

## North East Local Nature Partnership 2019: 1<sup>st</sup> executive meeting

**Date** Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February      **Start time** 14:00      **Finish time** 16:00

**Location** Northumberland County Council, County Hall, Morpeth

### Attendees

David Feige – Northumberland Council	Graeme Warren – Environment Agency	Paul Brannen - Chair
Jude Leitch – Northumberland Tourism	Andy Smith - Intimation	Geoff Hughes – Community access
Neil Wilkinson – Gateshead Council	Mike Pratt – Northumberland Wildlife Trust	Claire Thompson – Capability North East
Charles Sellers – Innovation and Technology Group	Justin Hancock – Banks Group	Ian Brown – Forestry Commission
<b>Apologies: Due to holidays, illness and interviews</b>		
Alister Scott – Northumbria Uni	Jim Cokill- Durham Wildlife Trust	Glyn Bateman – Natural England
Dan Hattle – Sunderland Council	Steve Bhowmick – Durham County Council	Michelle Mancini – Public health England

### Agenda

Item	Description	Who
1	<p><b>Welcome and introductions</b></p> <p>Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and requested introductions including organisation and interest in the partnership to be recorded. As per the NEENP's terms of reference individuals attend the executive meeting to represent their organisation.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ian Brown, Forestry Commission and Chair of FWAC. Woodlands and rural economy.</li> <li>Charles Sellers, Innovation and Technology Group. Asked to join Prof Alister Scott and join the executive from a business point of view and review the governance of the NEENP.</li> <li>David Feige, Northumberland Council. Has been representing NCC in the absence of a Head of Planning has been appointed will be NCC representative moving forward. Implementing Lawton, habitat connectivity and biodiversity/ net gain.</li> <li>Geoff Hughes, Access Forums for County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne &amp; Wear. Passionate about the environment of the North East and better access for all.</li> <li>Mike Pratt, Northumberland Wildlife Trust. Been acting Chair and now Vice Chair. Representing the eNGO sector for NEENP area. Keen for the natural environment to be seen as the asset that it is and the partnership getting the support it deserves.</li> <li>Justin Hancock, Banks Group. Public access and strategic green space and the enhancement of biodiversity</li> <li>Jude Leitch, Director of Northumberland Tourism. Environment is a large reason the region is a tourism destination. Keen for tourism to be recognised as an employer and how important our landscapes and natural assets are. Also</li> </ol>	Paul Brannen

	<p>representing businesses and to plan for sustainable development of our tourism industry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8. Graeme Warren, Environment Agency. Environment planning and engagement manager with a focus on how we work in partnership. Keen for the NEENP to support the delivery of the 25 YEP.</li> <li>9. Andy Smith, Intimation. A Design and Director in a company providing energy to underserved communities in Africa. Story telling of the value of our environment and sustainability messages to SMEs.</li> <li>10. Claire Thompson, Capability North East. Working as a GENE to green the economy of North East England by GENE packages and Investors in the Environment accreditation. Hosts of the NEENP. CNE and the growth of its fund should enable the delivery of the NEENP Vision and Defra 25 YEP. NEENP has achieved with very little and really needs the support of partners to grow and realise the ambition of CNE.</li> <li>11. Paul Brannen, MEP. Previously Head of Campaigns for Christian Aid and Fair Trade. Worked for the Leadership Development Programme called Common Purpose. Head of advocacy at Christian Aid and campaigning on Climate Change. When became a MEP keen to keep working on climate change via the rural and agricultural committee and environment committee. Forestry/ BioEconomy is the link back to the UK, there is a million new jobs and the sector is very relevant to North East. BioEconomy strategy released last year and so there is a BioEconomy opportunity for the region. Forestry cover is the lowest in UK and Northumberland has the lowest tree cover. Recently attended the Forestry Academy and has good sense of what the opportunity is for the North East with wood as a feed stock. Keen to drive switch from concrete building to wood buildings. Engineered timbers is an opportunity to as it gives strength, the biggest wooden building in the world is in Hackney. Locks in carbon and important in climate change as 1 tonne of wood sequester 1 tonne of carbon. Other examples include 18 levels of student accommodation in Vancouver. Partnerships ambition for more forests and urban woodland. Focus for development on the urban fringe and payment for services from the environment.</li> </ol>	
<p><b>2</b></p>	<p><b>NEENP review and discussion</b></p> <p>Summary partnership has a huge task and capacity issues but there is an opportunity to take the Partnership to the next level. It has developed the right strategy and visioned the future well, based on a series of workshops in late 2017/ early 2018 and this is reflected in the 25YEP. Have been operating in a disjointed National Context but recent and anticipated changes in and new policies creates new opportunities.</p> <p>If we project ahead 5 years there should be a whole series of projects that tick the aims and objectives of the NEENP. Need to be more visible in the interim, intention is good, that example is good and can we now do more.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People representing the organisations need to embrace the mandate from government. There is a Duty to Cooperate expectation that needs to be used. Each representative needs to ensure that there is ownership of the NEENP in their organisations. For the local strategic planning and delivery of Defra 25YEP.</li> <li>2. Review Vision for Environmental Growth with executive and wider board and bring up to date with new guidance and policy.</li> <li>3. No more inconclusive meetings.</li> <li>4. Case studies and video with examples of delivery.</li> <li>5. BioEconomy and Forestry opportunity – Task and finish group. It appeals to different people depending upon what you are talking about. Overlapping interests is who we'll populate the task and finish groups and can identify the wants of those participating.</li> <li>6. Consider funding, an HLF bid (who will write?) to develop the NEENP and make fit</li> </ol>	<p>Paul Brannen</p>



	<p>Partners to arrange for their organisation to sign up to SuDS declaration.  <a href="https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/natural-resource-security-publications/catchment-management-the-declaration">https://www.cisl.cam.ac.uk/resources/natural-resource-security-publications/catchment-management-the-declaration</a>  <a href="https://cambridgeprogramme.wufoo.com/forms/s287gul1gnl0v4/">https://cambridgeprogramme.wufoo.com/forms/s287gul1gnl0v4/</a></p> <p><b>Social media and PR</b>            Piece on Paul's role as Chair, the NEENP and forestry opportunity in local media.</p>	Claire Thompson
5	<p><b>Next meeting and venue</b></p> <p>Next meeting is for May however there is much uncertainty regarding Brexit and I may have to participate in EU elections and so the date may change. Will keep the executive informed.</p> <p>May 9<sup>th</sup>, North of Tyne, venue tbc            CNE meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> April at Salvus House.</p> <p>Close meeting</p>	Paul Brannen

**Actions:**

1. Email Paul Brannen Louise Brackens details - CT
2. GENE info to Paul Brannen - CT
3. Email Alice Wiseman about task and finish group for forestry for public health involvement - CT
4. Examples of LNPs to Paul Brannen - All
5. Phone calls with executive not in attendance - PB
6. Who is Defra lead for LNPs? - CT
7. Forestry task and finish group – PB/ CT
  - a. Natural capital mapping exercise in our area – potentially LEP funding
  - b. Not a party political issue and have Doddington as a great example.
  - c. Friends of the Earth are launching a campaign to double woodland cover.
  - d. Need a resolution on the process of creating new woodlands and learn from Doddington
  - e. Should be self funding
8. Need to identify 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> strands of activity - All
  - a. Funding how can grow – Partners can pay us to do work
  - b. Community and link with colleges
9. Mail out to the tourist businesses. Yearly conference and there is an option for promoting in May with a focus on sustainability, presentation and workshop. Looking to reinstate the regional sustainable tourism award, perhaps a tourism GENE award? - JL
10. Promoting Capability North East and sign up in your organisations - All
11. Share CNE information to networks - All
12. List of what the partnership can do and deliver - All
13. Email Paul with specifics of who should see and read - CT
14. Share with Paul and Graeme Warren our enviro indicators – CT