

# **Wiltshire & Swindon LNP**

## **Summary of all Feedback from Workshop 2**

**Weds 28<sup>th</sup> March 2012**

Please find below a summary of the feedback collected on the day:

### **10am Open Discussion Session: LNP Action Plan**

#### Feedback relating to the governance structure of the LNP:

- The proposed structure mirrors the LEP governance structure. Is this the right structure to mirror? How is the LEP finding this approach? The LNP should adapt and evolve so that it gets the best structure and learns from other partnership's mistakes.
- Governance Structure needs to be constantly reviewed to make sure it is fit for purpose; ensure the TOR will reflect this flexibility.
- Proposed structure does not show higher strategic links with LEPs, Health Boards.
  - How do we show the potential reach and influence of the LNP in the structure and make clear in the TOR?
- What is the role of the proposed Working Groups? Structure does not show a clear responsibility for the working groups? They are the engine room of the LNP and will have the responsibilities for conservation decisions on the ground- make sure structure and TOR support this role and recognise it.
- Needs to be a fluid definition of the Working Groups- they will have many different roles:
  - Landscape scale focus? (eg: NIAs), Research/Evidence focussed?, Project focussed?
- Structure should support and recognise the natural boundaries of the Natural Environment.
  - Recognise that Working Groups may float across more than 1 LNP- how will that be addressed and how will this work?

#### Feedback relating to the proposed Board:

- When the LNP Board 'Speaks' who does it represent? Does the Board represent the whole partnership?
  - Need further guidance from Defra- how will these external relationships work?
- Should the Board aspire to be the voice of the wider partnership?
- Avoid recruiting the usual suspects on to the Board if possible.
- Make sure the Board is mandated by the wider structure- capture this in the application to Defra.
- The Board needs to have a tight focus, keep grounded with achieving benefits for the Natural Environment.
- Suggestion: Look at the Local Access Forum structure- should a third of the board be represented by landowners/farmers/conservation NGOs? (Land based group)

- The Board should identify the 'gaps/white space' within the Natural Environment and direct LNP support towards assisting them.
- Who is the Board's audience?
  - Who are they expected to influence and communicate with?
  - What level are they expected to communicate at? E.g.: Defra? Planning Authorities? Transport?
  - Ensure the Governance Structure captures this.
- Require a Job Description for the Boards Members
  - State that they are expected to do work outside of meetings, express how much time they are expected to commit? State ½ a day's work every 2 weeks?
  - Should the Board members be expected to bring funding for the LNP?- To be a Board member have to provide funding in some capacity?- Should this be discretionary?
  - How do you get higher strategic level people involved?- what is the added benefit from having these people involved?
- What is the legal position of the LNP and the LNP Board?
  - Need further clarity from Defra; need a mechanism to deal with conflicts of interest situations
  - Need to ensure potential 'Risk and exposure' are mitigated before they happen

#### Feedback relating to the functioning mechanisms of the LNP

- Running a partnership requires full time support from a coordinator position.
- Make sure the coordinator does not 'become' the partnership but supports it and received support from all that are members/part of it: Partners must take ownership of the LNP, Board needs active advocates.
- Should the LNP become a 'Trust'- what will the legal rights/trading position be?
- ToR should make clear that potential funding will be distributed in a formal and accepted mechanism by the wider partnership to avoid competitiveness causing friction between partners in the future

#### Feedback relating to the communications within and outside the partnership:

- How will outside organisations feed in to the 'Board' discussions? The arrows between the wider forum members and the Board need to be clarified.
- Should recognise Management plans in the LNP ToR.
- Need a Memorandum of Understanding between LNPs and affiliated bodies, ie: NFU, CLA, NIA, other project/partnerships, etc.
- How does the LNP fit in to the 'Family of Partnerships'? In both Wiltshire and Swindon?
- Needs to be a clear mechanism between the Forum and the Board- strong relationship that encourages the forum to feed ideas to the Board
- Ensure language used is directed at the right group/sector to get the most from communication channels

## Discussion Group Session: Three Year Vision

### What is the purpose of the LNP in Wiltshire & Swindon?

- Influence key decisions regarding the Natural Environment
- LNP be the main advocate for Natural Environment
- Coordinate efforts to help communities, the economy and the environment benefit from partnership working
- Support development of landscape scale conservation
- Engage and promote working relationships across sectors
- Focus on restoring ecological networks/corridors for biodiversity
- Add value to current mechanisms/NGOs/partnerships
- Build relationships with local businesses; CSR engagement
- Work with the LEP to guide sustainable development
- Support the Green infrastructure Strategy
- Coordinate Biodiversity Offsetting system
- Incorporate and support the re-working of the BAP
- Will the LNP stay more at the Strategic level? How will it actually deliver and work with partners? Be clear in ToR
- What is the LNP representing?
  - Does the LNP just represent the Board's views? How will it incorporate the views from the wider forum?
- Need a mission statement and key hooks
- Need clear objectives that capture the whole LNP not just the Board
- LNP needs an outward focus

### What is the scope of the LNP?

- To further understand the value of the Natural Environment
- Independent decision making partnership that is informed by science and strong evidence base
- Need scope of LNP to be defined-where does the strategy/ delivery start and finish? Define the overlap, provide clear mechanisms
- Scope of LNP needs to incorporate working relationship with planning strategy, climate change, waste, rural communities, etc
- Allow scope to be flexible; different issues should be put into the agenda when needed
- Scope of LNP should include: monitoring, reporting, informing (in particular to Local Enterprise Partnership, informing economic development)
- Geographic scope should incorporate cross boundaries- have a pragmatic approach to developing landscape scale projects, cross border duty to cooperate- reinforce in ToR.
- Develop Ecosystems Services Approach- not stated at present

- Long term scope to establish mechanism that would not have been created without an LNP- eg mechanism for long term biodiversity offsetting
- Scope to establish mechanisms to work with other sectors
- Scope to provide strategic leadership that drives local development and engagement

### Functioning mechanisms of the LNP- effective ways of working?

- Need collaborative approach, current system is disconnected
- Review of existing partnerships/forums/assemblies- ensure no duplication
- Clarify relationships with Wiltshire Environment Alliance/Assembly
- Should there be a prescription for a way of working? - will the effectiveness of the Board be judged on how well it furthers the agenda of the constituent bodies?
- Need flexible, broad, multi- functional communications strategy- include web based communications and also events- important to retain face to face contact- annual forum. Get the language right when engaging with each sector
- Need effective mechanism between the Board and Forum, Board and working groups
- Need to address how management of assets/resources will be allocated in the future
- Partnership will need to manage potential conflicts, part of partnership working not a reason for opting out.
- Forum needs inclusive representation
- Effective mechanism required for feeding in to the planning system
- What are the benefits of getting involved for businesses? Corporate Social Responsibility- set up mechanism to engage with businesses
- Need to attract/engage those that have not engaged before- Youth, rural communities.
- Clear way of working at community level- encourages Community Area Boards to make good decisions on sound information. LNP feed in interactive information sharing mechanism?
- Need to cascade message to village/grassroots level

### What are the key milestones for the LNP?

- Short Term milestones
  - Creating a sound Action Plan and Three Year Vision
  - Confirm wider support for the LNP
  - Establish Board and Launch LNP
  - Secure funding for coordinator
  - Communications strategy in place
  - Broad membership of LNP from across sectors
  - Partners committed time to support the LNP
  - Strong relationship with LEP established
  - Governmental recognition as a LNP

- Medium/Long Term milestones
  - Working groups succeed in delivering projects/research- Achieve a few focussed outcomes
  - Successful engagement with landowners- key sector for successful delivery
  - Influence and support the Green Infrastructure Strategy
  - Build accessible evidence base, increase information sharing
  - Strategy for tackling landscape scale ecological networking

#### **What will the indicators of success be for the LNP?**

- Indicators of success for establishing a successful partnership:
  - Sign up/endorsement of vision from across sectors
  - Measure of activity- how many people/organisations have engaged
  - Communities are engaged and find the partnership to be valuable
  - Secured funding
  - Core policies have taken full regard for views of the LNP
  - Success in gaining private sector resource
  - Working groups have delivered
- Indicators of success for a healthy natural environment:
  - Reverse of trends: CO2, Biodiversity fragmentation, water issues,
  - Ecological outcomes
  - Response to current issues: drought, flooding, erosion, species loss, invasive species

#### **What reporting mechanisms will be required for a successful LNP?**

- Annual progress report against the action plan- accessible to all
- Annual report to Defra, funders, members
- Clear communications plan
- Survey of Forum members- evaluation as to the performance of the LNP
- Electronic Board meetings
- Mandated Terms of Reference- ensure support is there at the key moments when decisions are needed

#### **What are the potential sources of data/evidence bases that could contribute towards a LNP evidence base in the future?**

- Wiltshire Environmental Intelligence Network- needs more promotion and work
- Need to build a strong cohesive evidence base on ecosystem services
  - Guidance on integration of ecosystem services