

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR PLACE**LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL NATURE
PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for a continued financial contribution to the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership for 2017/18.

Information and Advice

2. The Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership (LDN LNP) was formally recognised by the Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on 28th September 2012. It brings together a wide range of partners from the business, community, education, environment, health, land management and local government sectors and these organisations are represented at a senior level on the LNP Board. The LDN LNP is one of 50 strategic partnerships set up across England to drive positive change in the environment and to produce multiple benefits for people, the economy and the environment. They work at equivalent levels to Local Enterprise Partnerships and to Health and Well-being Boards and the LDN LNP has good representation from the business and health sectors. The County Council's representative on the Board is Councillor Meale and the administration of the LNP is supported by officers from the two County Councils and Toyota Motor Manufacturing UK.
3. In 2013, it was recognised that none of the organisations represented on the Board had the capacity to take forward the work programme that was being developed. Funding of £30,000 per annum was sought, for three years in the first instance, for a part-time Co-ordinator post. Contributions of £10,000 p.a. each from Toyota and the University of Derby and £5,000 p.a. each from the two County Councils have enabled the employment of a 0.6 FTE Co-ordinator through the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce (DNCC). The post is co-located with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) team.
4. The employment of the Co-ordinator has enabled the LNP to take forward key areas of work, including developing a strong relationship with the LEP, undertaking a natural capital assessment to establish the baseline data for the LNP area, working with local planning authorities through the Duty to Co-operate, and securing funding for awareness raising events for the Trent Valley Vision and for the development of a Green Infrastructure Prospectus. The future work programme will include seeking further funding to develop and implement a Green Infrastructure strategy, continued work to streamline the process of

responding to planning matters, taking forward the Trent Valley Vision and seeking funding to complete Biodiversity Opportunity Mapping across the LNP area.

5. Toyota and the University of Derby have both indicated that they will provide funding of £10,000 each in 2017/18 for the continuation of the part-time Co-ordinator post but this is conditional on the two County Councils providing contributions of £5,000 each. The smaller cash contribution is in recognition of the significant in-kind contribution of officer time to support the LNP that both County Councils have made to date and will continue to offer in the future.
6. The requested Nottinghamshire County Council contribution of £5,000 for the financial year 2017/18 can be met from within the Conservation Team budget.

Other Options Considered

7. The Local Nature Partnership Board is now successfully moving forward with a number of key objectives. There is, however, a recognition that this is in large part due to the existence of the Co-ordinator post as no individual partner has had the capacity to take on the additional work load generated.
8. The County Council could choose not to contribute financially to the continued cost of the Co-ordinator. The two main non-local government contributors have, however, already indicated that their contributions are conditional upon further support being forthcoming from the County Councils, on the grounds that the Biodiversity Duty rests with the public bodies and not the business or education sectors. If Nottinghamshire County Council chooses not to contribute, it is likely that these offers will be withdrawn, the funding for the post will be lost and the opportunity to deliver significant benefits for both the natural environment and the economy of Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire will be missed.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

9. The County Council has formally supported the formation of the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership and has made a significant contribution of officer time to date to support the Board in the development of its work programme. There is, however, no additional capacity to support the ongoing work of the Partnership. The contribution of £5,000 for 2017/18 will unlock further contributions of £25,000 and enable the employment of a part-time Co-ordinator.

Statutory and Policy Implications

10. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

The financial implications are as set out in paragraphs 3, 5 and 6 of the report.

Human Resources Implications

As the post is employed through DNCC, there are no human resources implications.

Implications for Sustainability and the Environment

By working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership, the LNP will seek to ensure that Nottinghamshire is an attractive place to live and do business through the promotion of sustainable growth linked to a healthy natural environment.

Ways of Working Implications

As the post is based at the DNCC offices, there are no Ways of Working Implications.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1) To approve the financial contribution to the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership of £5,000 for the financial year 2017/18.

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Constitutional Comments (LMcC 03/01/17)

11. The recommendations in the report fall within the Terms of Reference of the Culture Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 30/12/16)

12. The financial implications are set out in the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- Culture Committee 29/05/12 Item 8 Application to DEFRA for Local Nature Partnership Status
- Culture Committee 08/10/13 Item 14 Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership contribution

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All