

Meeting Minutes			
Meeting	Extraordinary executive group meeting 2018		
Date & time	31st July 2018		
Venue	Durham County Council		
Chairman	Mike Pratt (Acting)		
Attendees	Mike Pratt – Northumberland WT – Acting Chairman	Prof Alister Scott – Northumbria University	Steve Bhowmick - DCC
	Jude Leitch – Northumberland Tourism	Andy Smith – Intimation	Claire Thompson - NEENP
	Lydia Speakman – Natural England		
Apologies	Helen Ryde - NEENP	Graeme Warren – EA	
	David Feige – Northumberland Council	Dan Hattle – Sunderland CC	Geoff Hughes - LAF
	Stuart Timmiss - DDC	Philip Baker – Banks	Neil Wilkinson - Gateshead
Agenda item 1: Welcome and introductions			
The Executive welcomed to the extraordinary meeting and apologies noted.			
Agenda item 2: Supporting the NEENP – Reviewing the current situation			
<p>Purpose of the meeting is to review the potential cashflow situation that might arise for Capability North East, the provider of NEENP secretariat. Cashflow has been flagged at all executive meetings for 2018, as completion of NEENP and CNE set up activities after timeline slippage due to a variety of reasons – resource, support etc. The forecast for future income is realistic, achievable and will put CNE on a sound footing however there has always been concern for a potential cashflow issue, until larger contracts are confirmed and paid. The Directors of Capability North East, who have considerable experience between them acknowledge that this part of the runway journey for a start-up.</p> <p>The North East England Nature Partnership is dependent upon the CNE for secretariat and delivery of its programme but the NEENP will still exist as an entity irrespective of having support from CNE.</p> <p>There are three issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ensuring CNE is able to overcome its short term cashflow situation. 2. Staff workload 3. There is still the infrastructure to support the NEENP’s work. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Staff to facilitate work. b. New Chairperson appointed to enable engagement at senior level with equivalent and stakeholder organisations. <p>Consensus that there is a political need for and to retain the NEENP. The sector needs concise messages, a single voice as a means to maximise the opportunities for the environment and people of North East England that is offered from recent government initiatives (Defra 25 year plan, Clean Growth Strategy, Natural Capital). Local authorities need a bridge between national policy and local delivery, this is the purpose of the NEENP. The NEENP needs to be more confident and forceful in growing and expanding the NEENP role, as support is given to the LEP and its functions and government had the same ambition for Nature Partnerships.</p>			

Moving forward staff have to focus on CNE and the executive need to take on particular roles, lead task and finish groups and look at the possibility of temporary back room staff to support existing staff and NEENP (as Durham has done).

The executive can support the ambitions of CNE, as all have extensive networks and can create warm introductions/ leads for CNE team to follow up.

Governance – The current arrangement requires the permanent Chair of the NEENP to attend CNE Director meetings and update the executive as required. The NEENP executive is also required to nominate two thirds of the trustees to be appointed to CNE, request for this was made at last executive and in July. This creates another link to the work of the partnership.

Item 3: Priorities and next steps

Timeline – Review situation at executive meeting on Sept 13th with a potential deadline date for continuation being Oct 31st if need to consider a plan B for the NEENP. New Chair appointed by the end of September.

At Sept 13th meeting undertake a SWOT and give consideration as to how to divide up priorities, coordinate consultations, what roles the executive will take on or support, what task and finish groups are needed.

Durham will progress there sign up to a Greening the Economy of North East England (GENEE) package.

Mike Pratt will reengage with NTC, as it is imperative that all local authorities are activity members and contributors to the NEENP and CNE ambitions.

Action network offers

- Jude Leitch – tourism however August and early September is a busy time for the sector so best to plan for late Sept / early October. Link to Nland Tourism Director and airport.
- Academic institutions – Prof Scott, investigate with Northumbria following Sept 13th
- Philip Baker – Developers Group with the Chamber
- Andy Smith – NIFCO
- Require rest of executive to facilitate introductions to their networks

Funding opportunities

- As per noted in overview paper
- Innovate UK – link to industrial strategy

Actions

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| 1. Revisit NTC involvement | MP |
| 2. Sept 13 th meeting – Review and SWOT | |
| 3. Action network offers | CT |
| 4. Have information added to the LEP network hub | CT |
| 5. CNE business plan update | CT |
| 6. Business funding and apply for overdraft if required | CT |
| 7. Mike Pratt will update the executive on NTC discussions and CNE following his attendance at the Directors meeting. | MP |

Item 7: Next meeting and close

Sept 13th executive meeting, Savlus House, 2pm