

Dorset Local Nature Partnership

Appointment of Board Members



Background, role descriptions, person specifications and application process

The Dorset Local Nature Partnership

In July 2011 the Government published its Natural Environment White Paper which included the creation of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs). The ambition for LNPs was that they would help their local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. LNPs work at a strategic scale to improve the range of benefits and services we get from a healthy natural environment.

The Dorset Local Nature Partnership (covering Bournemouth, Christchurch & Poole and Dorset council areas) was approved by Defra Ministers in July 2012. Local partners formed a board and established the new partnership arrangements in 2013. Dorset LNP works to maximise our environment for wildlife, people and the economy – addressing the triple crises of the climate, ecological and health and wellbeing emergencies. More information about the Dorset LNP can be viewed at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk.

The Board

Purpose and scope of the LNP Board:

- Take a champion role to make the case for environmental enhancement at a strategic level.
- Bring strategic issues to the attention of decision makers and partners outside the environment sector, including health and economic development.
- Co-ordinate, pursue and unlock opportunities (e.g. external funding, relevant business initiatives)

The Board will include up to 18 members. In addition to the openly recruited board members there are two local authority appointments (one from each unitary authority). The Health & Wellbeing Boards for Dorset have nominated representatives. Up to four members may be coopted to the Board.

The Board needs members who are committed to champion and work for and Dorset's environment. These roles provide a unique, challenging and rewarding opportunity. Board members should be experienced leaders, clear strategic thinkers, articulate speakers, passionate about supporting the local environment, as well as understanding and advocating its importance to local communities, quality of life and the local economy.

There are at least four formal board meetings a year with the timetable for these agreed a year in advance. Members will be expected to attend at least 50% of meetings over a two-year period or

their membership will be automatically terminated. Task and finish groups may be established as required to deliver pieces of work.

Dorset LNP hosts an annual stakeholder forum which board members will be expected to attend to improve information flow between strategic and delivery elements of the LNP.

The Board is supported by the LNP Manager, LNP Assistant, an officer support group, and a broad forum of partners from all sectors.

Board Member Recruitment

We are now seeking to recruit up to three new Board members who will be representative of some the key sectors involved in Dorset environment.

Appointments will be made for an initial period of up to three years. Board members can stand for up to two three-year terms before standing down or reapplying.

Role specification for Board Members

- Provide strong, strategic leadership, and motivate and influence key decision makers to ensure objectives are achieved.
- Support the development of the Board and the Partnership, especially to build a sound knowledge of needs and opportunities.
- Be an advocate and champion for the natural environment, represent the LNP and promote the achievement of LNP objectives at a strategic level, including working with other LNPs.
- Think creatively, resolve conflicts, and build effective relationships with a wide range of stakeholders, including to secure funding or resources for initiatives that take forward the LNP's objectives.

Board Member Person Specification

All Board members will work to the Nolan principles (appendix 1). Successful candidates will be able to demonstrate a strong track record across a range of criteria listed below.

Essential criteria

- Ability and willingness to be an advocate and champion for the environment
- Experience and knowledge in one or more relevant disciplines
- A broad breadth of understanding of current and longer-term environmental challenges
- Demonstrable experience of providing strong, strategic leadership
- Ability to solve problems and think innovatively
- Ability work co-operatively with others, to build effective relationships and resolve conflicts
- Ability to meet anticipated time commitments of the role
- High standards of personal and professional integrity

Desirable criteria

- Proven track record of successful stakeholder engagement
- Experience of setting up and implementing effective partnerships
- Good level of knowledge and understanding of environmental policy
- Demonstrable skills in public speaking

- A good understanding of the environmental sector and partnerships
- A good understanding of planning and economic policy, health and wellbeing issues or other relevant sectors

Time Commitment for Board Members

The overall time commitment is equivalent to around 4-6 days per annum. The LNP has no facility to recompense Board members for their time and commitment. Where additional expenses over and above travel to board meetings are incurred, these may be reimbursed when agreed in advance.

Recruitment Process

The recruitment process for board membership will be fair and transparent, and managed by the Board Recruitment Panel, through an application and interview process. The Panel will consist of representatives from the LNP Board. Appointments will be made to reflect, where possible:

- Key environmental, economic and social issues in the area
- Geography
- Diversity

Timetable

- Closing date for applications: **end Sunday 17 November 2024**
- Interviews: **w/c 25 November 2024**
- Appointments to be made w/c 2 December 2024

The first Board meeting following the recruitment process is on **11 December 2024** from 2pm - 4.30, via Teams.

Future LNP Board dates are due to be held at 2.00-4.30pm on the second Wednesday in the months of March, June, September and December: 12 March 2025, 11 June 2025, 10 Sept 2025 and 10 December 2025. Meetings are usually held via Teams with the June meeting often in-person.

To apply

Please complete a [simple application form](#) (appendix 2), attaching a CV, and send to Maria Clarke, Dorset LNP Manager (contact details below) **by end Sunday 17 November 2024**.

For more information about the Dorset LNP please see: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk. If you have any queries, please contact:

Maria Clarke
Dorset LNP Manager
01305 213183 or 07436 158308
info@dorsetlnp.org.uk

In 1995, the Committee on Standards in Public Life defined seven principles, which should underpin the actions of all who serve the public in any way.

These are:

Selflessness

Holders of public office should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or other friends.

Integrity

Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties.

Objectivity

In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.

Accountability

Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

Openness

Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.

Honesty

Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

Leadership

Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

Dorset Local Nature Partnership Board Member Application Form

Please see the accompanying paper detailing the role description for Board members, person specification and application process before completing a [word version](#) of this form. Please expand the form as necessary.

1. Personal details	
Name	
Address	
Email address	
Telephone	
Organisation and Position (If relevant, applications from individuals are welcome*)	

* Board members will be appointed as independent members and not representatives of their organisations but it is useful to understand their job role.

2. Please summarise your experience as relevant to the person specification for an LNP Board member (as a guide, up to 200 words)

3. Please tell us why you are interested in becoming a member of the Local Nature Partnership Board, and what personal qualities you would bring to the Board (as a guide, up to 300 words)

4. Please attach a CV or similar which summarises your career, including voluntary activities.

Please return completed forms by **end Sunday 17 November 2024** to Maria Clarke via info@dorsetlnp.org.uk

All information given in application forms and CVs will be treated in confidence.