

Dorset Local Nature Partnership

APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS

Role description, person specification 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. More information about the Dorset LNP can be viewed at: www.dorsetlnp.org.uk.

Purpose and scope of the LNP:

- 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.
- Co-ordinate, pursue and unlock opportunities (eg external funding, relevant business initiatives)
- Help Local Authorities deliver expectations set in the National Planning Policy Framework in relation to environmental evidence and sustainable development.
- Work closely with the Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Health and Wellbeing Boards to develop mutually beneficial approaches and projects.

The Board

The role of the LNP Board is to:

- Provide strategic leadership
- Set direction
- Link to leaders and strategic partnerships in other sectors

We are now seeking to appoint up to four new Board members who will be representative of some of the key sectors involved in the LNP. 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 Dorset Local Enterprise Partnership and the Health & Wellbeing Boards for Dorset have nominated representatives to occupy the remaining two places to encourage joint working between these key bodies.

The Board needs members who are committed to champion and work for and Dorset's environment. These appointments provide a unique, challenging and rewarding opportunity. You should be an experienced leader, a clear strategic thinker, an articulate speaker, passionate about supporting the local environment and understand and advocate its importance to local communities, quality of life and the local economy.

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

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

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.

The Board is supported by the LNP Manager, an officer support group, and a broad forum of partners from all sectors. Task and finish groups are established as required to deliver particular pieces of work.

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

Person Specification

Successful candidates will be able to demonstrate a strong track record across a range of criteria listed below.

Essential criteria:

- Experience and knowledge in one or more of the following in the Dorset area:
 - Environmental issues
 - Nature conservation
 - Climate change adaptation and mitigation
 - Delivering public health through contact with the environment

- Community participation in delivery of natural environment objectives
- Sustainable economic development and the green economy
- Planning
- Environmental education and/or environmental research and making links between research and delivery
- An understanding of the current and longer-term environmental challenges facing the area, and original thinking in how these should be addressed.
- Demonstrable experience of leadership, setting strategic direction and delivering objectives.
- Flexibility in problem solving and innovative thinking.

Desirable criteria:

- Proven track record of successful public stakeholder engagement, such as MPs, the media, local authorities and communities, and success in working in a political environment.
- Experience of setting up and implementing effective partnerships.
- Good level of knowledge and understanding of environmental policy.
- Demonstrable skills in public speaking and presenting to non-specialist and/or community audiences.
- A good understanding of the environmental sector and partnerships in the Dorset area.
- A good understanding of wider national and local policy and practices including planning, economic development, health and wellbeing and community engagement.

Commitments

The overall time commitment is equivalent to around seven and no more than ten 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.

There will be at least four formal meetings a year with the timetable for these agreed at beginning of the year. Members will be expected to attend at least 50% of meetings over a two-year period or their membership will be automatically terminated.

The LNP will host an annual stakeholder forum; board members will be expected to attend these forums to improve information flow between strategic and delivery elements of the LNP.

Timetable and Application process

- Closing date for applications: **9am on Monday 9 November**
- Invitations to interview: w/c 16 November
- Interviews: **25 November (afternoon) and 27 November (morning)** – via Zoom.
- Appointments to be made by: w/c 30 November

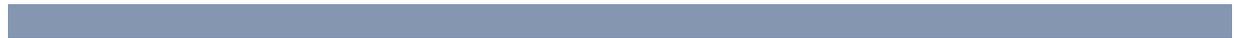
The First Board meeting following the recruitment process is on 9 December 2020 from 2pm -4.30 (via Zoom). Future LNP Board dates are due to be held as follows: 10 March 2021, 9 June 2021, 8 Sept 2021, and 8 December 2021 – likely to be via Zoom but some may be face to face.

To apply

Please complete a [simple application form](#) (appendix 2), attaching a CV, and send to Maria Clarke, LNP Manager (contact details below) **by 9am Monday 9 November**.

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



APPENDIX 1 – NOLAN PRINCIPLES

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.



APPENDIX 2 – APPLICATION FORM

Application for the position of Board Member of Dorset Local Nature Partnership (word version [available here](#))

Please see the accompanying paper detailing the role description for Board members, person specification and application process before completing this form.

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 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)

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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)

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A word version of this form is available at www.dorsetlnp.org.uk/board-recruitment

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

Please return completed forms by **9am Monday 9 November** to Maria Clarke via info@dorsetlnp.org.uk

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