



West of England Nature Partnership
Joining up the dots for nature

WENP Board Meeting

City Hall, Bristol // 13 June 2018 // 13:30-16:00

ATTENDEES

Selena Gray (Chair) – SG	West of England Nature Partnership
Ruth Barden - RB	Wessex Water
Tom Boden - TB	National Trust
Amy Coulthard - AC	Avon Wildlife Trust
Richard Cresswell - RC	Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership
Richard Ennion - RE	Bristol City Council
John Flannigan - JF	North Somerset Council
Ross Kennerley - RK	Woodland Trust
Claire Lowman - CL	Bristol City Council (Public Health)
Mark Minkley - MM	Bath & North East Somerset
Marion Steiner - MS	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire CCG
Dave Villis - DV	South Gloucestershire Council
Zoe Willcox - ZW	Bristol City Council (Heads of Planning)
Rachel Williams - RW	Natural England
Heather Elgar - HE	West of England Nature Partnership
Silole Menezes - SM	Wessex Water (Adaptation and Resilience Framework)

APOLOGIES

Laura Ambler	West of England Combined Authority and LEP
Ian Barrett	Avon Wildlife Trust

INTRODUCTIONS

Governance Review: SG welcomed newly convened Board since Governance Review. One Board will meet where the Board and Steering Group previously met separately. All Board members to complete a Declaration of Interests form for the purpose of transparency, to be reviewed annually.

Actions: All to return Declaration of Interests form to HE

DECISIONS

Environmental Data Review (EDR): HE presented draft WENP position statement paper building on discussion at the recent EDR meeting and perspectives from Bristol Culture (which hosts BRERC). Recommendation for BRERC Board to speak with HLF.

Actions: HE and MM to explore HLF and other external funding opportunities
HE to update position paper post exploration of HLF and other funding opportunities



To take agreed paper to BRERC funders alongside full review report

Pooling Agreement: HE presented discussion paper proposing a first step towards the vision of the NCT (unlocking more and better investment for the natural environment) as a pooling agreement across LPAs and Natural England to enable current developer contributions for the environment to go further, by being directed towards regional strategic priorities. To be explored through the WoE GI Plan process.

Actions: HE to coordinate audit of how LPAs are currently using S106 and CIL for the natural environment

WENP Forum: Agreed that GI Plan is priority and that Forum can be postponed to early next year, and potentially for the launch of the GI Plan.

UPDATES

RESTORING NATURE

Ecological networks (HE): Mapping of ecological networks ongoing. Adopting language 'Nature Recovery Networks' to align with 25 Year Environment Plan. Intention is to feed this evidence and identified priorities to the WoE GI Plan.

Pollinator Strategy (MM): WoE Pollinator Strategy and Get Bath Buzzing launched at the Festival of Nature.

Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (RC): Wessex Water has appointed a full time apprentice for two years to support Zoe Hancock. Currently recruiting a Coordinator for the Bristol Frome improvement project. The development of a focused action plan enabled multiple bids to go into recent funding opportunities (e.g. Water Environment Improvement Fund).

SPATIAL PLANNING

Joint Spatial Plan (ZW): JSP submitted to the Inspector. First response on the JSP website. Recent High Court Ruling that HRA can't include mitigation as part of an appropriate assessment has implications for the JSP's HRA. Natural England currently working with WECA to understand what additional work is needed. Potentially impacts on the timeline for the GI Plan, but we need to understand how this impacts on GI Plan more broadly.

West of England Green Infrastructure Plan (MM): The plan is in early stages of development. Working group currently reviewing the objectives and evidence base.

Action: MM to coordinate brief written update on the GI Plan and timelines for Board

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

HWBs Statement of Intent (HE): Catalysed by the South West LNP Network, Statement of Intent is currently going around WoE Health & Wellbeing Boards aiming to formalise closer working between WENP and the



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HWBs in the West of England. South Gloucestershire HWB has formally adopted and it is on the agenda for the B&NES HWB meeting this month.

Action: CL to pick up where the Statement is with Bristol City Council and ask counterpart at North Somerset on status there

Conference (HE): WENP recently supported a Nature, Health and Wellbeing Conference at Ashton Court as part of the Festival of Nature. The Conference explored the high level vision and strategy for nature and health (including the commitments through the 25 Year Environment Plan), the great work and energy on the ground, and strategies to mainstream some of this activity.

Action: HE to convene meeting with CL, MS, SG and key drivers of the WENP Nature, Health & Wellbeing work to date to discuss where WENP should focus its efforts

Green Access Mapping (HE): Currently reconfirming UA datasets (pending from North Somerset). Intention that evidence can feed into WoE GI Plan.

Sustainability Transformation Partnership Plan (STP) (MS): The STP for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire is being relaunched next week. The evidence and case for the importance of nature for health is there, but better information of locally-available nature-based interventions is needed (e.g. through Wellaware).

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Landscape Enterprise Network (HE): Proposal to better understand our regional economy's reliance on our natural assets and identify a potential coalition of investors in ecosystem services. Natural England has seed-funded this project. WENP currently seeking remaining funding, ideally from the LEP, to start this work.

LOCAL & NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

New website has been launched. WENP has re-confirmed contacts and developed Privacy Policy to comply with GDPR regulations. SG and HE attended national LNP conference this week where Defra indicated LNPs have important role in local delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan, and where strong cases were made for resourcing LNPs and more national leadership on data and methodology standardisation. LNPs will work on a joint response to the [Environmental Principles and Governance after EU Exist consultation](#) (deadline 2 August). Gloucestershire LNP has appointed a Manager.

Action: Recommendation to add Board Member bios and photos to website. HE to coordinate
HE to circulate list of organisations WENP is engaging with

PARTNER UPDATES

Adaptation and Resilience Framework (SM): Progress report being drafted to explain (to more technical audience) the role of the Framework and engagement activity to date.



Action: RB and RC to consider where the Framework should best sit to ensure transparency of governance

A Forgotten Landscape (DV): Three-year project coming to an end this year.

Bathscape (MM): Phase 2 of HLF bid has been submitted; outcome expected in September.

Waterspace (MM): Currently developing management plan for River Avon Park that considers the responsibilities of multiple landowners and managers.

Going for Gold (ZW): Bristol ambition to become first Gold Award Sustainable Food City in the UK with important links to responsible land stewardship, wildlife-friendly farming and connecting people to nature through food growing.

Talking Trees Bristol (RE): Public engagement collaboration between Bristol City, Woodland Trust, Forest of Avon and Bristol Tree Forum on the importance of street trees linked with Bristol Tree Strategy with ambition to double Bristol's tree canopy cover by 2050. I-Tree survey currently underway in Bristol to support understanding of the economic value of urban trees. Ongoing discussions to influence Air Quality planning of the contribution of trees.

Parks Foundation (RE): Nesta bid successful to create a Parks Foundation across B&NES and Bristol City.

Severn Estuary Partnership (RW): Working to support integration of partnerships across the Severn Estuary and to embed natural capital investment approaches.

England Coast Path (JF): Aust to Brean Down (North Somerset, Bristol City and South Gloucestershire) section currently at proposal stage. See more: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/england-coast-path-aust-to-brean-down>

Avon Wildlife Trust (AC): Current focus on longer-term legacy of Wellbeing through Nature programme. Developing HLF bid for My Wild City.

Wessex Water (RB): Management plan 2020-2025 in development.

Action: RB to update Board when further developed to ensure region-wide view of restoration and enhancement efforts and opportunities

National Trust (TB): Restoration funding granted for Prior Park.