

## Wiltshire & Swindon LNP Development Workshop- 16<sup>th</sup> February 2012

### Summary of feedback

#### Q1- What governance arrangements should we put in place to ensure that the LNP is a success - which sectors need to be engaged and at what level?

LNP needs to provide clear link between strategic aims and delivery efforts across the county

Don't build a structure/organisation that costs a lot of money to run and competes with existing partnerships/organisations.

LNP should help to coordinate current initiatives/projects to achieve joined up benefits

Requirement for LNP to be a strategic based group; does the LNP need to have a delivery role in addition to a strategic view to be effective?

Does the LNP have a remit to deliver statutory functions?

How will the LNP relate to the wider Family of Partnerships in Wiltshire and Swindon- aims for outward governance?

Think about how and who the LNP will work/engage with over Public Health issues?

The following comments are focussed on the proposed Governance Structure:

- LNP Board- requires new/fresh faces, will need good chemistry
- LNP Board- requires key decision makers- make it obvious what value the Board members will gain from sitting on the LNP Board
- LNP Board- should have a youth representative (ensure they can engage in a non-intimidating manner)
- LNP Board requires Terms of Reference for Board members.
- LNP Board requires a Chair, should be a local figurehead? Should the chair alone give guidance to the secretariat/working groups? You cannot manage by committee.
- Should the Board be agreed by democratic process and accountable to all partners at an annual AGM? E.g at this meeting, all major decisions such as agreeing the work plan for the next year could be approved
- LNP Working Groups- Should have cross sectorial representation- not confined to conservation working groups
- LNP Working Groups- should be viewed as the "engine room" of the LNP
- LNP Forum- Should ensure that Green Infrastructure and Health and Well Being, Community Area Boards, Chamber of Commerce, Wiltshire World Changers, Wiltshire Environment Alliance, Forward Swindon are represented

- LNP Forum- Annual Event should broaden the membership of the LNP, e.g.: a meeting that could be supported by a more public facing event for the wider 'forum'. For example, a Bioblitz, or environmental fair that could be held at different locations throughout the county.
- Governance Structure requires good support structure for Board and Working Groups- requires excellent communication links through a secretariat/coordinator role
- Examples of strategy/delivery may be in future initiatives such as the current NIA schemes.

## Q2- How can we all work together more effectively, especially across the different sectors?

LNP- Break down the barriers that currently exist across the sectors- become an open portal for discussion and action, exchange of views, opportunity to create contacts, open up a wider network of working sectors

LNP Forum- Ensure this focusses on communication, for e.g.: Themed Forums? Need focussed communication channels.

Consider Spatial Barriers- how do we engage effectively with Swindon and ensure they are fully incorporated?

Ensure WSLNP communicates with other LNPs- many habitats and landscapes will cross over two LNPs

LNP- need to make it rewarding for other sectors/partners to engage with LNP- what are they getting out of the LNP- be clear on the benefits of the Natural Environment

LNP Board- method for working together- their role to draw out the vision and ensure the vision is reflected in the direction the LNP progresses

Giving advice, signposting support and providing assistance to local communities. NB; this should not be exclusively through a single structure such as the Community Area Boards, but taking account of local structures.

LNP should aim to work together to achieve each other's objectives, e.g.: Health & Wellbeing. Understand the needs and constraints of each other.

At the next LNP workshop add contact details to delegate list. Encourage open discussions, contacts, e.g.: Open Door to Thames Water for example: Health Walk on the Thames Water sites?

Consider different methods of decision making than holding meetings the LNP should be at the forefront of applying new technology to reduce carbon emissions. In a rural county, any events or meetings need to consider locations with good public transport access.

Hosting events to promote different aspects of the natural environment/sustainability

### **Q3- What are the greatest opportunities/challenges facing the Natural Environment in Wiltshire and Swindon over the next 5 years?**

Greatest Challenges/opportunities:

- Water Use- LNP tackle personal use of water, abstraction levels, etc
- Food Production- CAP reform? How do we get net benefits for biodiversity?
- Ecosystem Services- integration in to current projects/initiatives
- Renewable Energy
- Land Use- Military
- Winning hearts and minds of the general public- improve communications, very important to raise awareness with timely communication
- Climate Change- make it real for general public
- Ageing Population- living better for longer...
- Promoting opportunities that Wiltshire offers, e.g.: fantastic biodiversity of species and habitats, e.g.: farmland birds
- Changes in availability of resources and the consequences of this

LNP should stay focussed on achievable outputs- should the LNP be trying to tackle the wider issues?

### **Q4- What funding sources/mechanisms are available to support the Natural Environment to ensure sustainable development?**

Need to think about the evidence base that the LNP will be basing decisions upon- what data will be used? How will the data be collated? Where is the evidence for the need? : State of the Environment Report?, Joint Strategic Assessment?

Some suggested funding sources:

- Community Infrastructure Levy
- Water Framework Directive
- Community Area Boards- Wiltshire Council
- EU
- Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR)- Local/National Businesses with base in Wiltshire/Swindon
- Biodiversity Offsetting
- LEADER
- Catchment Restoration Fund
- Ecosystem Services- business who could make use of these and put back into the system

Need to consider how the following can be considered/ funded:

- Carbon Reduction- renewable energy?
- Water Abstraction- Recycle money back?
- Green Infrastructure
- Local Food Production- targeting more deprived areas?
- CAP- potentially under threat, what else would be available?
- Money in Private sector- develop relationships that are mutually beneficial- think broader there is money in public sector, investment opportunities
- People resource-not just about money, does the private sector have a greater people resource?
- How do we sustain the LNP- funding for a secretariat/coordinator/communications?

### Q5- How should the LNP add value to the current mechanisms and partnerships that exist now?

Ensure the LNP influences Local Area Planning

LNP- should be main communication hub- requires an integrated approach tackling the Environmental, Social and Economic challenges- pull together resources across sectors. Maintaining a 'library' of relevant evidence may be a role for the LNP in the future

Secure business involvement across other interests

Ensure the LNP has a seat at the LEP and is represented in different sectors

LNP should be the umbrella that makes sense and provides the cohesive support of all other plans, eg: Green infrastructure

LNP has to retain the oversight to make cohesive sense- structure must ensure this, Ambassadorial role for LNP- collective strong Board?

Ensure the LNP does not duplicate existing partnerships/projects. How will the LNP join up with: Wiltshire Environmental Alliance; Swindon Forward; Wiltshire Assembly?

LNP retain oversight of conservation delivery across the county? Aim to determine and refine what the priorities are.

Be specific about the aims of the LNP, provide an indication of partners responsibilities and how they can contribute in ways that fit their own work plans. Success of any business plan depends as much on what is left out as what is included.

LNP stimulates initiatives, eg: links between health, access

Provide stronger case for volunteer involvement in natural environment

Needs to have a consistent framework- roll for LNP to be custodian of Wiltshire BAP targets but at a Strategic Level?

Proposed research on the economic value of the Natural Environment could be a useful tool, it would be helpful to invite partners to put forward sources of evidence that could contribute; any study must be specific about the action that is required at this stage

A key question for the partnership is what happens to BAP? The LNP should avoid getting caught up in the endless reviewing and reporting on targets that dominated many BAP groups historically

### **Q6- How do we ensure communities are engaged in the LNP and have a voice in deciding the priorities for the Natural Environment?**

Community Area Boards- LNP needs to directly engage during the development process and beyond

LNP needs to connect with local schools

What will the connection be with the Wiltshire World Changers?

What will the connection be with Wiltshire/Swindon Local Councillors/Councils?

What will the connection be with the older generations? Capture sense of Wiltshire/ maintain our cultural heritage

Will the LNP be a local voice for communities?

LNP needs a communication strategy- publicity/promotion/press

- Engage with communities at the right level- Youth via social media? etc

LNP should capitalise on success- build on strengths that exist in local community initiatives

**Any comments or additions please email**

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