

DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 13 March 2019 - 2pm-4.30pm

Queens Park Golf Pavilion, Bournemouth, BH8 9BY

Board Members

WB	Will Bond	Holme Estate / Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd / CLA (Vice Chair)
PB	Paul Buckley	RSPB
AC	Angela Cott	National Trust
SC	Simon Cripps	Dorset Wildlife Trust (Chair)
PM	Peter Moore	Butterfly Conservation (Co-opted member)
JM	Jenny Myers	Independent representative
AP	Angela Pooley	SUSTAIN & Bournemouth 2026 Trust
LR	Luke Rake	Dorset LEP / Kingston Maurward College
JW	Jim White	Dorset AONB Partnership
SW	Simon Williams	Planning Consultant

Officer Working Group Members

IA	Ian Alexander	Natural England
MC	Maria Clarke	LNP (LNP Manager)
ID	Imogen Davenport	Dorset Wildlife Trust
RH	Rosamund Hove	Environment Agency
KR	Kate Ryan	BCP Council
MR	Michael Rowland	Bournemouth Borough Council
KT	Kate Tobin	Forestry Commission
LT	Lynn Toman	Dorset Wildlife Trust
MW	Martin Whitchurch	Borough of Poole

Apologies for absence:

BH	Bob Huggins	Dorset Coast Forum
DT	Cllr Daryl Turner	Dorset County Council
KB	Ken Buchan	Dorset County Council
SR	Sam Rose	Jurassic Coast Trust (Co-opted member)
MH	Martina Hanulova	Dorset LEP
MHo	Mike Holm	Environment Agency
RP	Rachel Partridge	Public Health Dorset
MP	Matthew Piles	Dorset County Council

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

There were no declarations of interest.

ITEM 2: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

Actions from Dec 2018 Board meeting

ITEM 4: ARNE MOORS RESTORATION PROGRAMME

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Update
To keep the LNP Board updated with progress on Arne Moors Restoration Programme.	NW / MC	Ongoing	No update to date

ITEM 5: DORSET FLAG PROGRESS

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Update
To keep the LNP Board updated with progress with Dorset FLAG.	MS / MC	Ongoing	No update to date

ITEM 6: WATER PROTECTION ZONE

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Update
To keep the LNP Board updated with progress with the voluntary scheme to avoid a mandatory Water Protection Zone.	NW / MC	Ongoing	No update to date

ITEM 7: 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENTAL PLAN FOR DORSET AND ANNUAL FORUM

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Update
Draft text for the Dorset 25 Year Environment Plan	All	16 January 2019	In progress. Almost all sections have been received.
Collate and edit the Dorset 25 Year Environment Plan	MC / SC	8 February 2019	In progress. Now called 'Voices of Dorset'
Plan and host the Annual Forum	MC	27 February 2019	Completed

ITEM 8: LNP SUBMISSION TO GLOVER REVIEW CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Update
All to send additional comments to be included in the LNP response to the Glover Review	All	14 December 2018	Completed - Submitted on 19 December
Collate and submit response	MC	18 December 2018	

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Update
Add Dorset ELMS pilots to a future Board meeting	MC/ID	March 2019	Completed

Draft letter of support for the BCP Future Parks Accelerator	MC	December 2018	Completed – letter of support sent in December 2018
Circulate and comment on the Defra Net Gain Consultation.	MC / All	8 February 2019	Joint LNP response submitted lead by Gloucestershire LNP
Confirm venue for June 2019 meeting.	MC	February 2019	Completed – KMC booked

ITEM 3: CHAIR’S REPORT

SC noted his report and highlighted the following (full report within the circulated papers):

- This is a key moment for both the LNP and environment, in general. The LEP is putting together a local Industrial Strategy with clear requirements, from BEIS, that the protection and build-up of Natural Capital should be included.
- The DLNP Voices of Dorset document will give a 25-year vision. There also needs to be something more tangible and quantifiable and some examples of enhancing productivity in Dorset by looking after and making the most of Dorset’s natural assets.
- There are changes in land management and funding coming to land managers. This was discussed at the LNP forum. As a result of this, the LNP are knocking on lots of doors. LNP members are working for both their own organisations and the LNP. Members are talking to new management within the local authorities, Strategic Planning Forum and other South West LNPs to coordinate Dorset LNP better.
- SC was invited to Wiltshire LEP to tell them about Dorset LNP’s Natural Capital Investment Strategy.
- SC and ID gave a presentation at the Strategic Planning Forum. This was the last meeting of the current forum, but it is thought that many members will be moving forward to the new form post the Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). It was an opportune time to put down LNP markers for new local authorities. Dorset LNP have a good idea of the context, vision and direction of travel and can help Dorset LEP develop that vision.

ITEM 4: DORSET 25 YEP AND LNP ANNUAL FORUM FEEDBACK

Comments on the LNP Annual Forum were:

- The LNP Annual Forum was excellent and there were people from all sectors.
- It would have been nice to have more people from more sectors as it is easy to end up preaching to the converted.
- Prefer to hear a good talk than a workshop.
- Had a very rich content.
- Harder with a broader agenda to structure workshops. Easier to structure these with a focus.
- Worked hard to keep it from being hijacked by some local issues.
- Gave people an opportunity to network.
- MC will be passing out the session responses to those writing the chapters in the voices document.
- The workshop session didn’t go as well as hoped.

SC has edited the input into the 25 YEP and will send out chapters to their authors. There has been a mixed input into the document. The brief has been interpreted widely as either a visionary and strategic approach or an operational approach, which do not sit well together. A visionary

document was requested, that could inform things like the Local Industrial Strategy on a general and conceptual level rather than on specifics. It is based on the six chapters of the 25-year plan, so that politically, the LNP are pushing at the governments open door showing what Dorset will do and what Dorset will look like.

Comments were:

- The Government has set out a vision. The document needs to be reasonably strategic. Use the Governments document as framework and use the practical stuff as case studies.
- This should be reviewed every few years.
- Have key, achievable, actions included to help gain funding.
- SC is keen to keep the chapters short – 600 words or less
- People need to know the operational implications of a vision. The document needs both.
- Some topics in the plan may have a longer list of things to do, which is ok. The detail should not be lost.
- National and local actions should be split and include interpretation on local actions.
- Will opinions of those not represented on the LNP Board or at the Forum be included? SC said that there are challenges of wider consultations. SC said that there could be a section where people could make comments.
- It would be useful to compare who has engaged with the vision with who the LNP would like to hear from. MC said that no-one who received the invitation to the Annual Forum had come forward to say that they could not attend the Forum but would like to contribute.
- NFU who are not engaged with the LNP at the moment, might want to contribute. Chapters could be sent to people and this could be an opportunity to re-engage.
- NFU and CLA are on the rural group and engage with LEP.
- There is a Forestry/woodland gap. KT offered to draft text for this section
- Having input will not necessarily mean that an organisation will sign up to the document. Stakeholders need to see another draft to understand the implications. After this, stakeholders might want to contribute something specific.
- SC felt that it might be difficult for some organisations to adopt the document given its wide range of views.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Send out chapters of the tracked, edited Dorset 25 YEP document to authors for them to consider and then send their chapter back to SC.	SC/All	10 April 2019
Send out/put on web the 2 nd draft of Dorset 25 YEP document to the wider forum for further comments within a defined framework.	SC	End May 2019

ITEM 5: DORSET LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

Luke’s presentation from the LNP Forum was included with the circulated papers for this meeting. There is some direction of travel within the LEP and an increased understanding that Dorset’s environment is important to how Dorset operates, which is encouraging. The challenge is that historically, the LEP has been a vehicle for government infrastructure and government capital funding and has had to utilise a competitive bidding process against the rest of the country. Certain rural areas do not fare well on those metrics.

The BEIS guidance on the Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) states that “The aim is to localise industrial strategies through extensive local consultation with businesses, partners and civil society will build on unique local strengths to ensure every community and the country reaches their economic potential and creates high quality good jobs “. The aim of the Local Industrial Strategy is to provide a

vehicle with the LEP as the conduit. The LEP has partners, statutory and business to develop the economy of Dorset, however it is to do so at a local level. Growth happens in the cities.

Page 33 of the guidance is about Natural Capital to improve economic growth and productivity. This is moving away from an inherent countryside approach. The Rural Enterprise Group has been moving away from the concept that this is all about agriculture. It is about rural and sustainable development in what are often sensitive natural environments. The LNP will have its role in the input of the evidence pack and to establish a baseline of Natural Capital, assess its contribution in local growth and productivity and local distinctiveness investment. The guidance document states that Natural Capital is the sum of our ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, soils, minerals, our air and our seas. What it does not say is that it has immense opportunities for research and development because of the high biodiversity of the area. It is about creating a proposition that Dorset LEP can pick up and work with, that fulfils the LEP's primary function which is to create better paid good jobs. If the environment can be shown to facilitate the primary function the LNP could have real power.

Dorset LEP recognise it is also about enhancing rather than just maintaining the environment. Some people's view is that rural Dorset is fossilised and constrained. People move here because it is beautiful with a good quality of life. The net effect is that this pushes up house prices. People born here inherently find it difficult to stay unless there is a mechanism to do so.

Comments were:

- How is the hugely ambitious target of £80,000 new jobs generated? This is either new start-up, existing businesses or inward investment. In Dorset's rural areas, attracting inward investment is a difficult challenge. The size of productivity increase is generated by Dorset's position in the national league tables. LR said that Dorset's productivity, in terms of wages per hour, lag behind the national rate. The job figure is an ambitious target but is for the whole of Dorset not just the rural areas. There is a significant population increase in Bournemouth, Poole and Christchurch. Some of the job growth will happen organically but not necessarily uniformly across the whole county. Weymouth and Portland is a challenge and sit at the bottom of the social mobility index. The jobs that exist are low paid, this is a dual challenge.
- From a Local Authority perspective, the planners are concerned by the job figure and the implication on local planning and framework for the local plans. Local Authorities are on the LEP Board. It is a 20-year vision for the housing stock of the county.
- Agriculture has driven labour efficiency. In a post Brexit environment, if agriculture ceases to be such a hugely dominant industry in the countryside, the innovative people who drive individual agricultural businesses will be looking for new things to do with their assets. This could lead to more employment opportunities than current industrial agriculture provides.
- Can the LNP help to produce statistical evidence that can help the LEP satisfy government requirements whilst doing what we do? It was thought that there is an opportunity here and that members around the table should be encouraged to find effective, both current and persuasive, data. It was recognised that individuals can do this but should the LNP be doing this. LR said that other bodies like the AONB have done this.
- SC quoted from BEIS Industrial Strategy "we will work, not just to preserve but to enhance our natural capital the air, water, soils and eco systems that support all forms of life since this is an essential basis for economic growth and productivity over the long term", and "we are committed to raising productivity by using resources more efficiently to increasing reliance by contributing to a healthier environment and to supporting long-term growth by regenerating our Natural Capital". The base line of Natural Capital is quantifying but it should not stop at this.

- Natural capital should be in processes that are used for driving development and the direction. There is a direct effect of measuring natural capital on industries like tourism and farming and there is also an indirect effect that is not just about building natural capital but taking it into account. This is about reducing the risk on projects making them likely to be more successful with communities and societies on board. Hopefully these two sides will get through to Local Authorities, planners and the LEP.
- The Industrial Strategy is very clear on what needs to be generated. When done it will be brought back to this table to ask is this enough. This should be done by September.

ITEM 6: LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

In the absence of Local Authority elected members SC asked for any updates on the local Government reorganisation.

KR notes that the Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council programme is very much focused on day 1, the 1st April and working across all services to make sure everything carries on and residents do not notice any difference. The Chief Executive, Graham Farrant, is in post. He is passionate about the environment and very interested in the work of the LNP. He is concentrating on bringing together the breadth of strategy and policy work, some of which have legal timeframes. The second level personnel have been appointed and are working through the next tier down which should be done by April. They will then work through their services. There will be elections in May and will be concluding the work of the current councils.

There is a statement of common ground, which has all the existing authorities joined together. This is a helpful summary and digest.

ID and SC met with KR and Graham Farrant and ID met with John Sellgren, the Director of Place at Dorset Council recently.

ITEM 7: ENVIRONMENT LAND MANAGEMENT SCHEMES

PB gave a presentation on the overview of the environment land management schemes and their tests and trials. If the UK leave the EU it seems likely that the UK will have its own agricultural policy. There is lots of uncertainty. The policy statement from Defra's health and harmony consultation has a more detailed explanation. Defra have confirmed there will be a new LMS (Land Management Scheme) based on the delivery of public goods, with a focus on improving the condition of the natural environment. The key elements it will focus on are:

- Improving air and water quality.
- Protecting and enhancing wildlife by providing habitat.
- Preventing, reducing and adapting to climate change and other environmental hazards like flooding and drought.
- Providing public access to their land and contributing to the public's understanding and enjoyment of nature, particularly disabled people and disadvantaged groups.
- Protecting our rural historic environment and our distinctive landscape features.

The guiding principles are essentially things that you would like to see. They want high uptake, to be effective, simpler to administer, simple to understand and use, deliver multiple environmental outcomes, include capital expenditure items and not prevent other private and NGO funding.

The principle of the outline design is that a land management plan will be put together involving the farmer and a third party. This could be an agent of some kind or a sympathetic NGO or advisor. There is an ambition to base payments on outcomes and outputs. There is a plan based around Natural Capital assessment. Defra is keen to develop a payment that rewards the value of the outcomes based on Natural Capital valuation. There are difficulties on evaluation of lots of environmental assets and potentially predicting working out payments and what might be given in the future.

The tests and trials are part of Defra building their evidence base and an understanding of how to run the schemes. There are National pilots which will run from 2021. The tests and trials are more about different situations and fine tuning the scheme, for example pig farming and horticultural schemes which were not previously part of any scheme supported by environment payments. It is more about the social and economic outcomes rather than nature outcomes at this stage. A call was put out last summer for bids to be involved, giving the impression that there would not be many. It now seems that there will be quite a lot and have supported 49, across England, in the first phase, plus a call for others. Wessex Water in the Frome Valley are running one. There is still an opportunity to apply for these though there is a limited amount of money available. These schemes will run as pilots in 2021 and be up and running by 2025.

Defra's environmental land management team is divided into 13 work streams. There is a lot of work going on and opportunities to feed in.

Comments were:

- ID said that there is a scheme through the national AONB about applying AONB management plans on the ground.
- IA thinks that this is really focused on is social science. Learning from the last few years shows it is better if you co-create the objectives with the farmer rather than hand out prescriptions and a cheque. NE has employed a small team of social scientists working on the question: why do people do what they do and how do you change behaviour? The new scheme is not going to be prescription-based but will be plan-based. The farmer has a bigger stake in what the objectives are for the agreement which is very encouraging.
- Dartmoor Forest outcome-based agreement has led to farmers asking for ecological training. This shift was really effective.
- The Duchy of Cornwall are drawing up natural capital plans for some tenant farms. NE could also be involved.
- Would there be funding for public parks? It was said that the urban one had not been tested or developed any further but there is an idea that if there is money for public goods there should be opportunities for urban areas.
- The thinking is that the old agricultural law was limited to farmers as defined by European law. This scheme should be looking at anybody that can deliver environmental goods. Land owners are trying to work out how much dilution to the pot does this mean.
- MC said that James Peacock from Wessex Water has been invited to the next LNP meeting to update on their test and trial.

ITEM 8: SW LNP NETWORK MEETING

MC and SC met with other South West LNP chairs and managers in February.

The areas of work looked at were:

1. Influencing local industrial strategies. Learning from each other who had more success with their LEPs. The LNPs doing very well are those that are working closely together with their LEP. The LNP's

have differing relationships with their LEP's. LR said that a way in is to apply to become a LEP Board member.

2. There was a discussion on nature recovery network mapping. Somerset is working with The Wildlife Trusts on behalf of Greener UK to look at developing a standard and criteria that others can use. The LEP have partly funded some work in Gloucestershire and Oxfordshire. If this works some local data could be used. Next forestry plans will include natural capital.

3. Naturally healthy - the nature and health charter has been endorsed by Dorset LNP and the Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board and will go to the Bournemouth and Poole Board once reformed following Local Government Reorganisation. LNPs and HWB are endorsing the charter across the SW. Within Dorset, Southern Cooperative, Bournemouth Parks Foundation and Bournemouth Council have endorsed the charter and it has been taken to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). MC is working on a document, with colleagues, to include a campaign tool and guides as one document, focusing on the health chapter on Government's 25 YEP highlighting how the SW LNPs are delivering the outcomes of the 25 YEP with case studies. The Health and Social Care plan on the future of the NHS has no mention of the environment. Naturally Healthy Month has been run by Devon and Somerset LNPs for the last couple of years and Dorset will also be raising awareness for this, working with Public Health Dorset, CCG and Help and Care, who have the contract for social prescribing. This will be held in May.

ITEM 9: DRAFT LNP ANNUAL REPORT

The draft LNP annual report is on page 13 of the circulated papers.

SC will be writing the foreword. The wording will be highlighting within the six strategic objectives.

Some of the work that has been done includes:

- Natural Capital - highlighting case studies for local pollinators and TPAL conference, which are the tipping points of lowland agricultural landscapes work. There has been a presentation on this to a previous LNP Board meeting, and some LNP Board and officer members have attended a workshop. There is a final workshop running on 17th April at KMC. These are tipping points of potential major economic impact.
- Natural value - report work with the LEP has been highlighted and inclusions in Dorset Horizons 2038.
- Natural Health - Wessex Public Health Community Fellowship, this is a programme for foundation year two doctors, which aims to promote public health to doctors. Natural Choices was put forward as a project for evaluation. Four doctors undertook an evaluation on some of our Natural Choice's activities. This has raised profile in this sector and with GP trainees.
- Natural resilience – Low Carbon Dorset Panel.
- Natural understanding – aim to include some case studies.
- Natural influence – highlighting closer working with Defra.

Comments were:

- The audience of the report are LNP Forum members.
- Funded from the previous year so old logos will be used.
- The report shows a lot of activity and that the LNP is on plan.
- The report will be on the website.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Send other examples for the LNP Annual report to MC.	All	17 May 2019

ITEM 10: NATURALLY HEALTHY MONTH

Covered under item 8 last paragraph of point three.

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- MC said that the LNP are in the process of starting to develop some sort of climate change adaption framework. The aim is to put on a workshop in June bring sectors together.
- New LNP website is live. There have been some teething problems as the site has been migrated. Let MC know of anything that does not work on the website.
- SW said that the Dorset Coast Forum (DCF) Coastal Community bid implementation project which has approved a coastal footpath from Lyme Regis to Uplyme. A walk leaflet has been produced and because of what has been mentioned at the LNP has been circulated to Doctors surgeries. The surgeries have shown keen interest. They would not have been places usually engaged with as the leaflet was aimed at tourists.
- Dorset Wildlife Trust is launching the 'Get Dorset Buzzing' campaign. There will be 1,000 packs ready to send to people for them to pledge to do one thing in your garden for pollinators. This target has been beaten already.
- An Ash dieback toolkit has been produced by Tree Council and Defra aimed at Local Authorities.
- An online, Woodland Wildlife toolkit, has been produced. The RSPB and Woodland Trust leading on it with Butterfly Conservation, Natural England, Forestry Commission and Plant Life.
- PB raised a query about ongoing membership of the Board. MC noted that all original independent Board members are coming up to the end of their second 3-year term. MC will confirm all independent Board members to confirm they wish to continue into the final 3-year term.
- SC thanked Bournemouth for hosting today's meeting.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
MC to contact independent Board members to confirm ongoing board membership	MC	10 April 2019

ITEM 12: DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 19 June 2019: 14:00-16:30 Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester
- Wednesday 11 Sept. 2019: 14:00-16:30 Upton House, Poole
- Wednesday 11 Dec. 2019: 14:00-16:30 Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester
- Wednesday 11 Mar. 2020 14:00-16:30 Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester

Meeting ended 16:10