

**Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature
Partnership**

BOARD MEETING

Tuesday 26th February 2013 Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd.

MINUTES

Present

Chris Hughes (CH)	Derby University
Tony Walker (TW)	Toyota Manufacturing UK
Tony Hams (TH)	E M Biodiversity Partnership
Rob Crowder (RC)	Rural Community Action Nottinghamshire
Tim Farr (TF)	Trent RFCC
John Everitt (JE)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Councillor Martin Suthers (MS)	Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board
Ian Stephenson (IS)	Derbyshire County Council

In attendance

Tom French (TFr)	Derbyshire County Council
Gary Ellis (GE)	Derbyshire County Council
Adam Lathbury (AL)	Derbyshire County Council
Heather Stokes (HS)	Nottinghamshire County Council
Janet Valenti (JV)	Nottinghamshire County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Tony Walker, in his capacity as host and Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting. This was followed by introductions.

2. Apologies

Sophie Churchill (SC)	National Forest
Tom Moat (TM)	Natural England
Alan Gorringe (AG)	Saint-Gobain
Helen Ross (HR)	NHS

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

National and sub-national partnership work

HS attended the Midlands regional meeting organised by the Tavistock Institute and Ursus consulting as part of the Defra evaluation process. 3 other LNPS were present, along with representatives from Environment Agency,

CEH and CPRE. It was an interesting discussion, providing an opportunity to feedback issues to Defra.

The East Midlands Biodiversity Partnership is continuing with plans for a meeting of environmental partners to discuss LNPs. HS is liaising with Sharon Palmer of the Environment Agency.

A number of Board members and officers have been interviewed as part of the evaluation case studies. Of the 9 LNPs originally selected, 8 case studies have been taken forward. LD&NLNP was selected because of the cross-sectoral make-up of the Board.

Priorities for next 12 months

MS gave an update on the recent meeting of the regional HWB Chairs. Unfortunately HR had not been able to provide a briefing paper for the meeting. MS requested that this action point be carried over.

Action: HS to liaise with HR to provide briefing paper.

The Minutes were duly agreed.

4. Update on Ministerial Meeting 11th February 2013

TH provided an update on the meeting he had attended with HS. TW offered his thanks to TH for attending the meeting on his behalf.

TW confirmed he would be happy to write to the chair of the LEP and the Leaders of the County and City Councils requesting a meeting to establish contact and agree working arrangements. TH and HS offered to draft letters on his behalf. It was agreed that a copy of the letter to the LEP Chair should also be sent to the new Chief Executive, David Ralph. It was also considered important to write to the Chair of the Peak District LNP to seek to establish links.

Action: TW to write to the Chair/ Chief Executive of D2N2 LEP, the Chair of the Peak District LNP and the Leaders of the City and County Councils. TH/ HS to draft letters.

At this point, it was deemed appropriate to move straight on to Item 7 on the Agenda.

7. Duty to Co-operate (Ministerial letter to LEP Chairs)

HS outlined the main points of the paper.

HS has already received a number of emails from local planning authorities under the Duty. It was agreed that responding to consultations could be deemed as our highest priority, demonstrating the cross-sectoral nature of LNP expertise. It was suggested that a sub-committee could be formed to provide responses and take a pro-active role in strategic planning matters.

The provision of consistently high quality responses would, however, require a suitable framework and resources. This will be particularly important for major infrastructure projects such as HS2.

It was agreed that officers from the two County Councils should meet a.s.a.p. to discuss the way forward. IS to co-ordinate and report back at the next meeting.

Action: IS to co-ordinate a meeting of DCC/ NCC staff and report back.

It was agreed HS should be the main point of contact for now, but should send holding responses pending further discussion on how the LNP should respond.

5. Trent Valley Vision (presentation)

GE provided a presentation outlining the work undertaken to date on the Derbyshire section of the Trent Valley.

IS advised that a great deal of innovative work has been done on the Trent Valley project and, if extended into Nottinghamshire, it could be a good project for the LNP to take forward.

The Trent Valley is already identified as an RSPB Futurescape and a Wildlife Trusts Living Landscape. A great deal of work has taken place on individual sites, including the creation of a nature reserve by Toyota, in partnership with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust. There are also considerable and often competing pressures on land in the Trent Valley, from for example agriculture, biodiversity, minerals, industry, housing and recreation. The Trent Valley Vision aims to take a holistic approach to planning for the long-term sustainability of the area. TF highlighted the link to strategic flood risk management.

The Board agreed that extending the Trent Valley Vision to the whole of the Trent within the LDNLNP area could provide an inspirational project for the LNP and an opportunity for working more closely with the LEP.

IS suggested that the next stage would be for DCC to talk to colleagues in Nottinghamshire and put together a proposal for a potential LNP project.

TW asked for an update on progress to be brought to the next meeting on 30 April.

Action: AL to arrange meeting with relevant colleagues from DCC and NCC and provide an informal update on the outcome to the next Board meeting on 30 April.

6. Revised Priorities

JE presented a paper from the Working Group setting out four priority areas for action:

- Development of a financial strategy. The Board considered both the identification of additional resources and making best use of existing resources to be critical.
- Engagement strategy – with the wider stakeholder group for the LNP and with other key audiences. The development of a website was considered to be an initial priority.
- A landscape – scale initiative. The Trent Valley offers a potential opportunity for both cross-border and cross-sectoral working.
- Mental health – MS confirmed that this is a key priority for the Health and Well-being Board and therefore an opportunity for the LNP.

The Board agreed that the paper was a very helpful and constructive document, providing an excellent basis for the development of a work programme, and thanked the Working Group for its efforts.

8. Update on LEP project

HS confirmed that a consultant (Alison Millward) has been appointed to take forward this project. She has been asked to produce a project plan and to include case studies from the Peak District LNP. Following feedback from Board members, TM has confirmed that there is flexibility to move funding around within the overall project. The grant needs to be claimed by the end of March, however, and the money cannot be used for core activities.

9. Future resources for the LNP

TW asked for clarification of the existing resources available. HS confirmed that NCC Culture Committee has agreed support for the LNP. This is currently approximately 4 days per month (2 days HS, 2 days JV). Derbyshire County Council was asked to confirm if a similar staff resource could be made available. IS confirmed that colleagues are already involved, but there is a need to look at how this resource is best deployed.

TH informed the Board that the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership had offered some time from its two part-time officers to support the LNP. Following the resignation of one of the officers, however, the Partnership was being re-consulted on how it wished to proceed.

The Board agreed that in the longer-term, a dedicated resource would be required to co-ordinate the input of all partners and drive forward the work programme. RC referred to existing models, where a charitable body acts as host for staff on behalf of a wider partnership, for example RCAN has undertaken this role on behalf of the Rural Affairs Forum. It was agreed that this model could provide a practical solution.

The next steps would be to develop a draft work programme for the Board to consider, with an indication of possible costs, to enable partners to assess what kind of support is required. CH suggested that Derby University may be able to provide cash. Toyota would need to see the work programme and a clear indication of support from the two County Councils. JE, HS, TFr and RC volunteered to pull together a draft work programme.

Action: JE, HS, TFr, RC to produce draft work programme based on the agreed revised priorities and the outcomes of today's discussions.

10. Any Other Business

HS circulated the Defra offer to LEPs for information.

11. Dates of future meetings

Tuesday 30 April 2pm, Toyota offices.