

## 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](http://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 (e.g. 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 and influence
- 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 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, where possible:

- 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, LNP Assistant, an officer support group, and a broad forum of partners from all sectors. Task and finish groups are established as required to deliver 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:

- 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
- Demonstrable experience of providing strong, strategic leadership
- Ability to solve problems and think innovatively
- Ability work co-operatively with others, to build effective relationships and resolve conflicts
- Ability to meet anticipated time commitments of the role
- High standards of personal and professional integrity

Desirable criteria:

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

## 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 Monday 31 January 2022**
- Invitations to interview: 7 February 2022
- Interviews: **w/c 14 February 2022**
- Appointments to be made by: w/c 21 February 2022

The First Board meeting following the recruitment process is on 9 March 2022 from 2pm -4.30. Future LNP Board dates are due to be held as follows: 8 June 2022, 14 Sept 2022 and 14 December 2022.

### 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 31 January 2022**.

For more information about the Dorset LNP please see: [www.dorsetlnp.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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

<b>Name</b>	
<b>Address</b>	
<b>Email address</b>	
<b>Telephone</b>	
<b>Organisation and Position</b> (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](http://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 31 January 2022** to Maria Clarke via [info@dorsetlnp.org.uk](mailto:info@dorsetlnp.org.uk)

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

