

Devon Local Nature Partnership

Towards a Programme of Action

An interim action plan

This Action Plan sets out some initial milestones for Devon's Local Nature Partnership. It includes actions which were identified during the extensive LNP 'capacity building' consultation process which took place in 2012. It also includes practical steps needed to develop the LNP itself. This is an interim document which will be replaced, following consultation, by a more detailed Business Plan in spring 2013.

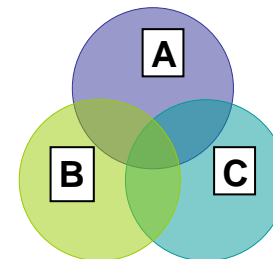
Further information can be found on the LNP website - <http://www.devonenvironment.org.uk/>

VISION: The Devon LNP will provide a strong, championing voice for the county's unique and hugely important natural environment. It will embed the value of the high quality natural environment into decision-making processes and improve co-ordination of delivery across Devon, in order to:

- *Secure and enhance Devon's intrinsic natural environment and its associated links with the cultural environment; while*
- *Brokering the optimum economic, social and health benefits that the natural environment can provide for everyone visiting, living or working in Devon.*

LNP Priorities (overlapping)

- A. Protect and improve Devon's natural environment**
- B. Grow Devon's Green Economy** – in which economic growth and the health of our natural resources sustain each other.
- C. Reconnect Devon's people and nature** – strengthening the connections between people and nature to the benefit of both.



Objectives and actions <i>- required to meet the vision and achieve priorities. Note that the majority of actions will help achieve all three priorities.</i>	Timescale	LNP lead	Information
1. Develop and activate Devon LNP			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish the LNP governance structure (Board, Executive and secretariat function, Forum). • Publish short LNP Prospectus, in advance of the Business Plan. • Business Plan (including measures of success) published following consultation. • Communications Plan developed (to include improved website, e-newsletter, Annual conference) following publication of the Business Plan. • LNP conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 2013 • Feb 2013 • Spring 2013 • Summer 2013 • Autumn 2013 	Secretariat	<p>See LNP Terms of Reference for more information on the structure.</p> <p>Purpose of the Prospectus is to ensure that everyone understands the purpose and structure of the LNP and how they can engage. An important document to raise awareness. Business Plan to be a short succinct document that sets out clear vision, priorities, initiatives, milestones and measures of success for the LNP as well as clarifying the governance structure and communication mechanisms.</p> <p>Website at – http://www.devonenvironment.org.uk/</p>
2. Develop the evidence base			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Publish a Devon State of Environment Report ensuring that this meets the requirements of the Health & Well Being Board's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and the Local Enterprise Partnership. • Publish a Devon State of Nature Report and Devon Nature Map as part of the evidence base for the State of Environment report. Promote appropriately. • Develop and promote a Devon Framework for Landscape Scale Delivery for the natural environment and related ecosystem services. Executive Group to agree the approach to this piece of work. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Late spring 2013 • Late spring 2013 • Summer 2013 	DCC (env & public health) DCC, DWT DWT, DCC	<p>This will update the 1994 State of Environment Report for Devon by pulling together existing information on the current state of Devon's environment. The report will describe how each environmental asset / issue links to the health and wellbeing and economic agendas. This report has been requested by the public health team in order to provide information for their Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>The State of Nature Report will provide an overview of the current state (quality and extent) of Devon's key species and habitats (as identified in the Devon Biodiversity Action Plan, 1998). It will also identify key issues and successes. Devon Nature Map identifies priority areas for managing, restoring and creating wildlife habitat.</p> <p>The framework will identify existing landscape scale projects and provide a framework for prioritising new projects which will help to deliver ecosystem services. 'Ecosystem Services' are services provided by the natural environment such as food, timber, energy, flood control, water purification, soil, health & wellbeing.</p>

3. Establish links with other partnerships and identify priorities for joint areas of work			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a Compact with the Health and Wellbeing Board and start to identify and take forward required initiatives building on the Reconnecting People and Nature Report produced for the LNP. Together with Plymouth and Somerset LNPs develop a Compact with the Heart of the South West Local Enterprise Partnership. Further to this set up a Task and Finish Group (linked to Somerset and Plymouth LNPs) to identify and take forward green economy initiatives, building on the Green Economy Scoping Report produced for the LNP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feb 2013 Feb 2013 Set up by Jan 2012 	<p>DCC, DWT</p> <p>Exec Group</p>	<p>During the LNP capacity building phase a research project was undertaken by the Community Council of Devon on the theme of Reconnecting People and Nature. See the Projects pages of the LNP website for the final report and further information.</p> <p>During the LNP capacity building phase a piece of work was commissioned in order to provide a strategic overview of Devon's Green Economy and identify the challenges, opportunities and priorities for future joint working. This work involved individuals from the LEP as well as a wide range of other interested parties. See the Projects pages of the LNP website for the final report and further information.</p>
4. Influence strategic planning and development projects			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clarify how the LNP will undertake its duty to co-operate role and share this with relevant organisations e.g. Local Planning Authorities. Clarify how the LNP will support marine initiatives such as marine planning for the south Devon coast and strengthening the network of Marine Protected Areas. Improve and promote the Devon Wildlife Planning Guidance Support the biodiversity offsetting pilots in the North Devon Biosphere Reserve, South Devon and East Devon and Exeter Growth Point. 	<p>March 2013 and then ongoing</p> <p>Jan 2013 and then ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Exec , Nicola Bulbeck</p> <p>Harry Barton + poss task & finish group</p> <p>DCC</p> <p>Exec, Board</p>	<p>Note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Para 180 of the National Planning Policy Framework states, '<i>Local planning authorities should work collaboratively on strategic planning priorities to enable delivery of sustainable development in consultation with Local Enterprise Partnerships and Local Nature Partnerships.</i>' - LNPs (along with LEPs) are 'prescribed bodies' which have a duty to co-operate in relation to the planning of sustainable development (section 33A(9) of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act, 2004). This includes development plan documents, marine plans and related activities. <p>The South Inshore and South Offshore areas are the third and fourth areas in England to be selected for marine planning. The South Inshore area stretches from Folkestone to the River Dart. The Marine Management Organisation is holding a workshop in Exeter on 28th January.</p> <p>The guidance aims to ensure that LPAs meet legislative and policy requirements relating to wildlife and that <u>wildlife issues do not unnecessarily delay the planning process.</u> http://www.devon.gov.uk/wildlife.htm</p> <p>Biodiversity offsets are conservation activities designed to compensate, in a measurable way and more effective way, for losses through development. Six Defra pilots were set up in April 2012 and are running until April 2014. Further information will be placed on the Projects pages of the LNP website. Also see http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/offsetting</p>

5. Maximise benefits from EU Funds (2014 – 2020) under the Common Strategic Framework.			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a Task and Finish Group to influence reform options and maximise benefits from the future funding programmes (with particular emphasis on lowland and upland extensive grazing systems and sustainable fisheries). 	Urgent	Exec Grp, Robin Milton	<p>For the 2014-2020 period the four EU funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development and European Maritime & Fisheries Fund) will operate in a more flexible and integrated way under a 'Common Strategic Framework'. Final agreement of the 7 year budget is likely to be during 2013. Programmes could start within 3 months of this agreement.</p> <p>http://www.bis.gov.uk/policies/economic-development/european-structural-and-cohesion-funds</p>
6. Improve access to information			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support development of the natural environment sections of the health and wellbeing website. Review the current provision of information on equal access to the countryside in order to identify priority actions to improve equalities. Promote and improve Devon's pilot 'Community Toolkit for the Natural Environment'. Use the LNP website as a central point / sign post for information on Devon's natural environment and relevant initiatives. 	<p>As required</p> <p>First year.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Secretariat</p> <p>Exec</p> <p>DCC, CCD</p> <p>Secretariat</p>	<p>The health and wellbeing website does not currently have information on the natural environment. Public health has identified development of natural environment sections as an opportunity for initial joint working, along with development of the State of Environment Report which will feed into the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.</p> <p>http://www.devonhealthandwellbeing.org.uk/</p> <p>http://www.devon.gov.uk/communitywildlifetoolkit.htm</p>
7. Support landscape scale initiatives and strategic action			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support existing projects, including the North Devon Nature Improvement Area and encourage support the development of new projects using evidence in (2). Ensure a strategic approach is taken to responding to ash die back. 	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Spring 2013</p>	<p>Exec / Board</p> <p>FC</p>	<p>Current landscape scale projects include Mire on the Moors, Working Wetlands, the Two Moors Butterfly Project, and the North Devon Nature Improvement Area which is one of 12 Defra NIA pilots.</p>