

DORSET LNP BOARD MEETING

Wednesday 11 March 2020 - 2pm-4.30pm

County Hall, Colliton Park, Dorchester, DT1 1XJ

Board Members

WB	Will Bond	Holme Estate / Alaska Ecological Contracting Ltd / CLA (Vice Chair)
RB	Ray Bryan	Councillor – Dorset Council
PB	Paul Buckley	RSPB
SC	Simon Cripps	Independent Consultant (Chair)
BH	Bob Huggins	Formerly Dorset Coast Forum
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
MC	Maria Clarke	DLNP
ID	Imogen Davenport	Dorset Wildlife Trust
TM	Tom Munro	Dorset AONB
KP	Karyn Punchard	Dorset Council
IP	Ian Poultney	BCP Council
MR	Michael Rowland	BCP Council
KT	Kate Tobin	Forestry Commission

In attendance

MA	Mark Axford	BCP Council
HJ	Hilary Jordan	Dorset Council

Observing

AK	Annabel King	Dorset Council
JP	Josey Parish	DAPTC Purbeck Area

Apologies for absence

FB	Fiona Bowles	Dorset Catchment Partnerships
KB	Kath Burt	Environment Agency
AC	Angela Cott	National Trust
DH	David Haines	Dorset Health and Wellbeing Board / Swanage GP
RP	Rachel Partridge	Public Health Dorset
JM	Jenny Myers	Independent Rep
KR	Kate Ryan	BCP Council

ITEM 1: INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

It was noted that Jim White and Peter Moore had decided to step down due to other commitments. The Board thanked them for their considerable contributions to the LNP over the past few years.

Declarations of interest: None

ITEM 2: ACTIONS FROM DECEMBER 2019 BOARD MEETING

ITEM 4: CHAIRS REPORT

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Contact Sandra Rothwell for possible comment on the draft LIS before it goes to the LNP Board.	MC	12 Dec 2019	Completed – text submitted

ITEM 5: GLOVER REVIEW AND AONBS COLCHESTER DECLARATION

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Draft statement of support for the Glover Review report and recommendations.	SC/MC	Jan 2020	To action
Write to Environment Minister post-election with statement of support for the Glover Review.	SC/MC	Jan 2020	To action

ITEM 6: NATURAL HEALTH UPDATE

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Share link to the Dorset Green Health Mapping.	RP/MC	Jan 2020	Completed – circulated with full minutes

ITEM 7: NATURAL VALUE REPORT REFRESH

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Send Entrade natural capital information.	FB	17 Jan 2020	Completed
Send specific comments, inclusions and amendments to the draft document.	Everyone	17 Jan 2020	Completed

ITEM 8: VOICES FOR DORSET

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
All authors to ensure that their sections and names are accurate, and that they are happy with attributed quotes, if they have yet to do so and send photos if needed.	All authors	17 Jan 2020	Completed
Check and suggest concluding remarks.	Everyone	17 Jan 2020	Completed
Finalise and arrange design of document.	SC/MC	End Jan 2020	Completed

ITEM 9: ANNUAL FORUM PLANNING

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Date to be set for the Annual Forum.	MC	End Dec	Completed - 5 March
Plan and host Annual Forum - including invitations to youth groups.	MC/ID/ TM/LR	Early March 2020	Completed

ITEM 10: ACTION PLAN

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Any comments on the action plan to MC please.	Everyone	End Jan 2020	ongoing

ITEM 11: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Action	Action Owner	Due Date	Progress
Confirm involvement with Lighthouse on the 'Secret Life of...' talks.	MC	Jan 2020	To action
Blogs to be drafted and added to website.	MC and relevant Leads from Board meetings	Jan 2020 and ongoing	Completed
Add Offshore Wind discussion to future LNP Board meeting.	MC	March 2020	To action – delayed to June meeting
Add Local Plans to future LNP Board and Invite speakers from both councils.	MC	June 2020	Completed – attending June meeting
Check venue availability at Durlston Country Park for 9 Sept 2020.	KP	Jan 2020	Completed – booked for Sept
Check venue availability within BCP for 9 Dec 2020.	KR	Jan 2020	Completed

ITEM 3: CHAIRS REPORT

SC highlighted some of the achievements in the last quarter as set out in the report circulated with the agenda. These include the *Voices for Dorset* document being launched at the Annual Forum. Simon asked Board members to use the document to highlight the work of the LNP if attending other events/meetings as part of their usual roles.

The LNP has been awarded funding from:

- DAONB 60th Anniversary Fund – towards nature recovery work.
- Public Health Dorset – a new agreement for 2020-22 is being drawn up.

Discussions are in progress with DC and BCP about renewing funding contributions.

We've recently heard that Wessex Water wish to offer funding.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
All to use the Voices for Dorset document to promote the work of the LNP.	All	Ongoing

ITEM 4: LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS

Presentations were given from Hilary Jordan (Dorset Council) and Mark Axford (BCP Council) the Planning Policy Mangers from the two local authorities.

Dorset Council

HJ highlighted that Local Plans are the chance to be proactive about development in an area. Dorset Council (DC) aims to adopt its Local Plan by 2023. As part of that timetable it had been agreed to not take forward the Local Plan processes in the former districts (apart from in Purbeck which was the most advanced). Options consultation on the DC plan was planned for September/October 2020. The sustainability appraisal scoping consultation is complete.

Environmental “constraints” are not seen as negative. They are though significant and a challenge but also provide opportunities. The planners have looked at accessibility compared with development locations to assess possible carbon impacts and settlement hierarchy. Housing requirements are based on a standard methodology – described as a minimum in NPPF. In DC 30,000 dwellings would be needed over 17 years. This would include sites already consulted on in previous Local Plans, plus more – opportunities for new settlements to be considered. The evidence-base included flood risk assessments, Habitat Regulation Assessments and Green Infrastructure.

HJ focused on biodiversity issues noting that Habitats Regulations, heathlands and nutrients, recreation pressure, net gain and a strategic approach to Green Infrastructure would be included.

Next steps – assessing shortfall in housing in neighbouring areas, likely to be New Forest and BCP.

Questions:

SW asked if there was likely to be an over-provision of housing supply to be sure of 5-year supply? Yes, that was on the agenda for DC, to stay in control. This had been an issue in recent years with unsustainable locations coming forward. BCP noted they would not be in a position to over-provide.

BH asked in light of recent flooding, would that be taken into account as a constraint? Yes, aiming not to develop in flood plains (in most cases – the exception would be town centres where there are existing flood defences).

BCP Council

MA highlighted that the three separate Local Plans within the BCP area are still active. The Poole Local Plan published in November 2018 is the most up-to-date, Bournemouth was published 2012, and Christchurch in 2014. There are also neighbourhood plans in development – Christchurch will shortly be fully covered by four NPs. BCP aim to adopt their new Local Plan by 2022, which is likely to be challenging. They are also aiming for Sept/Oct consultation on options (it was noted that combined consultations between the councils or similar timescales could be useful). Various evidence studies are needed including on Green Belt, transport, Habitat Regulation Assessments, Stour Valley Park master plan.

There was a call for sites November 2019 – 318 representations were being assessed (some of them were for SANG proposals rather than housing). The overall target was about 2,300 houses per annum – which has only been met in 2007/8 (pre-recession) in recent years, so is a challenging target. There are issues of viability with a number of town centre sites, due to flooding. It is therefore likely they will need to look at the Green Belt.

Looking to re-start the Strategic Planning Forum as a place where DC and BCP can liaise and ensure join-up.

Questions:

What are the impacts of housing on surface water flooding, sewage treatment, impacts on receiving water bodies? BH was concerned that they should be talking to more than just Wessex Water about this. Yes, they are, and looking at nutrients and Poole Harbour as well.

Do they have criteria for Net Gain? BCP don't, but Defra are consulting on a new metric (beta version). The aim is to re-issue it later this year as a standard version for all. DC NET are already encouraging consultants to make use of it. IA commended the process already available through DC – there have been discussions between BCP and DC about co-operation on net gain and the biodiversity protocol, but these could be taken further.

AP queried why employment allocations were not mentioned – the land needed for employment is not nearly as much as housing, but it will be included within the plans.

MC asked if the GI strategy comes first to inform the LP or the other way around? Probably at the same time, however the GI strategy may not be fully developed this time, but next LP would be a 5-year review and started immediately on adopting the new plans.

Is there a desire to use the LPs to address climate change challenges? There is a consultation on future homes out at the moment (building standards), which therefore may mean that these considerations would not be needed in the local plans because they would be addressed through building regulations. Are there areas of work that have not yet been commissioned that help with the evidence base? The councils need to be sure that the building regulations changes will come in before removing these elements from the LP (the last time there was a consultation on this, these elements were not included in building regulations in time).

Are there any plans to encourage employers to encourage more home working? Might be something about business hubs for people who can't/don't wish to home-work

Housing numbers – most people feel they are inappropriate. Can the LNP write to government to say it's not appropriate for the area? Probably wouldn't be effective on its own but could back up the LAs (Bournemouth BC in the time did make this case but was unsuccessful). Cases can be made in exceptional circumstances that the national methodology cannot be followed, but the bar is set very high though. The risk is not having an adopted plan and then there is a free for all development.

On greenfield sites there should never be a viability issue, as the uplift comes in the land value; landowners need to be made aware of this. LAs aware that there is an industry out there in proving viability concern.

It was highlighted that the LNP can give support to the development of the Local Plan – and will be a consultee.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
DC and BCP to engage with the LNP as appropriate.	MA, HJ	Ongoing

ITEM 5: ANNUAL FORUM UPDATE: NATURE RECOVERY PLANNING NEXT STEPS

TM/SC gave a summary of the Annual Forum. MC is in progress of finalising the conference write up. TM will report back to the LNP, Wild Purbeck and Dorset Downs conservation groups.

There was a strong desire from the Forum to have just one Dorset-based plan on recovering nature, not lots of separate plans for different areas of Dorset.

Can this nature recovery strategy feed into Local Plans and fill the hole that was discussed in the last item about not being able to do the GI work at the first iteration? It was noted that there is a danger of two processes working in parallel. KT noted that the West of England have developed a Nature Recover Plan which is feeding into the local plans in their area We would strongly hope that something similar.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Finalise and circulate write up from the Annual Forum.	MC	End March 2020

ITEM 6: LNP TOR REFRESH AND SUCCESSION PLANNING

WB set out the need for refreshing the Terms of Reference and succession planning as set out in the report circulate with the agenda.

Board representation:

WB recommended that the Board should seek to return the council representation to four. Dorset LEP reviewed their council representation and they have two from each council. This would therefore provide more parity between the partnerships.

Diversifying the board:

Inclusivity is the key issue ensuring that rather than just saying the right thing, making the right efforts and ensuring we reach beyond the usual suspects when recruiting to the board.

WB wondered whether 3-year term might be off-putting (esp. to young people) – LR agreed.

KT feels important to ensure people feel included at meetings – especially new/younger/quieter members.

PB queried if a young person's seat be allocated?

Board succession:

Seven independent Board members are due to stand down by 2022, of whom JW has already stated a wish to step down; SW is happy to stand down during the course of this year. To ensure a smooth transition and constancy but not losing too many people at the same time, at this stage the board would be looking for 1-2 others to step down this year, and 3-4 next year.

Chair succession:

WB queried if there was anyone prepared to stand as chair next year? There were no volunteers. WB suggests changing the ToR to allow a longer term of the chair to ensure consistency if needed.

Formal amendment of ToR:

It was agreed that ToR refresh needed more consideration before approving. It was proposed that the ToR be redrafted based on the discussion for formal approval at the June meeting.

Representation from funders – there was a question on whether funders at a significant level should be offered a seat on the board.

KP would like to see a paper on funding – who funds what and what does it pay for?

There was general discomfort at guaranteeing a place for funders (at any level) because this was unlikely to meet the Nolan principles. There was a suggestion that funders could be invited to a) attend as officer and/or b) put forward a candidate when there is open recruitment process.

Some clarity is needed to Wessex Water who have offered funding and would like a seat on the Board.

SC/MC to follow up with other LNPs at annual forum to see how they deal with this.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Redraft the ToR.	MC / WB / SC	April 2020
Add LNP budget to the June Board meeting agenda.	MC	June 2020
Plan and deliver a recruitment process for new Board members.	MC	Summer / autumn 2020
Discuss engagement between LNP and Wessex Water.	SC / MC	April 2020

ITEM 7: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY: WATER CHALLENGES AND CHOICES CONSULTATION

The Environment Agency is currently consulting on the future of water and river basin planning. MC has spoken with Catchment Partnerships who have already run some workshops and are engaged in this consultation process.

The consultation asks some huge question and it's hard to think how best to engage with them. Might be best to be quite specific – e.g. name key things that need to be done. One issue is around accepting change to the landscape (e.g. tree planting).

IA is most concerned about Q9 (pollution from water industry wastewater) and the EA's position on historical permits for water industry which have leeway within them. IA will ask a colleague to draft some wording for the LNP response.

It was noted that the Local Plan allocations will impact on future river basin planning.

FR would like to see measurement of impacts of pollution from tyre dust in urban areas; IA and BH confirm there has been some work done (around pollution from road transport) but there are significant issues around this pollution and determining whether the responsibility sits with the landowner or other, so it has been somewhat suppressed.

KT will look at localising FC input. BH is able to help.

Contributions to MC by the end of March.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
All to submit comments for the LNP response as appropriate.	Everyone	End March
Draft LNP response to the consultation.	MC / BH	

ITME 8: ACTION PLAN

MC noted the action plan as circulated and ask for any comments to be sent to her. All to advise MC of any actions they undertake so that can be reported against the action plan.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Any comments on the action plan to MC please.	Everyone	Ongoing

ITEM 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- a. DC/BCP were awarded £79m in Budget for cycle routes/sustainable transport (SE Dorset area). A fund of £640m for nature-based solutions also announced in the Budget.
- b. Nick Squirrell from NE has suggested an officers' group on climate change – the board agreed this would be useful.
- c. Rhiannon Jones from DCF would like a representative from the LNP on an aquaculture working group. LR volunteered.
- d. FR – Dorset Pension fund invests in fossil fuels. Is it worth the LNP having a position on divesting these? It was noted that several people in the room had a conflict of interest. It was agreed that if the Pension Fund would like any advice from the LNP they can request this. More information would be helpful so a paper can be drawn up (then allowing both more clarity and for conflicted members to withdraw from discussion).
- e. FR – can the LNP provide expertise on wind and renewables? It is on the agenda for the June meeting, DC / BCP could provide expertise into this. RB reported that the issue of offshore wind was discussed at their climate change inquiry days; there is a new vision for an offshore development. There are also proposals around solar in car parks.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Discuss climate change working group with Nick Squirrell.	MC	Ongoing
Confirm LR to be the LNP rep on the Dorset Coast Forum Aquaculture Group.	MC	End March 2020
Information on Dorset Pension Fund to be gathered.	MC	June 2020
Renewable energy to be included on the June Board meeting rather than a focus on wind power.	MC	June 2020

ITEM 10: ASSESSMENT OF LOW CARBON DORSET PROGRAMME BID

This item was delayed to a separate meeting due to a procurement process being undertaken on the bid. A doodle poll had been circulated to board and officers to set the date.

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Complete the doodle poll.	Everyone	16 March 2020
Confirm the panel meeting.	MC	18 March 2020

ITEM 11: DATES AND VENUES OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday 10 June 2020: 2pm-4.30 – Brownsea Island (*please note: in light of Covid-19 this is now likely to be a conference call*)
Wednesday 9 Sept 2020: 2pm-4.30 – Durlston Country Park, Swanage
Wednesday 9 Dec 2020: 2pm-4.30 – Committee Suite, Poole Civic Centre
Wednesday 9 March 2021: 2pm-4.30 – tbc

Action	Action Owner	Due Date
Confirm boat/walk details for June meeting on Brownsea / <i>or details for a conference call.</i>	Everyone	End May 2020