



**West of England Nature Partnership**  
 Joining up the dots for nature

# Steering Group Meeting

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2:00 – 4:00**

Bristol City Council Offices, 100 Temple Street, Bristol

## AGENDA

Chair: Shelly Dewhurst, WENP

Item	Topic	Lead	Timing
1.	Apologies		<b>2:00</b>
2.	Minutes and actions from previous meeting	All	2:05
3.	WENP Updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Environmental Data Review</li> <li>Chair update</li> </ul>	SD	2:15
4.	Working group updates: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Health (feedback HCW &amp; NHS / PHE Conference, next steps)</li> <li>State of Environment (phase II)</li> <li>Water – strategic leaders meeting</li> </ul>	SD MMi IB	2:30
5.	Festival of Nature 2017	SC	3:00
6.	Natural Capital Trust	SD	3:10
7.	Environment Plan (GI + BI Infrastructure) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Background and ambition</li> <li>Emerging ideas</li> <li>Different workstreams</li> </ul>	Rep from group tbc	3:25
8.	Joint Spatial Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation - update</li> <li>Draft WENP response</li> <li>Environment workshop (feedback)</li> </ul>	All	3:35
9.	AOB <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings 2017</li> <li>H2020 (new call)</li> </ul>	All	3:50
	<b>Close</b>		<b>4:00</b>



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## Steering Group Meeting

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2016, 14:00 – 16:00**

Bristol City Council Officer, 100 Temple Street, Bristol

**Attendees:**

BG	Brian Glasson	South Gloucester Council (SGC)
CH	Chris Head	West of England Rural Network (WERN)
IB	Ian Barrett	Avon Wildlife Trust (AWT)
MMc	Mark MacGregor	North Somerset Council (NSC)
MMi	Mark Minkley	Bath & North East Somerset (B&NES)
RE	Richard Ennion	Bristol City Council (BCC)
SC	Savita Custead	Bristol Natural History Consortium (BNHC)
SD	Shelly Dewhurst	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)

**Apologies:**

DH	Dominic Hogg (Chair)	West of England Nature Partnership (WENP)
AC	Amy Coulthard	Natural England (NE)
AR	Anna Russell	National Trust (NT)
RB	Ruth Barden	Wessex Water (WW)

**MINUTES:**

Chair: Shelly Dewhurst (WENP)

Item	Notes
1.	<p><b>Attendees</b>            Apologies: DH, AC, AR, RB</p> <p>AC will step down as NT representative due to taking up a new role in NT, her replacement will join the SG in the new year. The SG would like to minute thanks to AC for her contributions over the past few years.</p>
2.	<p><b>Minutes and Actions (Shelly Dewhurst)</b>            The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.</p> <p><b>Actions to carry over / still to complete</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SD to ask Defra to attend an upcoming SG meeting to discuss ambitions for the 25 Year Environment Plan and how they envisage LNPs contributing to its delivery (though it was noted that this has been slightly delayed)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to follow up / introduce herself to Becky Waite (Defra LNP contact). Top a) invite her to a SG meeting and b) tell her about the work WENP are doing – NCT, Ecosystem Service Mapping, Environment Plan and work with SW LNPs.</li> <li>• Register of Interest – all to send SD form if haven't done so already. Still to send - <b>Amy Coulthard, Ruth Barden.</b></li> <li>• Terms of Reference – IB, SD and LB to review ToR and amend to reflect recently changes in WENP governance and funding streams. In particular further information about the decision making processes.</li> <li>• MMc to arrange a meeting with Natalie Field about WENP and health connections within NSC.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>ESIF update (Chris Head)</b>  CH provided an update on the ESIF committee. He explained that all of the European programmes are going ahead following uncertainty over Brexit, projects must demonstrate they are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Value for money</li> <li>2. Fulfil domestic priorities</li> </ol> <p>A few projects are coming forward except the 'low carbon strand' which hasn't had any projects funded yet (€4m). CH is representing rural – which now focuses on; tourism; food technology and production; and business support.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CH to contact DH and ensure he is attending the next ESIF meeting to represent low carbon.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>WENP update (Shelly Dewhurst)</b></p> <p><b>Chair update:</b> the board have recognised that it might be quite difficult to recruit someone before April, and so have suggested that DH remains in place to deliver the NCT programme, but recruitment starts now to ensure a smooth handover.</p> <p>BG noted that there should be consideration given to how WENP might fit into the new MCA model and this should be a consideration for the new Chair person.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All to look at Chair job description (to be added ESIF, MCA)</li> <li>• IB to establish a panel to recruit a new Chair (IB, MH, BG)</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Nature, Health and Wellbeing working group (Shelly Dewhurst)</b>  SD reported that the health work was starting to go from strength to strength. SD wanted to send a special thank you to the co-chairs of the group - Rowena Kenny (SGC) and Alan Kellas (independent) for their work to get this group so effectively established.</p> <p>There have been a couple of high profile events recently that have highlighted the importance of nature for health &amp; wellbeing</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Healthy City Week</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">NHS, PHE and LNP event on health benefits of the natural environment.</a></li> </ol> <p>SD showed the <a href="#">short film</a> that was produced to provide the highlights of the day. SD noted that she thought it would be good to try and make better links between public health and green spaces departments within the UAs.</p> <p>SD also noted that the next health meeting will be taking place in PHE through contacts they made through the conference.</p> <p>RE queried what WENPs next move should be to further promote this agenda. SD suggested it might we might want to push for health to be included within the Devolution Deal (as Greater Manchester did), there are also asks around having natural environment policies included within the Sustainability and</p>

<p>Transformation Plans (STPs). MMc noted that it would be great to connect better with the health service, for example to further develop social prescribing models.</p> <p>SD also mentioned that there is some additional funding to develop resources about how you commission nature-based projects, toolkits, etc. The South West LNPs are meeting in Feb.</p> <p>BG suggested that further work should be done to map out organisational structures and individuals working in this agenda, so we can arrange occasional meeting and catch-ups. MMC suggested that further work is needed to demonstrate the value of green spaces for health. RE noted that in Newcastle they had some of their green spaces funded through public health.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to try and make links with health and green spaces people within each of the UAs.</li> <li>• SD to create page on WENP website from health conference and circulate.</li> <li>• RE to circulate the Newcastle example.</li> </ul>
<p><b>State of Environment working group (Mark Minkley)</b></p> <p>State of Environment work has won the Dame Mary Smieton Award. The SG wanted to thank Lucy Rogers for submitting the bid and her hard work delivering the project. MMc queried how we were promoting this achievement – SD explained through the Christmas card, though she hadn't considered doing a press release.</p> <p>MMi explained that the SoE working group met to start to think about phase 2 and what might be included in the next piece of work. The group considered what the key drivers are, in particular the JSP and requirement to map GI. SD noted that the group are interested in mapping the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health &amp; Wellbeing - access, how people use green space, frequency of use.</li> <li>• Landuse changes over time – the impact the JSP might / will have over biodiversity and ecosystem services, capacity mapping.</li> </ul> <p>SD noted there currently isn't any funding for further mapping work, but there may be a requirement to do some mapping as part of the JSP. RE queried whether we had looked at HLF resilience Fund for further mapping.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD &amp; MMi to research the HLF Resilience Fund to see if it could be used to fund phase 2 of SoE.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Water – Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (Ian Barrett)</b></p> <p>IB fed back about the recent Strategic Leaders meeting for the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership. He noted that 3 ideas were pitched;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Natural Flood Management in Wiltshire</li> <li>2. Project to reduce Pharmaceuticals in water environment in Bath.</li> <li>3. Catchment work around building in climate change resilience.</li> </ol> <p>The meeting included a discussion around the JSP work and how to ensure policies are developed and captured at the strategic level, so they can be cascaded down and implemented locally.</p>
<p><b>Festival of Nature (Savita Custead)</b></p> <p>SC updated that FoN will take place in June 2017, the theme will follow on from last year and focus on the River Avon and the natural connection between Bristol and Bath. She noted that during the festival last year they counted 15,500 actions that people have pledged to help nature. They are looking at who isn't coming to the festival and how to include different groups.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SC to send information out over December about the upcoming plans for the festival.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Green Infrastructure Plan (Shelly Dewhurst)</b></p> <p>SD explained that she has been working with the LEP and B&amp;NES to start to develop the GI Plan (formerly the environment plan and natural capital plan) that will underpin the JSP. A small group has formed to scope out what this might look like. The group have been looking at the GI framework that was developed</p>

<p>for the WoE in 2011 (<a href="#">link</a>) and expanding it. She explained that the cross-cutting themes that were identified in still felt relevant and they planned to use them as a basis for creating an updated plan.</p> <p>SD explained that they've been looking at different spatial scales of GI from the regional, to sub-regional, city and site level. The ambition is to develop maps that cover the whole of the West of England (and potentially beyond to include the catchment) that can then be used by the 4 UAs to help inform their local plans. The group have been looking at what data and metrics are required to measure / assess the cross-cutting themes. The aim is to bring together the HRA, SA, Adaptation and Resilience work.</p> <p>The SG suggested the following in response to the draft ideas presented to them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include adding an extra column on 'how are we going to do this' – with clear actions.</li> <li>• Develop specific wording for policies to be included in the JSP and Local Plans, including consideration for inclusion for other key policy documents such as in health (JSNAs etc)</li> <li>• Be really clear about what the outputs are from this exercise – what will we get.</li> <li>• There must be real clarity from the outset about why the GI maps / documents are being produced and what their purposes are, and what will and won't be included.</li> <li>• It must inform the JSP and it must be achievable and deliverable.</li> <li>• It should look at where the important strategic wildlife corridors currently are and overlay the JSP and JTS proposals on top to see if these might cause any issues.</li> <li>• It should be equivalent to the JTS, in so far as it should describe the problems (stage 1), then outline a package of solutions (stage 2), then outline the costs (stage 3). It should then ask stakeholders to rank the packages in order of importance to get a clear idea of local priorities.</li> <li>• It should use 'economic language' to appeal to the decision makers (avoid emotional language)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Natural Capital Trust (Shelly Dewhurst)</b></p> <p>SD explained that the project to develop the next stage of the NCT has commenced. DH &amp; SD met with Defra for the project inception meeting, who are keen to ensure the Trust is replicable. SD explained what was involved as part of the project;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Project management</li> <li>2. Design and test (work with statutory bodies, local authorities, developers, running a pilot)</li> <li>3. Operationalise (institutional form, replicability)</li> </ol> <p>SD explained about the Unitary Authority contribution to the project, she asked if they could provide;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A meeting with relevant officers in the NY, including planners, transport, members, ecologists</li> <li>• Officer support to support deliver certain aspects of the project and be conduit for information sharing internally.</li> <li>• A better understanding of the current use and constraints on CIL and S106.</li> <li>• Officer support to deliver the test-based pilot, access to recent past / current planning applications.</li> <li>• Financial contribution to help deliver final product ~£2.5k</li> </ul> <p>MMi voiced concerns about amount of work and close deadline, and what SD capacity was to deliver this and the GI plan. He also noted that there is very little capacity for officer support. A discussion was had about possible options to support SD, noting a secondment or similar would be the best, potentially from one of the UAs.</p> <p><b>Action</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SD to outline what help is required over the next few months and speak to RE about possibilities from BCC.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Joint Spatial Plan consultation response (Shelly Dewhurst)</b></p> <p>SD explained that WENP will be submitting a response mentioning;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Requirements for more data and evidence to inform decision making.</li> <li>• Establishing the Natural Capital Trust</li> <li>• Supporting the development of the GI plan</li> <li>• Ensuring GI is included in the early stages of development.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Applying minimum standards</li><li>• Assessment of the different typologies and how this might impact on the natural environment.</li></ul>
	<b>Next meetings:</b> 2017 March, June, Sep, Dec