

North East Local Nature Partnership 2019: 2nd executive meeting

Date	Wednesday 26 th June 2019	Start time	13:00	Finish time	15:00
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Location	Durham Town Hall, Durham City
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Attendees

Steve Bhowmick – Durham County Council	Alister Scott – Northumbria Uni	Paul Brannen - Chair
Michelle Mancini – Public Health England	Christine Venus - Natural England	Stuart Priestley – Durham County Council
Justin Hancock – Banks Group	Charles Sellers – Innovation and Technology Group	Claire Thompson – Capability North East
Tracey Donnelly – Durham County Council (Minutes)	Paul Black – BrightWater	
Apologies: Due to holidays, illness and interviews		
Jude Leitch – Northumberland Tourism	Jim Cokill- Durham Wildlife Trust	Rob Murfin – Northumberland Council
Clare Deasy – Northumbrian Water	Ian Brown – Forestry Commission	Geoff Hughes – Community access
Fiona Morris – Environment Agency	Neil Wilkinson – Gateshead Council	Mike Pratt – Northumberland Wildlife Trust
David Feige - Northumberland	Dan Hattle – Sunderland Council	

Minutes

Item	Description	Who
1	<p>Welcome and introductions</p> <p>Chair thanked everyone for their attendance and requested introductions Can we have a section for anyone who hasn't sent their apologies but weren't there either. Geoff Hughes is stepping down from the and has asked for a new representative form LAFs to be appointed. This means there is a Vice Chair role to appoint to.</p> <p>Action Appoint new Vice Chair</p>	PBran
2	<p>Previous minutes</p> <p>Looked at and agreed.</p>	PBran
3	<p>Projects for executive consideration / approval</p> <p>a) North east England litter free</p> <p>Created last year lots of people signing pledges. Northumbria Water like the messages and campaign and want to pick up with this campaign and use the hashtags and pledges in a similar way that they have promoted the Refill campaign. The Refill campaign took 2 years to get momentum but is now very successful. MWG plan to sign up and run a series of</p>	CT

	<p>media articles to encourage other to do the same. Suggested applying to their Branching Out campaign for funding to develop with communities.</p> <p>Approve extending this campaign with Northumbria Water.</p> <p>b) Climate Emergency – Climate Led Youth Panel Women in sustainability group in response to climate emergency strikes. How do we move on from this and develop plans and actions that help youth and existing initiatives deliver the change needed . Initial working group with Newcastle University, 7 Stories, Youth Focus North East and others. The NEENP has a role to play in this intergenerational discussion and action that is productive and cohesive. Project will focus on developing and designing the materials young people need to communicate their change wish list. Would like to develop project for end of August but with holidays and resources this is unlikely so will most likely proceed in Sept.</p> <p>Approve exploring this idea with partners. NEENP, to share Expression of Interest once developed.</p>	
4	<p>Task and finish groups</p> <p>a) Environmental Growth – Delivering the 25YEP Do we want a workshop or something else or both? Needs to link to strategies, how is the plan to be refreshed, what do you want and how do we go about it? We need to be the group where people can come and express what needs to be done in the region. A living laboratory – matching strategic to delivery. We need to look at the 25-year plan and then review in this context. We can put an input in as a region at what we can do. PB asked if it was worth getting a big name to come to promote it. Late September early October. Discover Brightwater have a budget for this type of thing and are willing to put some money into it if appropriate. CT to draft something for everyone to critique – group needs to own it.</p> <p>b) Forest and Woodland/Green Investment Zones 70% of land in England is in farm usage. We need to make sure that farmers are engaged. Terms of reference to be put in place for the group to move forward. Ken to get a small group together to look at a proposal how it best uses urban spaces so they don't impact on it. T&F group to look at it. Tie into LNP remit.</p> <p>c) Landowner engagement for landscape scale change – peri urban woodlands</p> <p>d) Natural Capital – Durham Council case study SP – we have a duty of care – going to use GI Mapping of landscapes and accessibility. It's a nightmare can get bogged down very easily. See handout. Once done can produce data on required areas. Then look at accessibility. Health agenda and wellbeing agenda. OSNA. Greenspace, deprived areas with health issues etc. barriers to greenspace – not necessarily physical but often cultural. Map core areas and identify where we should be promoting and putting our resources. Effecting woodland planting strategies etc. we are starting to move forward with this. How does this tie into the local and neighbourhood plans? Its late to tie in as they have already been produced, however there are lots of other ways to feed into similar types of plans. How to create community awareness? Not required at the moment as it would be too detailed, and this is much broader than that. Ownership of this sits with planning and Spatial Planning with DCC, with input from Clean and Green and then councillors at some point. Further discussion with Michelle.</p> <p>e) Governance Opportunity to revise what we are doing and how we do it. Compliance and</p>	<p>CT</p> <p>PBran</p> <p>SP</p> <p>CS</p>

	<p>responsibility who is and for what? Early days but CT is instrumental in bringing it all together. It all needs to be done timely and sensibly. Any ideas or suggestions please let them be known to Alistair, who needs a full list of contacts with email addresses.</p>	
5	<p>Regional bodies update/ for discussion</p> <p>a) Combined Authority CT had meeting with Jamie, North of Tyne Mayor. Amongst other things they could potentially host nature partnership – we need to look at and make comment on these ideas, what we think of them and need to focus on sustainability crisis.</p> <p>b) Local Enterprise Partnership 21st July first formal contact LEP (PB). We need to remind them we exist and are just as important as they are, and we are here. Meetings planned for Paul Brannen with Helen Golightly and Richard Baker in August.</p> <p>c) Directors of Public Health NE representative is Alice Wiseman, Michelle Mancini is meeting with her next Friday and our direct link into meetings is Michelle. Built Environment lead has a strong focus on Natural Environment launch in October to help with evidence base health and wellbeing. National parks come together to form network. GP's prescribe activities in the natural environment. Webinars health impact assessment, how to plan new developments healthy lifestyles 11th March Michelle to circulate info from that. Need language and terminology to match up as different sections use different terms.</p> <p>d) Heads of Planning Nothing to report. Met with them in July 2018 - Kath Lawless and George Mansbridge, notes made taking it forward, KL to feed back as a standing time on their meetings cross thematic issues, very little has happened in relation to firm planning activities since that meeting. Need to provide a NEENP update to them, SB/CT will draft and PBran can use when he meets with HofP in autumn.</p>	<p>CT</p> <p>PB</p> <p>MM</p> <p>SB</p>
6	<p>Landscape partnership update</p> <p>a) Brightwater – verbal Covers roughly 200SQ Km – Skerne was badly polluted in the past but is improving, doing river improvements and wetland work. Projects – village atlases, research walks, resources, stories memories people and places. Illuminating the past. Creating two Fen's (Bishops Fen and Woodham Fen).</p> <p>b) Tyne Estuary Partnership Development of this project is being led by Environment Agency and Groundwork NE. The aim is to identify opportunities for partnership working to sustainable enhance the Tyne Estuary for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. This area was identified by the NEENP in their HLF Landscape opportunities report in 2017, it is positive to see the potential of this area being investigated and developed and an endorsement of the NEENPs landscape opportunity work. Via Capability North East contribute to the review of the existing estuary plans across the councils. Helen produced a 30-page report for Groundwork and CNE will be commissioned to help with the Visioning work, similar to that undertaken for the River Don. Engagement from the business community of the Tyne Estuary has been high.</p>	<p>PBlack</p> <p>CT</p>

	<p>Action Review and update of the NEENP Landscape opportunity work – Helen Ryde.</p>	
7	<p>Capability North East</p> <p>a) Progress update Progress is being made but as anticipated last year the long sale cycle has a drag effect. Just CT delivering the bulk of the work and business management and this is not sustainable into the future. The idea has evolved since first conceived and a business plan refresh to coincide with readiness for investment plans are to be carried out Aug/ Sept. Had a good first year with a tiny loss but a success overall, most start-ups don't make it through year 1 let alone with just a small loss. Through a series of free workshops and events, Claire has been brining in new members from the business and NGO communities. It would be helpful if partners could push things over the line with respect iiE. Its not an easy sell/buy. Is the office necessary – could save £7000 a year? Its an option the way things are moving as Claire is out a lot of the time now. Ian Brown has already start looking at alternatives that are Tyne & Wear based as this suits staff and areas where business is developing. Time has passed since iiE idea was put to partners, a refresh would be useful and more information on who CNE is working with.</p> <p>b) Actions CT to give iiE update presentation at next meeting CT to follow up with executive and iiE implementation in their organisation. IB give update on office plans. CT to share updated business plan once completed, Sept 2019.</p>	PBlack
8	<p>AOB Wildflower meadows on roadside verges – rolling out many projects at DCC around the county, Alistair wants to engage with SP about this and then perhaps advertise it and expand it to other local areas. SP – 6 months away from having costings etc and the impact on the public etc. it's not happening in Northumberland because of cutting regimes etc, so want tips and strategies. Contact SP in October/November as he will have maps and cost savings etc then.</p> <p>This week been awarded HLF £430,000 for a 4-year programme woodlands revival regeneration.</p> <p>Actions Stuart Priestley to provide evaluation of DCC wildflower work to NEENP by October. NEENP officer (Helen) to contact all councils and get updates on wildflower plans with images to quantify and qualify progress that has been made in this area.</p>	AS/SP
9	<p>Next meeting and close 12th Sept 2019 2pm-4pm Northumberland County Council hosting</p>	

Actions:

1. Appoint new Vice Chair.
2. Share EOI for youth project for next meeting.

3. NEENP and natural capital role. CT to draft and then executive expand.
4. CT to provide CS with a full contact list that reflects very recent changes.
5. PBran to provide an update of meeting with LEP and way forward.
6. SB and CT to draft a brief report for Heads of Planning detailing NEENP and CNE recent journey and planning related changes on the horizon i.e. Local Nature Recovery Networks, Net Gain, Natural Capital and so on with the specific aim of identifying the cross-boundary role of the NEENP. Due for September.
7. PBran to meet with Heads of Planning as NEENP Chair and agree areas of collaboration.
8. Review and update of the NEENP Landscape opportunity work – Helen Ryde.
9. CT to give iiE update presentation at next meeting
10. CT to follow up with executive and iiE implementation in their organisation.
11. IB give update on office plans.
12. CT to share updated business plan once completed, Sept 2019.
13. Stuart Priestley to provide evaluation of DCC wildflower work to NEENP by October.
14. NEENP officer (Helen) to contact all councils and get updates on wildflower plans with images to quantify and qualify progress that has been made in this area.

Approved