

**Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature
Partnership**

BOARD MEETING

**Wednesday 29th January 2014
Toyota Motor Manufacturing (UK) Ltd**

MINUTES

Attendees

Chris Hughes (CH)	Derby University
Tony Walker (TW)	Toyota
John Malpas (JM)	Toyota
Martin Suthers (MS)	Nottinghamshire Health & Wellbeing Board
Tony Hams (TH)	E M Biodiversity Partnership
John Everitt (JE)	Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust
Tom Moat (TM)	Natural England
Andrew Critchlow (AC)	NFU
Anne Western	Derbyshire County Council
Rob Crowder	RCAN/ D2N2 LEP Board
Frank Lucas	RSPB

In attendance

Adam Lathbury (AL)	Derbyshire County Council
Heather Stokes (HS)	Nottinghamshire County Council
Mandy Ramm (MR)	Nottinghamshire County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

TW welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies

Mike Ashworth (MA)	Derbyshire County Council
Sophie Churchill (SC)	National Forest Company
Tim Farr (TF)	Trent RFCC
Helen Ross (HR)	Public Health, N. City Council
Sophie Churchill (SC)	National Forest Company

3. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

The Minutes of the last meeting held on the 25th November 2013 were agreed as a true and accurate account of the meeting.

All matters arising were covered elsewhere on the Agenda.

4. Updates

i) DEFRA/LNP Chairs Meeting:

TW noted his attendance and earlier distribution of the meeting notes. TW outlined the key points of the meeting:

1. Robin Mortimer, Defra Director had reasserted the need and role of the LNPs and the 4 key policy areas including NIA designation– this accorded with the original White Paper.
2. There were several action points – mostly for Defra – to cement the LNP initiative, gain momentum and increase profile – especially with LEPs. It seemed that fears of LNP de-prioritisation were unfounded:
 - a. There will be an annual ministerial event - this will be attended by TW and HS on the 12th March 14.
 - b. However the LNP struggles for profile and more Defra inter-departmental awareness raising is needed –especially with BIS
 - c. Opportunities for a Ministerial Visit to the LNP area should be considered – but were currently limited until there is something concrete to celebrate.
3. TW noted that he had come away from the meeting motivated – LDNLNP had not performed like others in terms of delivery but the relationships and engagement to date was one on the best.

TM ran through the LNP Local Transport Briefing document (issued Nov 13) - previously circulated.

ii) Co-ordinator Recruitment and Work Programme:

JE confirmed that the second wave of recruitment had commenced.

Concern was expressed on how successful this round would be – agencies would be used and TW offered Toyota resources to assist

Action:

- 1. All to circulate the advert to networks**
- 2. JE/AL/MR/HS/ to meet to look at Work Programme priorities. (see also Item 9 iii)**

- 3. JE to ensure that candidates are aware that priorities may change with on-going review and evaluation**
- 4. JE to utilise agency approach/Toyota resources as required to yield the best recruitment pool**

iii) CAP:

MR noted that responses to the consultation had been circulated and briefly summarised the key points of the government's response.

Defra was confirmed as the Managing Authority, with NE administrating certain components.

Funds would be targeted at higher value environment sites/species – using the reduced funding pot in a more focused and efficient way. This was linked to NIAs – these sites would be likely to receive higher prioritisation for funding.

Delivery detail still unclear – Defra will respond further in the spring. After this, NE will start to work with partners and stakeholders to determine local priorities - with decisions expected Summer 14. Concern was expressed that there may be a timeline mismatch with other activities eg LEADER and CLLD

The meeting considered what best it could do and agreed that a key job for the Board was to respond to the current Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) consultation – to ensure that the environmental thread was clear. Various parties around the table noted their intention to respond individually. **See also Item 7(ii)**

Action:

- 1. Collective responsibility to note the position with CAP Pillar 2 funds and to facilitate through the LNP alignment of initiatives and funds and their targeting to relevant local nature issues/sites**
- 2. Working Group to be convened to respond to SEP**
- 3. JE to circulate EU Strategic Investment Funds (SIF) Consultation response**
- 4. MR to circulate SEP consultation link**

The Draft SEP document can be viewed at:

http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/Documents/D2N2_Strategic_Economic_Plan_clean.pdf

The online consultation ceases 28th February) and can be accessed at:

5. TW agreed to raise outcomes of 2 with David Ralph/Peter Richardson

5 NIAs:

JE introduced his paper noting that he had spoken to the chairs of both Biodiversity Action Groups who were both happy to undertake the work.

AL noted the 50% secondment of Nick Moyes (NM) to the LNP – it appeared that the LNP was not fully utilising the resource

HS noted that she had put forward potential NIA designations to NCC's Strategic Plan and AL noted a current review of areas of multiple environmental sensitivity – these areas of work would help inform the LNP's work on NIAs

TW was keen to establish the LNPs value add in respect of NIAs. After discussion, TW summarised by noting that it was five- fold:

1. Facilitation
2. Co-ordination of partners/actions
3. Identification
4. Designation and
5. Enabling

It was confirmed that the LNP was not a deliverer

Action:

- 1. TW to meet NM (DCC) and Chris Jackson (NCC) to understand roles/resource and review current maps and designations – to be held at Derbyshire CC – anyone else invited to attend**
- 2. In the context of Action 1 – to consider the need for both Biodiversity Partnerships to:**
 - a. attend the May LNP Board Meeting to explain what they do with an emphasis on mapping and visuals so everyone can understand existing baselines and opportunities**
 - b. Attend the July Board to put forward designation proposals from which the LNP could make decisions.**
- 3. To consider holding May or July meeting at Markham Vale as per AWs invitation to view opportunities/successes in relation to the southern limestone magnesium plateau**

6. Private sector Engagement

MR introduced this item after collaboration with JM. Various sectors had been identified with relevance to the work of the LNP. It was agreed that the following sectors would be priorities from which to draw representation:

- Food and Drink Manufacture
- Construction – Barratt Homes was noted
- Extraction – Lafarge was noted
- Visitor Economy

Medicine/Bioscience to be a second priority.

Action:

- 1. JM to look at companies in those sectors and create a shortlist of “warm” contacts to be provided to TW for final approach.**
- 2. MR to look at opportunities through NCC contacts to feed this process**

7.(i) LEP Funding

MR presented a report outlining the position on the SIF which had been submitted and the SEP which was currently open to consultation until the 31st March 14.

It was clarified that TW/JM would attend the 2nd April 14 consultation event in Derby. Others were urged to attend other events listed in para 13 of Paper 7(1) with a view to the LNP and individual responding to the SEP consultation (see also Item 4(ii) Actions 2 and 4)

7(ii) – Local Environment and Economic Development Toolkit (LEED)

MR presented a report outlining the D2N2s request for the LNP to help lead and resource the LEED toolkit workshop on the SEP.

It was agreed that this would be a great opportunity to work closely with the LEP, raise the LNP’s profile and ensure that the environment was well represented in the strategy.

TM noted that he would be meeting the LEP the following day and would help inform work underway – key to this work was that the LEP led and owned the work – current risk that they wanted it done for them – there needed to be a

genuine environmental thread through all of their strategies and Action Plans and in particular the SEP.

Actions:

- 1 TM to meet Matt Wheatley (MW) at LEP**
- 2 MR/TM to liaise**
- 3 MR to undertake resourcing of event prep and delivery**
- 4 MR to invite various LNP partners**

8. Health Programme

MS gave a verbal update on the current position

- 1. JE to chase up HR re latest paper in order that the LNP can scope its potential contribution to the health and wellbeing agenda**
- 2. Maureen Whittaker confirmed as Derbyshire contact – HR to be made aware**

9. AOB

9(i) - Defra Account Manager Pilot

TW to accept

9(ii) – LNP Response to Significant Planning Applications

TH raised this, NE looking nationally, potential local gap – although County Councils provide planning services to the Board..

After discussion, agreed that the LNP would not want to formally comment on planning applications – however a process was needed whereby the board could bring added value by reviewing key applications against environmental objectives to help improve development proposals.

Action:

- 1 When the Co-ordinator has commenced, a Task and Finish Group would be established and a process proposed to the Board (taking into account the role of the County Council planning**

functions)

- 2 This group to also consider TORs for Board to set out perimeters of role and to address any issues of consensus

9(iii) Review of LNP Vision

MR table a short report on current Vision etc. following review in Feb 13.

TW noted that he would like to review the current Vision/Objectives to ensure that they are fit for purpose going forward.

Given that the meeting had overran, the following actions were agreed

Action:

- 1 The Group being pulled together to review the work programme would also review the LNP Vision/Objectives and feed proposals through to TW
- 2 The March Board then to review the proposals with a view to adoption

9(iv) – Greater Lincolnshire LNP:

MR noted that she had had a meeting with Fran Hutchinson looking at their processes of development and engagement for the LNP. This was LNP had been built out from an existing partnership and had focused initially on further and widened engagement with partners – particularly landowners through the employment of someone who had previously worked in industry.

The GLLNP was also seeking to develop a sustainable funding model – with delivery of key environmental services for LAs etc. through SLAs.

The meeting closed at 1630hrs.