

Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	22 July 2022
Time:	09:30 – 12:00
Location:	via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Nick Bruce-White (NB-W), Cllr Jordan Rowse for Cherilyn Mackrory MP, Wesley Smyth (WS), Cllr Martyn Alvey (Cllr MA), Karen Burrows (KB), Steve Marks for Helen Dobby (SM), Julian Branscombe (JB), Vicky Fraser (VF), Cllr Harry Legg (Cllr HL), Cheryl Marriott (CM) CWT, Ilya Maclean (IM)
In attendance:	Mark Holmes (MH), Philippa Hoskin (PH), Carl Warom (CW)
Guests:	Katie Dalsgaard (KD), Economic Growth Officer, Cornwall Council

1	Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair's report
1.1	Welcome, thank you, apologies & items for AOB <i>Apologies:</i> Paul Masters (PMas), Sian Rees (SR), Phil Mason (PM), Martin Howlett (MH) AOB: none other than those on agenda – Green Skills and SWW Stakeholder Forum
1.2	Minutes of previous Board Meeting Minutes approved.
1.3	Matters Arising and Actions <i>Actions from the last board:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SR and RT will aim to see IFCA's new roadmap and assist with any lobbying in order to address gap around IFCA's which should be included in the SPF – SR and RT have had a discussion and plan to talk to Ruth Williams at CWT, before speaking to IFCA. • Helen Dobby to nominate someone from EA to join KB, RT, IM, CWT representative, SR, and JB/TS to join first Investment Sub Group - done • VF and HD to consider options around monitoring and reporting of nature pledges – in progress • Nature Recovery Green Paper and Environmental Targets consultations (verbal report & presentation): Carl to prepare response and circulate to board – done <p>To note: In October 2022 HD will join Cornwall Council as Service Director for Regulatory Services.</p>
1.4	Chair's report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read.

	<p>There has been a large turnover within the partnership recently. Congratulations to Mark Holmes who has been appointed Head of Environmental Partnerships and Climate Change.</p> <p>The Civic Lantern - RT and CM attended an event driven by Prof Jane Wills (Environment and Sustainability Institute at the University of Exeter). On the day the young attendees came up with two goals, linking to the Cornwall Plan, around housing and community growing. Unfortunately nature took a back seat.</p> <p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p>
2	<p>Executive Report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. The highlights were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Prosperity Fund is a separate agenda item. • Climate Emergency DPD – hearings for the Planning Inspectors examination of the Climate Emergency DPD took place in late June. Final modifications will be subject to consultation in August. <p>Funding</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ERDF-funded Tevi project has been extended to June 2023 • G7 Nature Recovery Project has now secured further funding for a new round of projects • Forest for Cornwall has also just been successful in securing £2.45m of capital funding; recruitment is underway. <p>Carolyn Cadman is now Director for Natural Resources at South West Water. Matt Walpole is the new CEO of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust.</p> <p>Mark Holmes appointment, taking over from Steven Ford, has been confirmed, he is well connected to stakeholders and has lots of experience in the climate change arena.</p> <p>Philippa Hoskin has assumed responsibility for overseeing the Forest for Cornwall team.</p> <p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p>
3	<p>Recruitment</p> <p>In November 2022 RT comes to the end of his first 3 year term as partnership Chair. VF asked members if they were in agreement to invite RT to take on a second three year term and RT left the meeting while this was discussed. It was quickly and unanimously agreed that RT should be invited to be Chair for a second term. CllrMA added that RT is a great Chair not only due to his influence but also the amount of time he commits to the partnership and its work. RT was invited back to the meeting and agreed to a second term.</p> <p>At the end of August NB-W will come to the end of his second term on the board which sadly, in accordance with the Terms of Reference, means he will leave the partnership. NB-W was thanked for his contribution to the partnership and it was agreed that he would attend the September board meeting, which would be his last meeting.</p> <p>RT will talk to Karen about a potential second term and the LNP will commence recruitment to replace NB-W and OB.</p>

	<p>ACTION: 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 & KB</p>
4	<p>Isles of Scilly Update (verbal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tony Richardson is the new Chair of the IoS AONB. More farm and grower engagement is expected • Seedcorn bids have gone in for an evidence review with ERCISS and Exeter University. • IoS Wildlife Trust has put in a proposal for a Festival for Nature on the Isles of Scilly. • JB will be joining the LNP Investment Sub Group next week.
5	<p>LNP Sub Committee Update (paper circulated ahead of the meeting) Report taken as read with the additional updates as follows: -</p> <p>Cornwall Catchment Partnership Three things the sub committee has done: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 3Cs (Championing Coastal Co-ordination in Cornwall) project report and 2-page summary have now been published on the CWT website and disseminated to stakeholders. • In early July, the CCP were hosted by Imerys for a successful site visit to look at the impact of Imerys' operations in the upper Fal catchment, see work delivered through the G7 project and discuss aspirations for future river restoration. • Daras (Cornwall Land Hub) was soft-launched at the Royal Cornwall Show. <p>Three things the CCP is planning to do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CCP is feeding into the new regional NFM forum, for professionals working on nature-based solutions and natural flood management across Devon and Cornwall. • At the June CCP meeting, there was a strategic focus topic on citizen science with a talk/discussion led by Westcountry Rivers Trust - as a result, there was a desire for the partnership to further focus on/discuss monitoring, regulatory resource and citizen science. • The CCP will be undertaking a refresh of the CCP strategy. <p>Farming sub group There is a fresh line of engagement with the farming community which IM and MH have discussed and MH is happy to lead on. It is part of the £12.5M NERC-funded RENEW programme.</p> <p>Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative (CBI) CBI is currently operating as a liaison group whereas it used to be focussed on nature conservation before the LNP became involved, and prior to the CCP being set up. CM raised a question about whether the expectations of the group needed clarity (Matt Walpole may have thoughts on this). This prompted a wider question about the need for a review of the sub groups. PH suggested that a board member should be involved with each sub group even if they were unable to attend each meeting.</p>

	<p>ACTION: 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 & MH</p>
6	<p>County Deal (verbal update) Kate Kennally, Cornwall Council’s CEO, and others met for a revolving door session (unfortunately a deep dive with Defra wasn’t possible before the meeting). The asks were generally well received, and the feedback was positive. All the nature and environmental asks have remained in the Deal going forward and will be submitted by 5 September.</p> <p>From a political angle, Greg Clark, the new Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, was involved in Cornwall’s Devolution Deal in 2014 and therefore has previous experience in this arena. However, there is concern that some civil servants may be waiting until the new Prime Minister is in post before pushing forward with this Deal, also the bid for a Level 3 County Deal requires a directly-elected mayor. This may need to be decided via a referendum.</p>
7	<p>Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) (a paper was circulated before the meeting) The board were very pleased to welcome Katie Dalsgaard who joined the meeting and gave a presentation on SPF.</p> <p>The main points were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are three main areas: communities and place; supporting local business; and people and skills. • UK SPF has been announced with £2.6 bn made available nationally over the next 3 years. • £132m has been ringfenced for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. • Cornwall Council is the lead authority for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. • Cornwall Council must submit an investment plan to HMG by 30 June – 1 August. • Government will look at investment plans over the summer and if signed off will unlock funding from October onwards. • All SPF funded projects will contribute towards Good Growth. • Priority outcomes of interest to the LNP would be: - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ reduction in CO2 emissions ○ nature recovery ○ green upskilling <p>Board Members agreed that it was important to the LNP to have one of the pipeline projects in year 1 of the programme.</p> <p>ACTION: LG to send out slide pack</p>
8	<p>LNP Project Pipeline (verbal update) Philippa Hoskin gave a verbal update on the project pipeline together with a presentation.</p> <p>The main points were: -</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LNP has previously supported the creation of a project pipeline to determine what to invest in especially if funding for the single pot ask from the County Deal is approved. • The LNP has put out a call for projects to 30 trusted delivery partners who can deliver at scale through an Expression of Interests exercise. This finished at the end of June and the Nature Recovery team have been analysing the results. • An Investment Sub Group has been set up to review submissions and agree on a mechanism for RAG rating. • There are three possible projects which would suit the first year of SPF. <p>Next steps for the LNP: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • feedback to partners on their project submissions. • address thematic and geographical gaps. • champion the Investment Programme and individual projects.
9	<p>KPIs Update (a report was circulated with recommendations with board papers) Report taken as read. IM and CW presented this item, the main points being: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LNP adopted its refreshed Environmental Growth Strategy in February 2021, five years from the adoption of the original. It provides the long-term strategic framework for Cornwall & the Isles of Scillies natural environment. • Our KPI set has now been refreshed for Cornwall with most recent data. • Trends: some indicators are not showing any change or small change. <p>Board Members had the following comments: - It was noted that because a site was protected, like an MPA, that it did not necessarily mean that that area was well managed for nature. IM flagged a NE commissioned think piece on this issue. PH noted that the KPIs are chosen to capture the disconnect between designation and good management, and that the MPA KPI sites alongside a separate KPI on whether byelaws are in place to highlight this disconnect (i.e. that whilst 35% of inshore waters are in an MPA, only 8% has byelaws in place for good management), and similarly that the land KPI doesn't include all SSSIs but only those with favourable or recovering status.</p> <p>It was queried whether an air quality KPI could be included. IM noted that whilst there is AQMA data, this is of limited value for understanding wildlife or habitat impacts at the county scale.</p> <p>On the recommendation on aligning delivery to the LNRS, KB questioned whether LNRS maps could identify spatial areas for project development, and CM highlighted a project that only partially overlapped a LNRS opportunity area. PH noted that the maps will be recommissioned and are being partially ground-truthed, but that the LNRS makes clear that the maps should only ever be used as a strategic guide and that project development should always involve surveys and site visits as they'll never be completely ground-truthed. CW noted that we could review how cases like that CM noted could be better captured through the written guidance on how to use the maps in the LNRS redrafting.</p>

	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS: the following were all APPROVED (please see report for more detailed recommendations)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A tailored KPI set for the Isles of Scilly be developed and the evidence group explore how to progress it. 2. To ensure continued alignment with indicators and reporting cycles of the Gyllyn Warbath (Cornwall Plan) 3. That a mechanism be developed to better capture land that is well-managed for nature beyond statutory designations and agri-environment schemes ie to include pledges for nature from the summit 4. That the evidence group establish a task & finish group to determine the development of one or more indicators on biodiversity loss and abundance. 5. That a stocktake be undertaken of County Wildlife Sites to appraise their condition and continued inclusion within the 'land well-managed' KPI. 6. That preliminary work be undertaken to examine how to better capture the potential and priorities for high nature value farming ahead of the receipt of LNRS-linked funding. 7. That future KPI reporting be adapted as new data and methods become available, including exploring potential future alignment with LNRS reporting and national Environmental Targets. 8. That the evidence group explore how future development and implementation of the LNRS can ensure that thematic and spatial priorities dovetail more effectively with actual delivery. <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IM to ensure Evidence Group supports ongoing work to develop a KPI set for Scilly • PH & IM to explore a mechanism to improve capturing of land well-managed • IM to establish an Evidence Group task & finish group on biodiversity indicators IM to discuss with CWT on progressing CWS condition appraisal PH, IM & MH to explore further on High Nature Value Farmland PH to ensure that, once reconvened, the LNRS subgroup explores means to better align delivery with the LNRS CW to review editorial changes to draft to capture comments on air quality and better communicate the designation/management disconnect • RT and IM to have a more detailed conversation about KPIs and how the CBI may be involved. • IM/Evidence Group to report back on progress in 6 months time
<p>10</p>	<p>Roundtable Board members gave verbal updates</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>AOB</p> <p>Green Skills Report KB gave a brief update on the Green Skills Report.</p> <p>Kovia Consulting Ltd launched their green jobs report 'green economy and skills deep dive research for Cornwall' which was commissioned by CloS LEP. The report has highlighted a lack of plan for nature recovery jobs. There is a danger that the report will sit on a desk. It is</p>

	<p>advised that Cornwall Council (CC) employment group and LEP come and talk to the LNP about how they plan to deliver the recommendations in the report.</p> <p>ACTION: CC VF and PH to orchestrate CC employment group and the CloS LEP attending board to discuss delivery of recommendations.</p> <p>SWW Stakeholder Forum “Let’s talk water” RT highlighted the upcoming forum and asked if a board member would be able to represent the LNP at this event.</p>
	<p>Dates of next meetings – 16 September 2022, 10 November 2022</p>