

Health and Wellbeing Board 18 July 2014

UPDATE FROM THE SHROPSHIRE, TELFORD & WREKIN LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP (LNP)

Responsible Officer

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1. Summary

[Local Nature Partnerships \(LNPs\)](#) are partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people who aim to help bring about improvements in their local natural environment. They aim to make sure that its value, and the value of the services it provides to the economy and the people who live there, is taken into account in local decisions, for example about planning and development.

Setting up LNPs was one of the commitments made in the [Natural Environment White Paper 2011](#) and there are now 48 LNPs across England providing almost complete coverage.

LNPs are being encouraged to work at a large scale, which we call 'landscape-scale', and to identify Nature Improvement Areas using well established [criteria](#).

LNPs are referenced in statutory guidance on JSNAs and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategies (JHWSs) under [Section 5 'working in partnership'](#)

LNPs are also referenced in the National Planning Policy Framework 2012:

"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"

Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin LNP has been formally recognised by Defra since July 2012 and has been coordinated by Shropshire Council since January 2012. Six months of staff time funding was provided to Shropshire Council to help establish the LNP but following this only staff time and a little funding for specific project work has been available. Our LNP is chaired by Cllr Cecilia Motley and we work closely with Herefordshire LNP partly due to the shared Marches LEP boundary. Rod Thompson and Miranda Ashwell share the representation role on the LNP Board.

Current areas of work for the LNP include:

1. developing a Natural Environment Investment Prospectus for the Marches area
2. involvement in a Marches LEP workshop as part of the [Local Environment and Economic Development \(LEED Toolkit\)](#)
3. lobbying government for the reinstatement of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund.

1. The Natural Environment Investment Prospectus will provide a background to the concept of [Natural Capital](#) (our stock of natural resources that underpins our economy and well-being) and the role of the LNP in enhancing this capital. This will be followed by a series of best practice examples of natural capital (natural assets) management, Payment for Ecosystem Services, and other examples of where natural capital is enhanced in a way that has positive economic and social impacts. The prospectus will finish with proposals for future investment opportunities in the natural environment that are likely to have greatest return on investment. The document will be used to guide applicants for [European Structural and Investment Funds](#) – particularly under the ‘Supporting the Environment’ and ‘Supporting the Shift Towards a Low Carbon Economy’ strategic activities. The Prospectus will be launched in Autumn / Winter 2014 to a selection of business leaders and others who are likely to influence the management of natural capital.
2. On July 2nd the Marches LEP held the initial workshop stage of the LEED Toolkit. The purpose of this event was to systematically consider the evidence relating to the local economy / environment relationship in order to reveal opportunities and threats to the delivery of the Marches LEP Strategic Economic Plan (SEP) and to consider appropriate responses to them. The event attracted a good turnout including the LEP Chair and the national Defra lead for LNPs. Feedback is due in early August.
3. The LNP is leading a national call to government for the re-instatement of the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund. The ALSF provided LAs and other administering bodies with a relatively small but very useful fund which primarily helped mitigate the impacts of the quarrying industry on local communities and the environment. Shropshire Council previously administered part of this fund (£100k) and also drew in funds from national pots for a variety of projects which supported posts in the Council and local businesses. The Mineral Products Association and specific aggregate extraction companies are also behind the reinstatement due to the positive influence the fund had on the image of their industry and future planning applications.

2. Recommendations

- a) There are considerable areas of overlap with preventative interventions and the objectives of the LNP. Green infrastructure and tourism are areas of particular interest for the LNP which can also have significant impact on health and well-being.
- b) The LNP would welcome input from the Health and Wellbeing Board particularly for the Natural Environment Investment Prospectus where case-studies or future investment opportunities with health impacts could be included.

3. Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

4. Financial Implications

Any financial input to the LNP would be very welcome. Currently there is none.

5. Background

6. Additional Information

7. Conclusions

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

To right are QR (Quick Response) codes for quickly accessing these links using smart phones or tablets. The Google Goggles 'app' is one of many that can read them.

The Terms of Reference (including objectives and structure) are available here: http://bit.ly/LNP_TOR



The role of Local Nature Partnerships:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/role-of-local-nature-partnerships-an-overview>



Natural Environment White Paper 2011 -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/natural-environment-white-paper-implementation-updates>



Local Environment and Economic Development (LEED Toolkit):

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/planningdevelopment/LEP-citydeals/leedtoolkit.aspx>



Definition of 'Natural Capital' from the Natural Capital Committee:

<https://www.naturalcapitalcommittee.org/natural-capital.html>



European Structural and Investment Funds:

http://www.marcheslep.org.uk/document-library/cat_view/12-eu-strategy-investment-fund



Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder)

Mal Price

Local Member

Appendices