

Devon LNP Board meeting 4th March 2013

Minutes

Present: Professor Martin Attrill, Harry Barton, Nicola Bulbeck (Acting Chair), Mark Jones, Robin Milton,

In attendance: Peter Chamberlain, Sarah Jennings, Mark Rice (all Secretariat and Exec Group members)

Invitees: Mark Robins (RSPB), Simon Hooton (Ash Futures)

Apologies: Dr Virginia Pearson, Corinna Wooddall, Elaine Cook

1. Actions from last meeting

Updates:

- The LNP has been invited to sit on the LEP's Water and Environment Group. SJ attended the first meeting. Mark Robins will attend the April meeting. Future representation to be agreed when the LNP Chair is appointed. Stephen Bird has agreed to be the main point of contact with the LEP.
- IFCA has been contacted re: engagement with the LNP. Sec to feed back to the Board.
- A duty to co-operate paper is being developed by DCC for Devon which will include clarification of the LNP's role as a 'prescribed body'.

Actions:

- **All** agree future representation on LEP Water and Environment Group when LNP Chair appointed.
- **Sec** to confirm IFCA engagement with the LNP.
- **EC** to raise the LNP at the Farming and SW Communities network
- **Sec** to circulate a draft duty to co-operate paper for discussion at the next Board meeting.

2. Chair

The position of LNP Chair has been advertised and applicants short listed for interview.

Action: **Sec** to organise interviews in April and invite a LEP rep. to participate.

3. Ministerial event

Two key messages included strong political support from Defra although limited practical support, and that LNPs should be working with LEPs on the delivery of EU funding programmes. Further information will be placed on the LNP website.

4. Marine issues

HB circulated a draft paper for discussion. Agreed that the LNP needs to be a champion and 'honest broker' for marine issues. Communication of the evidenced benefits of a healthy marine environment is essential. Lessons from the first Marine Plan need to be taken on board and fed into the South Area Marine Plan (Folkestone to Dartmouth). Lots of marine projects planned for the next 5 – 10 years including Europe's largest mussel farm and tidal generation in North Devon. Plymouth City Deal focuses on marine technology. Important to involve the MMO and IFCA.

Action: **HB** to work with **MA** and **MJ** to develop a proposal for the LNP's marine work.

5. State of Environment Report / State of Nature report

Consultants now engaged to produce the LNP's State of Environment Report. Work being led and funded by DCC with a small steering group including health and economy representation. State of Nature report currently being finalised by DCC and DWT. Information within this will be fed into the State of Env report. Promotion of this likely to be linked to the SW promotion of a national NGO State of Nature report (mid June – Bristol Green Week). Agreed that both should be published as LNP documents and a standard LNP design template agreed.

Action: Sec to ensure completion of both State of Environment and State of Nature reports in spring 2013.

6. EU funding / links with LEP

MR met Tim Jones (LEP Chair) on 29th January for a discussion regarding LEP priorities and liaison with the LNP. Note that MR is also leading on liaison with the LEP for the Somerset LNP. Three main ways of working were agreed:

- LNP to have a place on LEP formal groups (e.g. MR to sit on LEP water and environment group).
- Liaison via informal contact
- Formal MOU / Compact to be agreed

Things are happening quickly / pace of change is fast and the LNP needs to be able to respond to this. Three key areas of work are:

- **EU Growth Programme.** Government wrote to LEPs on 7th February confirming that funds available in the EU Growth Programme (includes the European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund and a proportion of the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development) will be allocated to LEP areas. Each LEP will lead the development of an EU Investment Strategy which will complement the LEPs wider economic strategic plan and cover the whole LEP area. The Investment Strategies need to reflect the interests of a broad range of economic, social and **environmental** partners. Government is encouraging LEPs to work with necessary partners, including LNPs and has given each LEP £250K to help with this work. First outline strategies to be in place by the end of September 2013. MR and the Wildlife Trusts are organising an event in April which will bring LEPs and LNPs together to discuss the Growth Programme.
- **Infrastructure.** Each LEP is being asked to put forward one long term infrastructure proposition which can be underwritten by Treasury. The LEP is putting forward a proposal for a major package of flood risk activity of which natural solutions potentially form a part.
- **Value of the National Parks.** The LEP has undertaken a piece of work with the two National Parks looking at the value of the Parks and how to capture this / turn theory into reality.

Actions:

- **Sec** to circulate invitation to the April LNP / LEP event when received and **Board** to agree attendees.
- **MR** to advise on how the LNP can best work with the LEP reg. the Growth Programme, including a potential bid for capacity building funding to help with this process.

7. 'Business Plan' development

SH led a discussion around development of the 'Business Plan', including audience / type of document wanted / language used / ambition / consultation etc. Agreed that it should be aimed at a non specialist audience. Discussion involved issues such as how far organisations are prepared to align to projects / Devon consumers ('creating rich choices') / the importance of the economic value of the environment / importance of highlighting what can be done rather than what can't / potential to set out what the LNP supports (MCZs) and what the LNP needs to focus its attentions on (the gaps in current work / cross sectoral issues).

Actions:

- **Board** to send SH one thing that they want in the document as a starting point – and not from their normal working area. Email - simonhooton@me.com
- **Sec** to set up a Business Plan workshop and continue to oversee SH's work. A further Board / Exec meeting **may** be set up in the spring to discuss the draft as next Board meeting not until June.

Next Board meeting – Monday 3rd June, 3pm, County Hall