

## Meeting notes

<b>Meeting Title:</b>	<b>Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting</b>
<b>Date:</b>	16 September 2022
<b>Time:</b>	09:30 – 12:00
<b>Location:</b>	via Microsoft Teams
<b>Present:</b>	Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Nick Bruce-White (NB-W), Representative from Cherilyn Mackrory's office (Max), Wesley Smyth (WS), Cllr Martyn Alvey (Cllr MA), Karen Burrows (KB), Helen Dobby (HD), Julian Branscombe (JB), Cllr Harry Legg (Cllr HL), Cheryl Marriott (CM) CWT, Ilya Maclean (IM), Sian Rees (SR), Martin Howlett (MHow), Tanya Saker (TS), Matt Walpole (MW)
<b>In attendance:</b>	Mark Holmes (MHol), Philippa Hoskin (PH), Lorna Gaunt (note taker)
<b>Guests:</b>	Clare Harris and Inga Geach, Senior Skills Officers, Cornwall Council

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising &amp; Actions and Chair's report</b>
<b>1.1</b>	<p><b>Welcome, thank you, apologies &amp; items for AOB</b></p> <p><i>Welcome:</i> Representative from Cherilyn Mackrory MP's office (Max). RT welcomed Matt Walpole who is replacing Carolyn Cadman as CEO of the CWT.</p> <p><i>Thank you:</i> RT gave thanks to Helen Dobby as it was her last meeting as board member on the LNP. HD said she thought there would be a crossover between her future work and that of the LNP. The EA were recruiting for her successor and introductions would be made at the next meeting.</p> <p><i>Apologies:</i> Paul Masters (PMas), Phil Mason (PM), Vicky Fraser (VF) – Mark Holmes (MHol) would be leading on the CEO items.</p> <p><i>AOB:</i> none</p> <p>The CloSLNP noted their sadness at the passing of Queen Elizabeth II who died on 8 September 2022. They paid tribute to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II who was a great advocate for the countryside.</p>
<b>1.2</b>	<p><b>Minutes of previous Board Meeting</b></p> <p>Minutes approved.</p>
<b>1.3</b>	<p><b>Matters Arising and Actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Commence recruitment for two new board members to replace NB-W (NGO) and OB (Independent) - LG. RT and KB to continue conversation about whether KB would take on a second term – RT &amp; KB – <b>three board members are being sought as above plus a green</b></li> </ul>

	<p><b>skills focussed board member to replace KB. The deadline for applications is 22 September.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was agreed that a stocktake of sub groups should be undertaken to look at what they are currently doing and what the expectations are – VF &amp; MH – <b>report on agenda for today</b></li> <li>• SPF slides from Katie Dalsgaard’s presentation to be sent out by LG - <b>complete</b></li> <li>• KPI recommendations – <b>being addressed through the Evidence Group</b></li> <li>• Green Skills report - CC VF and PH to orchestrate CC employment group and the CloS LEP attending board to discuss delivery of recommendations – <b>on agenda for today’s meeting</b></li> </ul>
1.4	<p><b>Chair’s report</b> (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read.</p> <p>There have been less visits due to the holiday period however as part of the Civic Lantern project RT has visited four sites connected to nature friendly farming and/or community garden projects. RT also took part in the South West Business Council’s recent conference on natural capital.</p> <p><b>Recommendation:</b> to note – <b>NOTED</b></p>
2	<p><b>Executive Report</b> (full report circulated with the board papers)</p> <p>Taken as read. The highlights were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enforcement brief to commission a piece of research - MH thanked Enforcement Sub Group members for their comments on the brief which will be incorporated into the final brief which will be shared with the minutes. Next step is to get the commission in progress.</li> <li>• County Deal – CC and Defra have spoken about what ‘good’ looks like and how a single pot approach could be created. The wording of the asks has been approved and will next go to Whitehall for a read around.</li> <li>• Pledges for nature – developing communications campaign for Autumn. Any support is welcomed to continue to encourage more pledges and how to put spotlight on them.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> LG to share finalised environmental enforcement brief with the minutes <b>Recommendation:</b> to note – <b>NOTED</b></p>
4	<p><b>Isles of Scilly Update</b> (verbal)</p> <p>TS gave an update: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avian flu – there have been over 100 dead birds washed up on beaches, and birds suffering in populated areas. The council and the Wildlife Trust are working closely and having challenging conversations with Defra for safe disposal. The EA and Health Security Agency are supporting their efforts.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Wildlife Trust are looking at whether they will make an application for an agri-environment higher tier stewardship scheme.</li> <li>• The Festival of Nature will be a week long festival providing an opportunity to engage on the LNRS surveys.</li> <li>• Meetings: the last FiPL meeting, chaired by MH, saw four successful applications to improve nature. A good meeting has been had with Tony Richardson the new Chair of the IoS AONB.</li> <li>• Seedcorn funding from NE – successful so far.</li> </ul> <p>RT thanked MH for his role on FiPL as well as all his other commitments.</p>
5	<p><b>LNP Sub Committee Update</b> (paper circulated ahead of the meeting) CM highlighted that there were few updates from sub groups because of the summer break.</p> <p><b>The Cornwall Catchment Partnership</b> - had met the previous week with a focus being on monitoring water quality across Cornwall. Due to reduced resources at the EA, the WCRT were using citizen science to fill the gaps in monitoring. Beaver reintroduction – CWT are considering wild release on Helman Tor.</p> <p><b>Evidence Group</b> - met after the papers had been distributed. They have been taking stock on biodiversity monitoring as it's been identified as a gap. A task and finish group will look at what data has been collected before they reach out to recording groups. They are looking at how well managed land for nature that has not be captured (non designated land) can be reported. This data can be fed into the pledges for nature land figures.</p> <p>HD explained that the EA are going through recruitment for 15 officers although filling and retaining is proving to be a challenge. The prioritisation is on enforcement officers. Four apprentices have also been taken on in that area of business. The overall focus is on water quality. Agriculture officers are tracking issues; waste operators alert to septic tank issues.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> CBI and MLG – secretariat support required. Agreed that secretariat support is an important aspect of sub group success. To go to Executive Group meeting for discussion. LG to add to agenda.</p>
6	<p><b>Sub Group review</b></p> <p>PH referred to the discussion paper that was circulated in advance of the meeting. The main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a strong partnership framework already exists</li> <li>• the CCP is particularly successful because of secretariat support</li> <li>• re-branding might clarify the aims of some sub groups</li> <li>• how the sub groups contribute towards 30 by 30 needs to be strengthened</li> <li>• there's a proposal that a board member represents each of the sub groups</li> <li>• a joint decision needs to be taken on the next steps, it needs to be done sensitively as some sub groups were not set up by the LNP.</li> </ul> <p>BM Comments: -</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MH – there is a need for greater representation in the farming arena on groups. IM and MH have, through the Farming Sub Group, previously looked at getting greater engagement via a think tank.</li> <li>• Secretariat support enables a stronger sub group identity. HD suggested PH and Clarissa Newell (CN) at EA, due to her link with the catchment meeting, look for any potential secretariat support in relation to the Integrated Portfolios in the Environment Agency.</li> <li>• Cllr MA said Cornwall Council would provide support where possible. He agreed there was a need for synergy and respecting the identity of the existing groups. He suggested the agenda should to be set by the sub groups and not by the LNP.</li> <li>• SR – a lot of topics come up in the sub groups that could be taken on by task and finish groups.</li> <li>• HL – IoS would like to be involved where relevant.</li> <li>• LEP/LNP sub committee works well, as does the Rural Group that Oliver Baines used to sit on. KB - continued representation on the LEP Green Skills Group is required.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PH and CN to discuss what might be possible around support related to Integrated Portfolios at the EA.</li> <li>• PH to make refinements including putting an item on each sub group agenda to ask “what can the LNP do?”. It was agreed that a board member should represent each of the sub groups.</li> <li>• PH, CM to discuss how and when to take forward to avoid overlap.</li> </ul>
7	<p><b>Shared Prosperity Fund &amp; Project Pipeline</b></p> <p><b>SPF</b> - Further to Katie Dalsgaard’s presentation at the last board meeting, two proposals linked to nature recovery have been submitted.</p> <p><b>Project Pipeline</b> – a call was sent out to key strategic partners for projects. 50 EOIs were received from 25 organisations which were scored using various means including local nature strategic priorities, the scale of project and deliverability. 33 were RAG rated as green, 13 as amber and 4 were red. Next steps – letters for partners will go out to every project giving information on support available. Any thematic and geographical gaps will be addressed. LNP to champion the investment programme. It was noted that an additional benefit of the pipeline was to have projects ready to be put forward should any underspend be announced, as it has from Defra recently.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> LNP board are asked to champion the investment programme - ALL</p>
8	<p><b>Birds and Nature Recovery</b></p> <p>It was NBW’s final meeting and RT said it had a real pleasure to have him on the board and that he would be missed.</p> <p>NB-W gave a presentation citing some success stories: the steady increase in numbers of Choughs in England; the Cirl Bunting’s recovery from the brink of extinction thanks to farmers and farming practices; and, the successful breeding of Manx Shearwater on the IoS since the eradication of rats.</p>

	<p>However, 600m birds have been lost since 1970 with farmland seeing the biggest losses, followed by woodland. The current avian flu situation has seen devastation in Scotland with some species now at risk of extinction. When birds are already in vulnerable position a shock event like this can be devastating.</p> <p>Points to remember: Intensification of agriculture is the biggest driver of biodiversity decline and the UK is home to a quarter of Europe's seabird population highlighting the importance of the marine environment.</p> <p><i>Avian flu</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max to feed back to CM MP regarding the uncoordinated government response to bird flu. Especially highlighting the lack of consideration to wild birds; the focus seems to be on captive/kept birds.</li> <li>• A summary of the current situation to be written up by IoS for RT to use to lobby/campaign for better coordination and advice.</li> <li>• Cornwall Council – Emergency Response team have discussed. Biffa and waste collection service are picking up birds on Council land but don't have the resource to address private land.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Max to feed back to CM MP regarding the uncoordinated government response to bird flu. Especially highlighting the lack of consideration to wild birds; the focus seems to be on captive/kept birds.</li> <li>• A summary of the current situation to be written up by IoS for RT to use to lobby/campaign for better coordination and advice.</li> </ul>
9	<p><b>Green Skills</b></p> <p>RT gave thanks to KB who has been a great champion for green skills. KB gave an overview saying that green skills had been identified as important to the LNP and that the recent Green Skills Report commissioned by the LEP would give focus on what the LNP can do. KB handed over to Clare Harris (CH) who gave thanks to Carl Warom for the summary of the report which he provided ahead of the meeting.</p> <p>The green skills recommendations in the report that are relevant to the LNP are: -</p> <p><i>Business Support</i></p> <p>F) encourage business to plan for growth underpinned by environmental considerations through proactive workforce planning, anticipating short, medium and long-term skills needs.</p> <p><i>Strategic Development, reporting and monitoring</i></p> <p>I) set ambitious environmental reporting requirements in relation to business practice and green workforce developments in future (funded) schemes.</p> <p><i>Careers, pathways, skills and training</i></p> <p>E) communicate on scale and range of green occupations to attract new talents and promote diverse and inclusive workforce.</p> <p>G) Improve visibility of existing green training provision</p> <p>H) encourage development of new green training provision where required to fill gaps and support affordability and accessibility</p>

	<p>Main points arising: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To transition to a low carbon economy all sectors need to have awareness of the parts they can play.</li> <li>• There's a need to close the loop on how degree programmes meet the demand more effectively.</li> <li>• It's important to engage with young people as early as primary school.</li> <li>• Apprenticeship schemes and kickstart programmes need permanence and short term funded projects need security. Shared apprenticeship schemes have worked well in the past.</li> <li>• Farms advice around ELMs – greater resources are needed and skills sets required to balance practicalities with nature.</li> <li>• On the IoS businesses want to offer apprenticeships but there is a requirement to go to college 1 day a week (on the mainland) which isn't practicable. A virtual option would be beneficial.</li> <li>• KB – provision for vocational training is mixed and the demand isn't clear enough – there's potential to move this forward.</li> <li>• The Green sector is traditionally not well paid and affordable housing is a real barrier.</li> <li>• SR - research can be undertaken by undergraduates (not just marine related) by Plymouth and Exeter Universities - natural capital approach, integrating biodiversity and finance.</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTIONS:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SR research suggestion to be discussed at next Executive Meeting – LG to put on agenda</li> <li>• Green Skills Task Force will be reconvened - CH/IG</li> <li>• CH's email to be shared with board members so that they may express an interest if they want to be involved - LG</li> <li>• To be put on Forward Look to be kept on LNP agenda - LG</li> </ul>
<b>10</b>	<p><b>Roundtable</b> Board members gave verbal updates</p>
<b>11</b>	<p><b>AOB</b> PH informed the board that Carl Warom was leaving Cornwall Council – RT thanked CW for all his hard work.</p> <p>A date for the diary - Cornwall Sustainability Awards on 9 December.</p>
	<p><b>Date of next meeting –</b> 10 November 2022</p>