



Meeting notes

Meeting Title:	Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting
Date:	11 May 2023
Time:	10:30 – 12:30
Location:	The Council Chamber at the Wesleyan Chapel, St Mary's, Isles of Scilly & MS Teams
Present:	In person: Robin Teverson (RT) Chair, Cllr Martyn Alvey (MA), Vicky Fraser (VF), Julian Branscombe (JB), Matt Walpole (MW), Rebecca Williams (RW), Nick Lawrence (NL), Cllr Harry Legg (HL), Martin Howlett (MHow), Ilya Maclean (IM) Online: Clare Parnell (CP), Paul Masters (PM)
In attendance:	Philippa Hoskin (PH), Dougie Handford (DH), Bethany Roberts (BR), Lorna Gaunt (LG) -note taker
Guest:	Stephen Swabey, Project Director - Climate Adaptation Scilly, IoS Council

1	Apologies, items of AOB, Minutes, Matters Arising & Actions and Chair's report
1.1	Welcome, thank you, apologies & items for AOB Apologies: Cheryl Mackrory MP, Sian Rees, Wesley Smyth AOB: none
1.2	Minutes of previous Board Meeting Minutes approved.
1.3	Matters Arising and Actions Matters arising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sub group secretariat support – support is particularly needed for the Environmental Evidence Group and the Cornwall Biodiversity Initiative - conversations in progress. • Climate Change Risk Assessment – MH can give presentations with Rhys Hobbs to NL and WS and their respective teams to link into the adaptation work. • Mark Rice to report back regarding the Planetary initiative to release magnesium hydroxide into Hayle Waste Water Treatment Works. MR is scheduled to attend 29 June meeting and will give an update.
1.4	Chair's report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read.

1.5	<p>Executive Report (full report circulated with the board papers) Taken as read.</p>
2	<p>Adapting to Climate Change on the Isles of Scilly and the impacts on wildlife Stephen Swabey, Project Director for Climate Adaptation Scilly, Isles of Scilly Council presented the item and gave a presentation.</p> <p>Through the climate change adaption action plan links have been made to health, housing, heritage, tourism, infrastructure, flood risk management and species/habitats. Land management and farming has also been addressed.</p> <p>Several sites on St Mary’s, St Martin’s, Bryher and St Agnes need improvements to their sea defences. At Porthmellon plans are being made to reduce the risk of coastal erosion and flooding, improve resilience to drought and there are plans being put in place for future adaptation actions.</p> <p>Water supply is via groundwater, de-salinated water, and some rainwater collected in roof tanks provide domestic use water. Predicted sea level rise will increase flood risk and salt water contamination. Work is being designed to prevent and reduce flood risk, including rock armour and concrete walls as well as a softer approach such as planting native vegetation and renourishing dunes.</p> <p>As well as predicted temperature extremes other climatic impacts are likely to be higher summer/lower winter wind speeds. Increased fog is likely to have substantial impacts on the islands’ critical services. Fewer frosts and increased susceptibility to wildfires, droughts and increased storms are likely. An incursion of invasive species, predators, and diseases are predicted through increased sea temperatures and ocean acidification. Coastal erosion has meant a decline in species.</p> <p>Invasive plant species are a real concern and diseases and bugs are causing more problems for farming than ever. There is a strong need for the islands to be rat free for the benefit of seabirds.</p> <p>There has been a public consultation on the IoS Adaptation Action Plan which is due to go to Council. Organisations will be consulted and informed about opportunities around carbon sequestration, trees, and other vegetation, seagrass and seaweeds. Potential actions include avoiding controlled burns, rewetting of peatland, and planting ‘tiny forests’ and seagrass.</p> <p>Board Member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PM - added that the Council was also working with UK government around the complexity of doing this on an island such as higher construction costs, logistics around transportation and timings (pressures of winter working and impacts on summer tourist season). There is a continued push for the islands to be designated in a different way. • HL - pointed out the hierarchy of needs for the community which is water, food security and transport links. • MH - further funding through FiPL will offer significant uplift to carry out some climate adaption work. Concerns about rainwater harvesting/water issues can be addressed and the Wildlife Trust will continue to work with farmers.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PH – the team are working with the University of Exeter around blue carbon and those results can be shared. One remedy is reducing pressures. The Marine Liaison Group will be inviting the IoS to join the group.
3	<p>Environmental Improvement Plan (EIP)</p> <p>MW introduced this item and DH outlined how the EIP relates to our own priorities. The next step would be to feed into an upcoming meeting with Defra.</p> <p>The EIP is the five year update to 25 year environment plan and covers 10 environmental objectives. These have been interpreted as to what it would mean for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly.</p> <p>There is a low ambition for nature friendly farming and a target of 70% of agricultural land to be covered by new farming schemes (ELMS) by 2028. The EIP ambition for the marine environment is to ensure that 70% of designated features in MPAs are in favourable condition by 2042.</p> <p>DH explained a rag rating diagram which showed a conglomeration of various strategies and key actions, or associated funding. Enforcement and monitoring were not mentioned, instead suggesting Defra’s preference would be for education and journeying together.</p> <p><i>Board member comments:-</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RT – regarding retained EU legislation 600 pieces of law are now going, giving a bit more stability. MW – in summary the set of ambitions makes some reference to implementation but there are some gaps. VF – it is good to educate and support but enforcement has to run parallel. PH - any LNP concerns/comments can be taken to the Defra delivery meeting next week. CP – Advice for farmers on support available from the future farm resilience fund programme. NL – is there any additional funding available? PH answered that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy new burdens funding formula is around farm businesses and it is therefore at least recognised. CP – pointed out the different farm type mix - high % of livestock farming in Cornwall and the wider South West. IM – as monitoring is limited to citizen science and Environment Agency monitoring of rivers IM would suggest pushing for farming advice. MH – other regions - are we on the same track? DH said more work will need to be done to know. Good engagement work is being carried out in East Anglia, and in Warwickshire there are good Biodiversity Neg Gain examples. PH – encouraged board members to provide examples of best practice.
4	<p>Local Nature Recovery Framework</p> <p>With the pilot already completed PH is exploring how that work can be built upon. The investment projects pipeline will be re-opened at the LNP Ecological Summit next week.</p>

	<p>A full report was provided with papers and had the following recommendations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That the LNP Board approves the LNRS design principles for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly set out in section 3.2 - AGREED 2. That the LNP Board approves the proposed LNRS governance structure and role of the LNP as set out in section 3.3 and agrees to co-create and co-adopt the LNRS, acting as a steering group - AGREED – with the addition re AONBs (see below) 3. That the LNP approves the addition of the LNRS as a standing item on future Board Meetings and the LNP Executive meetings - AGREED 4. That the LNP approves the recommendations to review and improve the 30x30 land KPI set out in section 4.3 and that the method and results are integrated into the next iteration of the KPI data set. – DEFERRED <p>Board member comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members were keen to see how deliverability could be designed into this. It is good that co-creation will enable priorities and opportunities to be looked at. Action: PH/DH to write a paper about how this is deliverable and highlight where the gaps are. • AONB representation – explore options to co-opt with voting for this specific piece of work. Action: PH/DH to take forward. • IM – suggests a three strand approach for mapping; strategic prioritisation, funding mechanisms, and people. • JB – raised concern about feeling out of the loop and about resource for deliverability. PH reassured that the differences between Cornwall and IoS have been recognised and thanked IM for his work. <p>Action: share slides form presentation – PH</p>
5	<p>Roundtable Board members gave updates.</p>
6	<p>AOB</p>