

DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 11 September 2019 - 2pm-4.30pm

Upton Country House, Poole Rd, Upton, Poole BH17 7BJ

Board Members

WB	Will Bond	Holme Estate / Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd / CLA (Vice Chair)
FB	Fiona Bowles	Dorset Catchment Partnerships
RB	Ray Bryan	Councillor – Dorset Council
PB	Paul Buckley	RSPB
AC	Angela Cott	National Trust
SC	Simon Cripps	Dorset Wildlife Trust (Chair)
BH	Bob Huggins	Formerly Dorset Coast Forum
JM	Jenny Myers	Formerly Kingston Maurward College
AP	Angela Pooley	SUSTAIN & Bournemouth 2026 Trust
LR	Luke Rake	Dorset LEP / Kingston Maurward College
FR	Felicity Rice	Councillor – BCP Council
SW	Simon Williams	Independent Consultant

Officer Working Group Members

IA	Ian Alexander	Natural England
LA	Larry Austin	BCP Council
KB	Ken Buchan	Dorset Council
MC	Maria Clarke	DLNP (LNP Manager)
KT	Kate Tobin	Forestry Commission

In attendance

MR	Michael Rowland	BCP Council
SR	Sandra Rothwell	Rothwell consultancy on behalf of Dorset LEP
IG	Ian Gent	Rothwell consultancy

Apologies for absence:

KB	Kath Burt	Environment Agency
ID	Imogen Davenport	Dorset Wildlife Trust
DH	David Haines	Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board / Swanage GP
RP	Rachel Partridge	Public Health Dorset
KP	Karyn Punchard	Dorset Council
KR	Kate Ryan	BCP Council
TM	Tom Munro	Dorset AONB
PM	Peter Moore	Butterfly Conservation (Co-opted member – attending in a voluntary capacity)
LT	Lynn Toon	Dorset Wildlife Trust
JW	Jim White	Dorset AONB Partnership

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

SC welcomed new Board and officer members. There were no declarations of interest.

ITEM 2: SUMMARY OF ACTIONS AND MATTERS ARISING

Full minutes circulated in July 2019.

Actions from June 2019 Board meeting

ITEM 4: DORSET LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY was item 3 on the agenda

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Circulate link to the Horizon's 2038 Report: https://bit.ly/2TstoTh	MC	Mid-July	Completed – link circulated with minutes.

ITEM 3: CHAIR'S REPORT was item 3 on the agenda

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Circulate the Bournemouth University report with the minutes from this meeting: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/TPAL-Dorset-Natural-Capital-Trends-Report-2019.pdf	MC	August	Completed – link circulated with minutes.

ITEM 5: ENVIRONMENT LAND MANAGEMENT SCHEMES – TEST AND TRIAL

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
To keep LNP updated on progress	MC / JP	Ongoing	<i>Following the meeting the following update was received from JP: Defra have confirmed funding for this project, so it will definitely go ahead as part of the ELMs test and trials programme. EnTrade have completed the natural capital modelling for the Poole Harbour region, so the scheme will go ahead in November offering a range of environmental options. This is yet to be finalised but will include hedgerows, trees and grassland.</i>

ITEM 6: INVESTABLE LANDSCAPES

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
To add to a future LNP Board agenda	MC	Mid-July 2019	Completed – presentation booked for December or March Board meeting agenda.

ITEM 7: LOW CARBON DORSET PROGRAMME

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
All Board members and officers to confirm if they can attend the 5 July panel meeting	All	End June	Completed – Panel meeting held on 5 July and approved two applications.
All Board members and officers to respond to meeting proposals for future panel meeting	All	Ongoing	In progress – awaiting notification from LCD team on timing for a future meeting.

ITEM 8: VOICES OF DORSET'S 25 YEAR ENVIRONMENT PLAN

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Follow up on green infrastructure and children and nature sections	MC	End June	Completed – text received for the two sections.
Finalise text and design of the Voice for Dorset	SC/MC	End July	In progress

ITEM 9: DORSET CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION FRAMEWORK – UPDATE FROM WORKSHOP

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Follow up work to take the collaborative working forward – including feedback survey, presentations to be added to the website and a workshop report to be developed.	MC	Sept 2019	Presentations added to LNP website: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/cc-adaptation-workshop-june-2019/ . Workshop report in development.

ITEM 10: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Invite Fiona Bowles onto the LNP as a co-opted member.	SC	June 2019	Completed.
Pass on contact details for Simon Hooton at Ash Futures to BCP	MC	End June	Completed.
Add Future Parks Accelerator to a future LNP Board meeting	MC	End July	Completed – presentation to be given to September Board meeting.
Follow up on the Buglife B-Lines project	MC	End July	Completed. Discussions ongoing with Buglife. A mapping workshop for Dorset and Somerset is planned for early October. <i>(post meeting update – the workshop date has been set for on 9 Oct)</i>

ITEM 3: CHAIR'S REPORT

SC highlighted the following from his Chair's report (full report within the circulated papers):

- SC noted that he had 3 aims for the LNP since its formation: i) ensure the Board meetings are valuable to busy attendees as an efficient quarterly catch-up of key issues; ii) work to get the environment on an equal footing and as well coordinated as ; iii) help partners with projects and implementation.
- SC noted that this had been one of the busiest quarters for him with the LNP in delivering on these aims.
- The LNP had been invited to write a blog for Dorset LEP – the blog was circulated widely in Dorset and included on the National LEP Network website's front page (above Boris Johnson!).
- LNP and LEP jointly hosted a Climate Change Adaptation Workshop (see item 6).

Comments were:

- SW noted that the LEPs links with Local Plans is important so the LNP needs to work with the Local Authorities and LEP on the development of the new Local Plans. FR also noted that Client Earth had contacted all Local Authorities declaring a Climate Emergency to ask how they would be ensuring climate change featured in Local Plan development and implementation.
- WB noted that he'd seen some draft text for the LIS which noted that Dorset has some of the highest-grade soils in Europe, which is not true, so we need to check the draft for inaccuracies.
- BH congratulated SC on gaining traction with Dorset LEP and queried if we should be making links with other business reps such as Chambers of Trade and Commerce (noting that there were few businesses at the climate change adaptation workshop). SC noted that there are Board members who link into other business groups, who could link the LNP in. AC stated that she has been invited to speak with the Chambers of Commerce, so could include the LNP work. SC said he is working with KMC on the 2nd Year of Environmental Business Awards judging.

- PB asked about progress on the Voices for Dorset document. SC replied that the last piece of text had recently been received so there is a little more to edit and he is keen to finalise the document soon. MC and SC need to work on agreeing how to design the final document – SC is keen for it to be on a similar line to the Chris Packham Manifesto, while MC would like it to be in line with the LNP brand for consistency.
- PB also noted that the document is based on the 25 YEP and whether there should be some flexibility due to the uncertainties within Government – i.e. would the 25YEP still be a Defra priority. IA noted that the NE had recently met with Teresa Villiers MP who stated there was still a commitment to the plan within Defra.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Include work of the LNP in discussions with Chamber of Commerce.	AC	tbc
Finalise, design and publish the Voices for Dorset document	SC / MC	Oct

ITEM 4: FUTURE PARKS ACCELERATOR

MR introduced the BCP Future Parks Accelerator (FPA) project. BCP Council and Bournemouth Parks Foundation have been awarded £700,000 funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government which includes in kind support from National Trust. The FPA is a new national initiative to enable up to 8 areas across the UK to develop ambitious solutions to secure and enhance the future of public parks and greenspaces for long term public benefit.

The BCP area project would build on previous work from the Rethinking Parks project which led to the development of the Bournemouth Parks Foundation. The project will deliver:

- A new open space or green infrastructure strategy (to link into the new local plan)
- A business plan to guide park development
- Developing a sustainable parks charity for the conurbation
- People focused parks, a social revolution
- Nature focused parks, turning a corner on species loss
- Understanding, valuing and developing volunteers
- Testing a ‘landscape park’ approach to planning (Stour Valley park)
- Testing trading models to suit all public parks
- Integrating health into our parks service

MR’s presentation is attached to these minutes – this includes a link to a film about the FPA: www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/our-vision-for-the-future-of-parks.

Comments:

- AC noted that National Trust were involved in the programme because their strategy includes reaching out into areas beyond their local estates and sites and to reach into urban areas and therefore parks. Although very supportive of the project she was concerned that 2 years was a short period of time for delivery. MR noted that they are used to working with 18month to 2year funded projects and he felt the funding would enable them to deliver elements to help with ongoing sustainability.
- PB asked about opportunities for improving biodiversity within the project. MR replied that the project is aiming to enhance parks for people’s health and for nature/biodiversity.
- KT asked if the GI strategy would look at the potential for creating new parks and open spaces as well as supporting existing ones. MR that the project would look at defining where to link habitats and greenspace with green infrastructure and how to resource these.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
BCP to involve LNP Board and Officers as relevant and to keep LNP Board informed of project progress.	MR	Ongoing

ITEM 5: DORSET'S CATCHMENT PARTNERSHIPS

FB referred to the paper circulated with the agenda and noted that Catchment Partnerships (CPs) were created at a similar time to LNPs but receive £15,000 annual funding from Defra. The Dorset Catchment Partnerships include the Poole Harbour Catchment Initiative, Stour Catchment Partnership and the West Dorset Rivers and Coastal Streams. CPs work more on delivery than LNPs, including river restoration for flood management.

On 10 Sept the partnership met to influence the Environment Agency's spending programme to help prioritise the funding allocation within Dorset – some of which should come to the CPs for delivery work such as the Dorset Wild Rivers programme led by DWT.

The CP is looking to engage more with business to develop opportunities for business investment in natural capital where they will benefit from cleaner water.

Through the work on the nitrogen management plan, CPs have developed a farmers group, which has grown from catchment sensitive farming and is incorporating nitrogen trading. Currently investigating investment from Tridos Bank. If the nitrogen trading is successful there is potential to expand to include biodiversity and social benefits.

Comments:

- BH noted that previously landowners had failed to understand or have the knowledge about the impacts their actions have on the wider catchments. Great financial savings and benefits to the catchment can be made by more effective use of fertilisers.
- LR noted that farmers don't like being told what to do, so are keen to work with NFU to take control rather than have regulations enforced on them. Average age of farmers is about 60 so they may not have had recent advice that wasn't from suppliers of the products. New methods are reaching younger farmers in colleges.
- WB highlighted that over the last 10 years there has been a considerable change in attitudes but there is still more work to be done to get the messages out.
- FB noted that the Poole Harbour Agricultural group is working well but more engagement is needed in the Stour Catchment farmers – she is keen to link into the Stour Valley Park as part of the Future Parks Accelerator.
- KT asked if consideration had been given to the role of woodlands. FB noted that both Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust are part of the CP.

ITEM 6: CLIMATE EMERGENCIES

a) ADAPTATION WORKSHOP UPDATE

MC noted that the Working Group continues to meet to develop the next steps following the workshop held in June. The event report is being finalised and would be circulated shortly.

b) LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRESS

Dorset Council

RB set out how Dorset Council declared a Climate Emergency at their first council meeting. A cross-party advisory panel has met 3 times and agreed terms of reference. On 13 Sept they

would be meeting with Extinction Rebellion. They are yet to agree target dates for becoming carbon neutral but are developing baseline data. RB also sits on a planning advisory panel and the climate emergency is a key element of that panel.

KB said noted that a technical panel of officers had also been formed, which met in early September for the first time. KB highlighted that Friends of the Earth had produced a useful guide for 33 actions which local authorities could take.

Dorset Council aims to develop their action plan by Spring 2020. Task and Finish groups will be set up. The council is looking to appoint technical officer and sustainability officer posts. An enquiry day will be held with the panel following a call for evidence.

BCP Council

LA stated that BCP Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019 setting a target of council operations to be carbon neutral by 2030 and to work with partners for the BCP area to be carbon neutral before 2050.

On the council operations element, a Zero Carbon Council Steering Group has been formed and terms of reference developed. An officer group is supporting this group. Internal quick wins are being formed with key messages for staff to be communicated – e.g. planning meetings to reduce journeys / use skype.

A conference for senior management team would be held on 27 November. A full communications plan is being developed. Go Green at Work will be expanded across the area (having started at BBC). Impact Assessments for all decision / reports, which would include sustainability, health and wellbeing and equalities, are being developed.

A baseline for BCP operations is also being developed and discussions are being held with procurement team. BCP Council has two sustainability officers but they are looking to see how they can restructure to take account of climate change in all operations.

On the wider community element, a citizen's assembly will be developed in 2020 and a Place Leadership Group will be formed.

FR also noted that a Climate Emergency is seen as different things to different people and therefore the level of commitment varies.

Comments:

- It was noted that International Climate Strikes are being held on 20 and 27 September.
- LR noted that KMC would not be striking but the day would focus on climate change education / action instead of usual classes.
- BH queried where sea level rise would fit into the councils' plans as this is likely to be the first impact / emergency to be really felt in the area. LA noted that flood and coastal erosion groups are already working on this (and linking to planning policy).
- RB noted that coastal defences are likely to be expensive. Also need to get the public involved and work with neighbouring councils to share experiences and not reinvent the wheel.
- AP congratulated the councils and recognised that it would not be an easy process but that the key message to get across is that everyone would be feel the impact and everyone could make a difference.

- SW noted that raising council tax could help fund the measures needed as these cannot be delivered solely on existing budgets – therefore need to highlight the importance to residents.
- KT stated that the Forestry Commission is supporting councils and noted that 12% of Dorset has tree/woodland coverage and that much of this is Ash. Some areas are cutting down woodland due to other climate change measures, so things need to be coordinated. The Forest for Cornwall project is being led by the council. AC also noted that trees are being cut down for heathland restoration.
- PB noted that from the LNP point of view we also need to consider the ecological crisis – how does this feature.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Finalise climate change adaptation workshop report.	MC	Mid-Sept
Maintain engagement with LNP Board and Officers as relevant and update the Board on progress.	RB/KB LA/FR	Ongoing

ITEM 7: DORSET LOCAL INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

SC welcomed Sandra Rothwell and Ian Gents (working for Dorset LEP) to the meeting, noting that he was hopefully that there would be some synergy between the climate change work and the LIS.

a) ENVIRONMENTAL DEEP DIVE

SR stated that a number of Deep Dive sessions had been held over the summer to focus on topic / sector areas and gather context and evidence. The quality of Dorset' environment, climate change and biodiversity net gain had come out strongly through this process. LR noted that an environmental focus was also a key part of a LEP business lunch held prior to this Board meeting.

The LEP needs to deliver economic growth where appropriate and not in isolation to the local environment was a view that had come from multiple stakeholders. Natural capital and clean growth need to be embedded in the LIS.

A draft LIS will go to the LEP in early October and Dorset LNP was invited to have a workshop session to comment on the draft and the Board accepted the invitation.

Comments:

- SC noted that we could develop a specific natural capital strategy for the LEP but feels it should be integrated and not separate.
- LR noted that the Government has set the framework for LIS but there is an opportunity to embed the environment.
- It was proposed that there should be three broad areas to discussed at the workshop:
 - 1 Environment proof the draft LIS
 - 2 Articulate what we are already doing to highlight to government the value
 - 3 Propose future direction – priorities future funding / investment

SC thanks SR and IG for joining the meeting.

b) POTENTIAL PROJECTS

Deferred to the additional meeting.

c) WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Deferred to the additional meeting.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Arrange additional meeting in early to mid-October to look at draft LIS.	MC / SR	Oct

ITEM 8: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- **JURASSIC COAST PLAN**

MC noted that the Jurassic Coast Plan is out for consultation until 4 October. Comments for inclusion in an LNP response to be sent to MC. KB noted that the deadline may be extended to link into consultation on the Strategic Environmental Assessment. *(Post meeting update JCT have confirmed the public consultation deadline will remain 4 October)*

<https://jurassiccoast.org/what-is-the-jurassic-coast/world-heritage/looking-after-the-jurassic-coast/partnership-plan-consultation/>

- **NATIONAL FOOD STRATEGY**

MC noted there Defra has opened a call for evidence for the National Food Strategy with a deadline of 25 October. Comments / evidence for inclusion in an LNP response to be sent to MC. www.nationalfoodstrategy.org

- **HEALTH PREVENTION PLAN**

The Dept for Health and Social Care have published a Health Prevention Plan for consultation by 14 October. Comments / evidence for inclusion in an LNP response to be sent to MC.

www.gov.uk/government/consultations/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s/advancing-our-health-prevention-in-the-2020s-consultation-document

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Send comments on the Jurassic Coast Plan consultation to MC.	All	25 Sept
Collate and submit LNP response.	MC	4 Oct
Send comments / evidence to National Food Strategy call for evidence to MC.	All	18 Oct
Collate and submit LNP response.	MC	2 Oct
Send comments to Health Prevention Plan to MC.	All	7 Oct
Collate and submit LNP response.	MC	14 Oct

ITEM 11: DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

- Wednesday 11 Dec. 2019: 14:00-16:30 Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester
- Wednesday 11 Mar. 2020: 14:00-16:30 Brooklands Farm, Forston, Dorchester
- Wednesday 10 June 2020: 14:00-16:30 Brownsea Island (plus optional walk before meeting)
- Wednesday 9 Sept 2020: 14:00-16:30 tbc

Meeting ended 16:30