

Dorset Local Nature Partnership

Chair Recruitment Pack



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.

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 Dorset LNP 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 includes 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 a representative. Up to four members may be coopted to the Board.

The Board includes members who are committed to champion and work for and Dorset's environment. These roles provide a unique, challenging and rewarding opportunity. Board members are 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 are expected to attend to improve information flow between strategic and delivery elements of the LNP.

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

Chair Recruitment

We are now seeking to recruit a new chair - an open recruitment process will be held for the independent chair of the LNP (existing board members may apply). The appointment will be made for an initial period of up to three years.

Main responsibilities

Strategic direction

- Set, in conjunction with the Board, the overall strategic direction and ambition
- Assist the Board to see the bigger picture and bring a fresh perspective on priorities and ways of working
- Aim high to set collective and ambitious goals for delivery
- Monitor and support the work of the Board and the LNP Manager (hosted by Dorset Wildlife Trust) to ensure that the partnership remains well-supported and impactful locally and well-regarded nationally
- Support fundraising to deliver LNP aims

Lead the Partnership

- Chair Board meetings, acting impartially and objectively in the best interests of the wider Partnership
- Build, nurture and maintain strong partnership-working and collaborative culture among the Dorset LNP Board
- Engage and involve members of the wider forum members
- Build strong and lasting relations with multiple sectors (particularly nature conservation, health, private sector and farming), organisations and individuals relevant to the Dorset LNP's work across the county
- Network on behalf of Dorset LNP to continue to build profile and secure support – be an active champion, representing the LNP and acting as spokesperson as may be necessary from time to time
- Ensure the Board's individuals and organisations remain connected, committed and supportive to the collective work of the LNP, including encouraging Board members to lead on specific areas of work
- In conjunction with the Dorset LNP Manager, plan the cycle of Board meetings and set meeting agendas

Time Commitment

The overall time commitment is equivalent to around 1-2 days a month. Dorset LNP has no facility to recompense the Chair for their time and commitment. However, where additional expenses over and above travel to board meetings are incurred, these may be reimbursed when agreed in advance.

The chair will serve in a personal capacity. Nevertheless, it is recognised that they may come from an organisation that wishes to support the work of Dorset LNP.

Person Specification

Essential criteria

- A track record of influencing at the strategic level with relevant significant national, regional and local stakeholders
- Significant experience of chairing meetings and events
- Ability to enthuse and motivate others to take action, commit support or/and collaborate
- 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
- Ability to solve problems and think innovatively
- Ability to work co-operatively with others, to build effective relationships and resolve conflicts

Desirable criteria

- A good understanding of environmental sector partnerships
- Good level of knowledge and understanding of environmental policy
- Experience of setting up and implementing effective partnerships
- Proven track record of successful stakeholder engagement
- Demonstrable skills in public speaking
- A good understanding of planning and economic policy, health and wellbeing issues or other relevant sectors

The Chair will also work to the Nolan principles (appendix 1).

Recruitment Process

The recruitment process for the Chair will be fair and transparent, and managed by a Recruitment Panel, consisting of representatives from Dorset LNP Board, through an application and interview process.

Timetable

- Closing date for applications: **9pm Monday 12 May 2025**
- Interviews: **Friday 23 May 2025**
- Appointments to be made w/c 26 May 2025
- First Board meeting: 11 June 2025 – 2pm-5pm in person in Purbeck

Future LNP Board dates are due to be held at 2pm-4pm on the second Wednesday in the months of March, June, September and December. In the next 12 months these will be: 10 Sept 2025, 10 December 2025 and 11 March 2026. 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 9pm Monday 12 May 2025**.

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

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 Chair Application Form

Please see the accompanying briefing pack detailing the role description, 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*)	

2. Please summarise your experience as relevant to the person specification for DLNP Chair (as a guide, up to 200 words)

3. Please tell us why you are interested in becoming Chair of Dorset Local Nature Partnership, 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 **9pm Monday 12 May 2025** to Maria Clarke via info@dorsetlnp.org.uk

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

