

Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	10 November 2022
Time:	09:30 – 12:00
Location:	via Microsoft Teams
Present:	Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Cllr Jordan Rowse for Cherilyn Mackrory's office (observer), Wesley Smyth (WS), Cllr Martyn Alvey (Cllr MA), Karen Burrows (KB), Mark Rice (MR), Julian Branscombe (JB) - part, Cllr Harry Legg (Cllr HL), Matt Walpole (MW), Ilya Maclean (IM), Sian Rees (SR) - part, Martin Howlett (MHow), Tanya Saker (TS) for Paul Masters (PM), Rebecca Williams (RW),
In attendance:	Mark Holmes (MHol), Philippa Hoskin (PH), Dougie Handford (DH), Lorna Gaunt (LG)
Guest:	Richard Benwell – CEO of Wildlife & Countryside Link

1	Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair's report
1.1	<p>Welcome, thank you, apologies & items for AOB</p> <p><i>Welcome:</i> Mark Rice who is the Regional Director for Devon Cornwall and Isles of Scilly; he has replaced Helen Dobby on the board for the Environment Agency.</p> <p>The board have approved the appointment of the following members:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clare Parnell who is a farmer, a LEP board member and Chair of their Rural Sub Group • Sarah Houghton who is the Vice Principal of Quality of Education (Land Based) • Nick Lawrence who is the National Trust's Assistant Director for Cornwall <p><i>Thank you:</i> RT thanked Karen Burrows who's come to the end of a three year term on the board. KB has been a very active member of the board around green skills and also more broadly. KB will arrange a handover with her green skills experienced successor, Sarah Houghton. Tanya Saker who has been Paul Master's representative is leaving the IoS Council and was thanked for her contribution to the board.</p> <p><i>Apologies:</i> Phil Mason (PM), Nick Lawrence (NL), Sarah Houghton (SH)</p> <p><i>AOB:</i> Airport Consultative Committee</p>
1.2	<p>Minutes of previous Board Meeting</p> <p>Minutes approved.</p>
1.3	<p>Matters Arising and Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The finalised Environmental Enforcement brief will be sent out to the board following the current procurement process - LG

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub Group review actions – PH to meet with Cheryl Marriot to progress. RT has spoken to MH about setting up an informal group to discuss how to make progress on the farming sub group especially with major land owners. • Avian flu – RT has spoken to Lord Benyon and sent a summary of the current situation from the LNP’s perspective. • Green skills – SR has provided some suggestions about green skill resources available to the LNP from Universities. ACTION: LG to pass on to SH to pick up – LG/SH
1.4	<p>Chair’s report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read. The highlights were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RT will be attending the first meeting of the CloS Prosperity Advisory Panel today and will provide the voice for nature. The Rural Fund addendum to the Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) submissions deadline is 30 November. MA - the Rural Fund is within MA’s portfolio, administered by the SPF team. They will be triaging expressions of interest and directing to appropriate funding streams. • RT attended the local nature and neighbourhood planning conference at Tremough. <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"> • County Deal negotiations have resumed, and there’s optimism for a good outcome. • Environmental Enforcement – PH’s team are currently seeking quotes for an independent review. A task and finish group will be set up; contact RT or LG to express interest. • Pledges for Nature – DH has put together a comms campaign to encourage new pledges especially from major landowners and public bodies. Subscribers to the LNP newsletter will now receive job opportunity mailouts; if the board have any local jobs to advertise, please email cioslnp@cornwall.gov.uk. • PH’s team have launched the updated Nature Recovery Toolkit. It is a suite of information targeted at Town & Parish Councils and community groups. • A three-year exhibition space at Heartlands named the Trees and Nature hub is due to launch on 28 November in line with National Tree week. <p>Recommendation: to note – NOTED</p> <p>ACTION: Environmental Enforcement - a task and finish group will be set up; contact RT or LG to express interest.</p>
3	<p>LNP Sub Committee Update (paper circulated ahead of the meeting)</p> <p>MH gave highlights as follows: -</p>

	<p>The Cornwall Catchment Partnership is investigating ways to better promote river monitoring citizen science across Cornwall. This approach is something that is being mirrored in other meetings that MH has recently attended.</p> <p>Marine Liaison Group – key findings from the group’s last meeting in mid October (not presented at the board meeting):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group had valuable presentations from Duchy of Cornwall on how they are approaching positive management of their intertidal and coastal elements of their estate . • The MLG also heard from Marine Management Organisation about their ambitious plans for increasing active protection within our Marine Protected Area network in the next few years, which if delivered with help contribute to our target of 30% land, river seas well managed for nature by 2030. • Ruth Williams and PH, as co-chairs of the MLG took, an action to find a way forward to work with the MLG to fill some of the gaps in the LNP Project Pipeline. They would welcome support from SR or others from the Board on this. <p>Evidence Group – IM is doing a stocktake and trend analysis. He’s having bi-monthly meetings with the ERCCIS and a short report will be published before Christmas.</p> <p><i>Board member comments: -</i></p> <p>MR – there will be a strategic review of drought preparedness for next year which SWW will be involved with.</p> <p>WS – recommends that the LNP keeps in touch with the two IFCA’s to which RT said he would be meeting IoS IFCA in Spring.</p>
4	<p>Government’s plans around ELMS, Investment Zones and EU legislation</p> <p>MW introduced the item and referred to the report which was circulated with board papers. The report outlines the issues around the government’s plans for environmental regulations, the risks they pose, and what the LNP might need to do.</p> <p>Richard Benwell joined the meeting to give an overview.</p> <p><i>What has the LNP done?</i></p> <p>Before the new administration RT co-wrote (with the LEP) a letter regarding ELMS to the Secretary of State, Ranil Jayawardena MP. At the Quarterly LNP & MPs Meeting the same concerns were discussed.</p> <p><i>What can the LNP do?</i></p> <p><i>Administration of changes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MR – concerns especially around REACH regulation, Nutrient Neutrality, Water Quality strategy that Defra won’t have the capacity to review legislation/regulations. Engagement from environmental organisations is needed, not just regulators. • KB – is there any scope to use COP15 to put concerns on the table with the aim of prioritising pieces of legislation/regulation.

	<p><i>Investment Zones</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WS - whether it goes through as is, or is changed, there is opportunity for local authorities to ensure there isn't a cost to nature. • MA – there are currently 13 expressions of interest, and it is clear that there will be no detractor from Cornwall Council's existing commitment to nature. • MA - worth remembering that IZs tend not to have a cost on government rather investment from the private sector. • CM raised concerns with previous SoS and would speak to new SoS. Working with senior officials at Cornwall Council to make sure there's no compromise on the environment or nature recovery. • SR – Plymouth and South Devon, as part of their Freeport status, have submitted an EOI to become an IZ with potential to unlock investment to benefit the commercial sector, renewables and economic growth. <p><i>ELM</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With regards to engaging with farming community, this issue highlights the need for a good baseline as the level of compliance is quite low within existing regulations. Moving forward there's a need for better engagement. • PH – raised concern re local nature component of ELM in that it is possibly misleading, suggesting a link to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy although it is linked at some level but not formally. • Call for ELMs to be substantive, not to be cut back (Common Agricultural Policy payments had ringfenced funding). <p>RECOMMENDATIONS - that the LNP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • concludes that, in the absence of evidence to the contrary, the current situation pertaining to ELMS, IZs and the REUL Bill constitutes a risk to nature in Cornwall with all its associated implications for the economy, health and wellbeing, and is therefore of concern. RESOLVED: The LNP acknowledges the risks and agrees there shouldn't be a trade off between productivity and nature, that both can be achieved. • makes a public statement to this effect via the appropriate communications channels. RESOLVED: After the chancellor's announcement, the LNP will come up with a position from a non party political stance to raise the importance of these issues including a point on baseline expectations on regulatory compliance for farmers. • continues to engage with councillors and MPs in Cornwall to express its concerns and make the case for upholding environmental policy and legislation and the principle of public money for public goods. RESOLVED: the LNP will continue to communicate risks to decision makers. <p>ACTION: after the Autumn Fiscal Event produce an LNP position on environmental law and the risks to nature from a non party political stance to include a point on baseline expectations on regulatory compliance for farmers – RT</p>
5	<p>IoS Update (verbal)</p> <p>TS gave an update:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Festival of Nature with the Wildlife Trust (WT) had great engagement with over 900 participants, including schools and farmers. • Farming in Protected Landscapes (FiPL) – three new projects have been confirmed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avian flu in wild birds has declined. • IoS LNRS – working with DH on how the IoS will link in and picking up on lack of evidence sets for IoS and how to move it forward. • Open spaces management plan – looking at a place on St Mary’s with the WT. • Council re-development of accommodation units – Net Gain pilot with WT and AONB.
6	<p>Investment (verbal) PH gave the following update:</p> <p><i>Investment Pipeline</i> Letters have been received by those who submitted Expressions of Interest and appropriate projects have been sent in response to Defra’s underspend. PH’s team will work with Marine Liaison Group and partners to fill the geographic and thematic gaps.</p>
7	Roundtable - Board members gave verbal updates
8	<p>AOB</p> <p><i>Airport Consultative Forum</i> Please let RT/LG know if you would like to represent the LNP at their quarterly meetings.</p> <p><i>The Cornwall Sustainability Awards</i> The awards ceremony takes place on 9 December at Truro Cathedral. It is the 20th year anniversary since they started - please book your free place via eventbrite.</p>
	Dates of next meeting – 13 January 2023