



# **DORSET LNP ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2018 - 2019**

# LNP ANNUAL REPORT

## FOREWORD

We are currently in a period of not just unprecedented political change but also, as a result, unparalleled environmental change. In central government the production of a 25 year plan for the natural environment, promises of environment, fisheries and agriculture acts, and changes expected in land stewardship payments all have huge implication for our natural environment. In Dorset the formation of two unitary local authorities, the production of a Local Industrial Strategy by the Dorset LEP similarly impacts our environment. A much greater understanding of the value of environment for our health and wellbeing draws us closer to the work of the Health & Wellbeing Boards, Local Authority teams and health and social care providers. Support for environmental net gain in development planning and for building natural capital gives huge opportunities for partnerships, such as with NE, EA, several NGOs and the Catchment Partnerships.

There has then never been a busier time for Dorset's LNP – its Board, officers and wider Forum. I am proud that despite no central support we are one of the most successful LNPs in the country and am immensely grateful to those organisations that have contributed financial support for our work on behalf of Dorset's environment – Dorset County Council, Borough of Poole, Bournemouth Council, Public Health Dorset and Dorset Wildlife Trust. You can see below a summary of the large workplan and list of achievements last year.

Next year looks to be at least as busy, and the work needed at least as important, so we will continue to be ambassadors and facilitators for the natural environment in Dorset for some time to come.

**Dr Simon Cripps**  
LNP Chair



## Governance, Communication and Resources

### LNP Board Meetings

The Dorset LNP Board met four times during 2018-19 on 6 June, 12 September, 12 December 2018 and 13 March 2019. The June Board meeting was held on Brownsea Island and included a guided walk around the Dorset Wildlife Trust reserve followed by delicious cakes from the National Trust.



### For more information:

[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset-LNP-Board](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Dorset-LNP-Board)  
(or contact the LNP Manager)

### Funding

During 2018-19 the Dorset LNP was supported by:

- Borough of Poole
- Bournemouth Borough Council
- Dorset AONB (Sustainable Development Grant)
- Dorset County Council
- Dorset Wildlife Trust
- Public Health Dorset
- South West Environment Network

### Improving Communication

The Dorset LNP twitter account was set up in November 2015 @dorset\_lnp. At the end of March 2019, the account had 435 followers.

E-news bulletins were published in April, September and December. At end March 2019 there were 181 Forum Members.

Above: Meeting on Brownsea Island © Maria Clarke  
Left: Simon Cripps © Debbie Dye

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# NATURAL CAPITAL

**Strategic objective i:**  
Invest in Dorset's natural assets

## Local Pollinators Case Studies

Following the Local Pollinators project which was funded by a Defra Local Pollinators grant available to LNP's which was awarded in March 2017 a series of case studies about the projects have been published:

- Ansty Wildflower Patch
- East Stour Wildflower Meadow
- Engaging tenant farmers for the benefit of pollinators
- Engaging communities in Burton Bradstock

**The case studies are available at:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/growing-for-pollinators](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/growing-for-pollinators)



Above: Pollinator case studies

## TPAL Conference

Dorset LNP has been supporting Bournemouth University Centre for Ecology, Environment and Sustainability on a NERC Valuing Nature programme on 'Mechanisms and Consequences of Tipping Points in Lowland Agricultural Landscapes' (TPAL). The research looked at identifying which ecosystems in Dorset are at risk of rapid transitions occurring, to enable appropriate management and policy responses to be identified, as well as looking at the potential impacts of such ecosystem "tipping points" on humans, through changes in the provision of ecosystem benefits.



Above: TPAL front cover

The LNP helped share a questionnaire in Summer 2017 and supported a workshop session in October 2018. The final study workshop was held in April 2019.

**The final report was published in summer 2019:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TPAL-Dorset-Natural-Capital-Trends-Report-2019.pdf](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TPAL-Dorset-Natural-Capital-Trends-Report-2019.pdf)

# NATURAL VALUE

**Strategic objective ii:**  
Adding natural value to the local economy

## Working with Dorset LEP



Dorset LNP has worked closely with Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership during 2018-19. A joint evidence report was drafted and submitted to a Lords Select Committee on Rural Economy in September. Thank you to Luke Rake, LEP Board Member representative on the LNP and Martina Hanulova, Dorset LEP Programme Manager for coordinating the response.

Dorset LNP drafted text for a number of sections within the Dorset LEPs *Dorset Horizon 2038 – A Vision for Growth* which will feed into the development of a Local Industrial Strategy for Dorset. Dorset LNP looks forward to working with Dorset LEP in the development of the Local Industrial Strategy and link in Natural Capital.

**The written response to the Lord Select Committee is available at:**  
<https://bit.ly/2EvXF3K>

**Dorset Horizon 2038 is available at:**  
<https://bit.ly/2TstoTh>

Above: Dorset Horizon 2038

# NATURAL

## HEALTH

**Strategic objective iii:**  
Developing Dorset's Natural Health Service

### Wessex Public Health Community Fellowship and Natural Choices

The Natural Choices programme of nature-based activities supporting health and wellbeing continues to grow with 27 providers offering around 70 activities across the county.

The Wessex Public Health Community Fellowship is a programme to raise the profile of public health and the community sector with FY2 doctors (year two of the general postgraduate medical training programme forming the bridge between medical school and specialist/general practice training). The Natural Choices programme was put forward and three FY2 doctors undertook an evaluation of Natural Choices across Dorset with targeted interviews with the Dorchester Strollers and Hardy Hands at Thorncombe Woods. They looked at the mental, physical and social benefits in terms of the Natural Choices activities. A GP Trainee also looked at the benefits of Natural Choices activities on loneliness and isolation focusing on Livability Holton Lee as well as finding out if GP Trainees knew about the programme.

A presentation event was held in January 2019 to report on findings across all the fellowship projects. Thank you to Doctors Sarah Osafo, Helen Adams, Katherine Conway and Arun Mukkavilli.

**The evaluation reports are available at:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Natural-Choices](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/Natural-Choices)

Right (top): PHCF presentation event © Maria Clarke  
Right (bottom): Greenspace workshop © Maria Clarke



### Greenspace Accessibility Mapping

Public Health Dorset commissioned the European Centre for Environment and Human Health at the University of Exeter's Medical School to undertake a Greenspace Accessibility Mapping research. A Workshop was held for LNP Board members, officers and invited guests in December 2018.

**More information is available at:**  
[www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/greenspaces](http://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/greenspaces)



# NATURAL

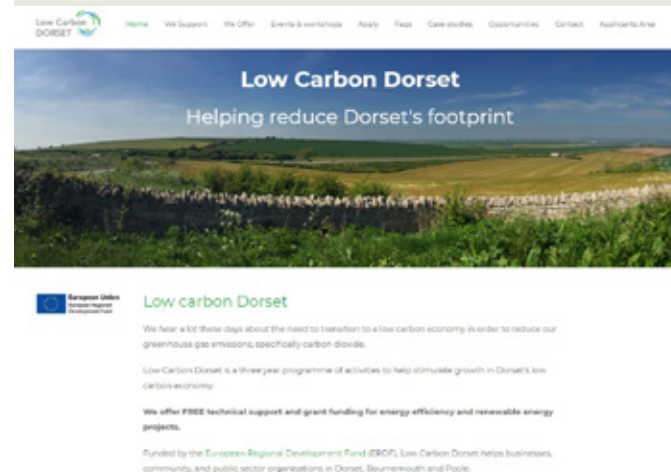
## RESILIENCE

**Strategic objective iv:**  
Improving Dorset's resilience

### Low Carbon Dorset Panel

Low Carbon Dorset is a three-year programme of activities to help stimulate growth in Dorset's low carbon economy, through technical support and grant funding for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects. The programme is funded from the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) supporting projects across Bournemouth Dorset and Poole. Dorset LNP was invited to become a Panel to assess large scale applications (applications for projects over £200,000) and applications from Dorset County Council / Dorset Council to ensure transparency in the assessment process. The LNP Panel met for the first time in January 2019.

**More information is available at:**  
[www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk](http://www.lowcarbondorset.org.uk)



Above: Low Carbon Dorset webpage

# NATURAL

## UNDERSTANDING

**Strategic objective v:**  
Understanding natural value

### LNP Annual Forum

Over 60 people attended the LNP Annual Forum held on 27 February 2019. The theme for the event was developing a 25 Year Environment Plan for Dorset to demonstrate how the county is delivering the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

Presentations were given on initial views of Dorset's approach and a workshop was held to engage the wider Forum members in the discussion.

**The presentations are available at:**  
[www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2019-presentations](http://www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/annual-forum-2019-presentations)



Above: LNP Forum 2019 © Maria Clarke

# NATURAL

## INFLUENCE

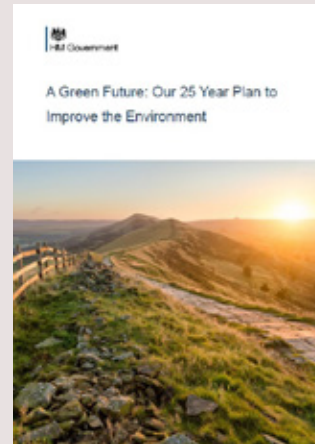
**Strategic objective vi:**  
Integrating natural value in policy and decision-making

### Engaging with Defra

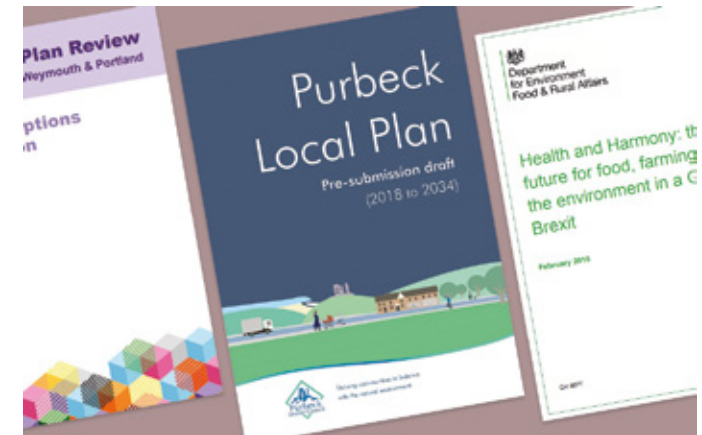
Closer links with Defra have been developed with the Dorset LNP over the year. The Defra Local Delivery Team, which oversee links with LNPs, and the 25 Year Environment Plan set up a 'Sounding Board' and invited LNP Chairs and Managers to join.

Dorset LNP Manager Maria Clarke joined the group and attended conference calls over the year to discuss improved ways of working between LNPs and Defra; the agenda and planning for a national LNP conference; planning a series of webinars for the network including one on the Defra 25 Year Environment Plan metrics.

Simon Cripps and Maria Clarke attended the LNP Networking Conference in June 2018 to share experiences with other LNPs.



Above: 25 Year Environment Plan front cover



### Submissions to consultations and inquiries

#### Local influence:

- Christchurch Local Plan Issues and Option (May 2018)
- East Dorset Local Plan Issues and Option (May 2018)
- Poole Local Plan Pre-Submission (Sept 2018)
- West Dorset and Weymouth & Portland Local Plan Preferred Options (Oct 2018)
- Purbeck Local Plan Pre-Submission (Nov 2018)
- Dorset AONB Management Plan (Oct 2018)
- Cranbourne Chase Management Plan (Nov 2018)

#### National influence:

- Health and Harmony: the future for food, farming and the environment in a Green Brexit (May 2018)
- National Planning Policy Framework Review (May 2018)
- Marine Conservation Zones: Third Tranche (Jul 2018)
- Environmental Principles and Governance after the United Kingdom leaves the European Union (Jul 2018)
- Lords Select Committee on Rural Economy - Joint Dorset LEP/LNP submission (Sept 2018)
- Glover Review Call for Evidence (Dec 2018)
- Defra Net Gain Consultation - Joint LNP Network submission (Feb 2019)

Above: Consultation documents





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During 2018-19 the Dorset LNP was supported by:



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