

Devon LNP Board meeting 3rd December 2012

Minutes

Attendees: Professor Martin Attrill, Harry Barton, Nicola Bulbeck (Acting Chair), Elaine Cook, Mark Jones, Robin Milton, Dr Virginia Pearson, Corinna Wooddall

Observers: Peter Chamberlain, Sarah Jennings, Mark Rice (all secretariat and Exec Group members)

Apologies: None

Nicola Bulbeck explained that she had been asked to Chair the first meeting, prior to the Board appointing a Chair.

1. LNP Overview Paper (Paper 1: LNP Overview)

Peter Chamberlain gave an overview of LNP developmental work to date. This included work on the Green Economy and Reconnecting People and Nature, as well as the development of an LNP website.

2. Composition and operation of the Board (Paper 2: Terms of reference)

2.1 Overview

Action: Sec to add the word 'health' into the role of the LNP in order that it reads, '*Brokering the optimum economic, social and health benefits that the natural environment can provide.....*'

2.2 Board membership and role

Links between the LNP and LEP were discussed. Agreed that a single point of contact with the LEP is essential, and that further discussion is needed with the LEP to agree joint working and representation. Ideal situation would be to have a LEP rep. on the LNP Board.

Action: PC to speak to Liz Waugh (LEP, CEO) re: LNP / LEP links and feed back to the Board.

Martin Attrill asked whether IFCAs (Devon and Severn Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority) should be represented on the Board given its key role in creating and enforcing marine policy. Agreed that other representation should be brought in if required, and that there may be a need for a marine task and finish group, (see discussion under (3) below).

Action: PC to ask the IFCA how it wants to engage with the LNP.

No further suggestions for Board members were made.

The role of Board members was agreed subject to clarification that members champion the natural environment and involve others in the work of the LNP.

2.3 Chair

PC clarified that there are currently no resources available to pay a Chair. NB stated that she would not support a paid position and asked members whether they would like to volunteer. NB confirmed that she was willing to Chair the first few meetings but that she felt that she didn't have necessary technical expertise to stand as Chair. As there were no volunteers it was agreed that the role would need to be advertised following further discussion.

Action: Sec. to draft a job description and circulate to the Exec Group for discussion. Exec Group to put a proposal to the Board before Christmas.

2.4 Meeting frequency / voting etc

All proposals agreed subject to inclusion of a Part 2 process for confidential items being included on each agenda, with this being used only when absolutely necessary. Agreed that the public should be invited to attend meetings, following the first meeting with the new Chair. Agreed that Board papers will be placed on the LNP website before the meeting in order to give Forum members time to comment.

Action: Sec to amend terms of reference to include the above.

Sec to organise three monthly Board meetings to start at 3pm on first Monday of the month.

2.5 Executive Group / Task and Finish Group

Agreed subject to no acronyms in the terms of reference.

2.6 Forum

It was noted that work undertaken by the Community Council of Devon for the LNP capacity building stage highlighted the huge interest in the LNP, especially if people feel that they can be influential and get involved. It was agreed that the Forum should be open to everyone and that the website should be used as much as possible, along with an annual conference, e-newsletter etc. It was noted however that a careful approach to communication / involvement is needed given the size of Devon, interest in environmental issues and the limited resources available. Delivery on the ground is the key thing.

2.7 Resources

PC confirmed that DCC Officers will provide the majority of the secretariat function, supported by Executive Group members as needed. DCC has a very small budget (2012/13 and 2013/14) allocated to help pump prime LNP initiatives. Funding from others will be needed to take initiatives forward. NE has a small pot of money available to help with work such as Business Plan development. Agreed that the LNP needs to finalise a Business Plan before lobbying for funding.

Action: NB agreed to take the funding message back to Devon's Local Authorities.

EC to raise at the Farming and SW Communities network

HB to continue to lobby for funding for LNPs via the Wildlife Trusts

3. Initial Action Plan (Paper 3: Towards a Programme of Action)

Agreed that this Action Plan is useful prior to publication of a Business Plan next spring.

Agreed that a Business Plan should be produced and that this should build on the extensive work undertaken during the capacity building stage (which involved identifying priorities for the LNP) and would involve identifying organisational priorities and mapping risks / opportunities.

Agreed that the LNP should aim for a conference in autumn 2013.

Agreed that the success of the LNP needs to be monitored and that measures of success of the LNP will be included in the Business Plan, rather than State of Environment report.

Agreed that the State of Nature report should be used as part of the evidence base for the wider State of Environment report. State of Nature should not be published before the latter as forms only part of the LNP's agenda.

Agreed that a full audit of ecosystem services is a huge job and that any work on this should be carefully scoped by the Executive Group.

Agreed that a Compact should be developed with the H&WBB and LEP by the next Board meeting in March 2013.

It was noted that the LEP is establishing a 'water and environment' group and that the first meeting is to be held in January. Mark Jones will be representing NE at these meetings (although he is not attending the first meeting). Agreed that it is essential that the LEP engages with the LNP as well as individual organisations within the LNP, and that the 'water and environment' agenda is a key area for joint work. It was noted that LEP, LNP and H&WBB strategies should be aligned as they are developed and any areas

of conflict identified and, ideally, addressed (although noted that the current LEP Business Plan has already been produced).

It was noted that the Executive Group has agreed that Mark Robins will be the group's lead on the Green Economy agenda and that his approach to taking this forward, with the LEP and Somerset and Plymouth LNPs, will be agreed by the Sec and Exec. Mark has also been given this role for Somerset LNP.

The designation of Marine Conservation Zones was raised and the LNP's role / voice in this work. Agreed that Harry Barton would draft a proposal and put to the Board.

The implications of the duty to co-operate were discussed, particularly in terms of how the LNP should respond to Local Plan consultations. Agreed that the Secretariat would pull together a paper clarifying how the LNP would deal with this role. NB agreed to raise the issue with LPAs in order to find out if the LNP is on their radar.

Agreed that Robin Milton would be lead Board member for the EU funding Task and Finish group.

Action: See Six Month Action Plan for actions

Sec to update Action Plan to reflect agreed changes.

Sec to speak to Ian Tearle (public health) reg. good examples of Compacts.

PC to speak to Liz Waugh reg. engagement with the LEP (as action in 2.2).

Sec to feed back to Board reg. Mark R's proposal to take forward the Green Economy agenda.

HB to draft a proposal, in liaison with PC, regarding the LNP's role in current marine issues. This to be emailed to the Board asap for a decision (cannot wait until the next Board meeting).

Sec to draft a paper on how the LNP should undertake the duty to co-operate role.

NB to raise the duty to co-operate role with LPAs.

Sec to revise all papers tabled at this meeting and send to Board to sign off.

2013 meetings:

Monday 4th March, 3pm, County Hall

Monday 3rd June, 3pm, County Hall

Monday 2nd September, 3pm, County Hall

Monday 2nd December, 3pm, County Hall