the LNP made a commitment to review the progress annually. Input to the first annual assessment is currently in progress and will be taken to the Leadership Board on 11 March 2022.</p> <p>Board members are asked to comment on the Power BI style dashboard and whether the annual review is focussing on the right things. This was presented as an opportunity to celebrate what's going well and highlight the top 1 to 3 priorities for the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The team are working closely with PH and Carl Warom to avoid duplication. • The data is up to 2021. Data for 2021 to 2022 is being collected. • There are more areas in active management. Awaiting data to say whether we are on track to meet the Cornwall Plan objectives for growing nature with twice as much land in active management for environmental gain or that four times as much of our inshore waters are under active management for environmental growth. The Environmental Records Centre are currently recalculating the data for both of these objectives and should be available for future annual assessments. • Off track for the Cornwall Plan objective that no child in Cornwall depends on food banks for good quality nutrition. RT said the LNP is not accountable for this objective. • Off track to meet the Cornwall plan objective that there is no sewage pollution in Cornwall's seas by 2050, as incidents of sewage pollution have increased in 2020 and 2021. • Off track to ensure that Cornwall's rivers and lakes are free from pollution, with only 26% of Cornwall's estuaries having a good or higher rating in 2019. • Fisheries objective – health of stocks – would look at more closely. • Plastic free bathing water objective – cannot be quantified. • JH would re-share metrics <p>Board members had the following comments: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NB-W – with regard to land well managed for nature he could provide anecdotes to balance where metrics are missing. • KB made a point about an education and entrepreneurial objective where there is little mention of green skills. A deep dive to find out appetite of employers would help. • WS: need to be clear and confident about metrics when measuring outcome. PH informed the board that a number of measures contained data collected by the team which had a published methodology and was supported by IM and Martin Goodall from ERRICIS. |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plastic free bathing water – perhaps consider Marine Conservation Society beach clean metrics? <p>Recommendation: That members of the LNP review and provide feedback on the Progress Report. <i>Some feedback was given during the meeting and a further opportunity would be provided via email.</i></p> |
| 9 | <p>AOB</p> <p>Sub Committee Update In addition to the report distributed with papers, CC gave updates as follows: -</p> <p>Marine Liaison Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HPMAAs – the results of the HPMA submissions should be available in the next couple of weeks. • Funding to support LNRS - The Environmental Evidence Group has secured some resource for Jonathan Mosedale to carry out some mapping work. <p>Cornwall Catchment Partnership (CCP) <i>Three things the CCP has done:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Championing Coastal Co-ordination in Cornwall project has been successfully awarded funding from the Environment Agency's Water Environment Improvement Fund to commission a consultant to scope the potential for enhancing and strengthening coordination for coastal sustainability and resilience in Cornwall using the Coastal Based Approach. • At the end of November, Cornwall Wildlife Trust hosted a site visit to enable the CCP to visit Cornwall Wildlife Trust's new land at Allet and discuss natural flood management in the Truro catchment. • Land Hub Cornwall has been launched to critical friends and is currently undergoing user testing, the launch is being planned and will follow feedback from user testing. <p><i>Three things the CCP is planning to do:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCP will be submitting responses to EA River Basin Management Plan/Flood Risk Management Plan consultations. • A subgroup of the CCP is looking into natural flood management possibilities in the Truro catchment. • The CCP is developing a new system to provide a strategic project overview and track of project opportunities. <p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p> |
| | <p>Dates of next meetings – 10 March 2022, 6 May 2022, 16 June 2022, 16 September 2022, 10 November 2022</p> |