

**REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR POLICY, PLANNING AND  
CORPORATE SERVICES****LOWLAND DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL NATURE  
PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for a financial contribution to the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership for the employment of a temporary, part-time Co-ordinator.

**Information and Advice**

2. Through the Natural Environment White Paper, the Government made a commitment to support the creation of Local Nature Partnerships to work at a strategic scale, demonstrating local leadership, raising awareness about the vital services and benefits that a healthy natural environment brings, and contributing to the green economy. Government has made it clear that these partnerships will work alongside Local Enterprise Partnerships and Health and Wellbeing Boards and actively engage with other sectors and organisations not traditionally associated with the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment. 48 Local Nature Partnerships have now been established across the country.
3. Nottinghamshire County Council formally agreed to support the submission of an application to DEFRA to establish the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership at a meeting of the Culture Committee on 29<sup>th</sup> May 2012.
4. 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 28<sup>th</sup> September 2012. It brings together a wide range of partners from organisations across the business, community, education, environment, health and land management sectors.
5. A Board consisting of senior representatives from each of the sectors has now been established under the chairmanship of Dr Tony Walker, Deputy Managing Director of Toyota UK. The Secretariat for the LNP is currently being provided by Nottinghamshire County Council's Conservation Team. The Board has identified a number of critical work areas that it wishes to take forward, including working closely with the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Boards. In order to take this work forward, however, a dedicated resource will be required, as there is currently no capacity to do so within the organisations represented on the Board.

6. The Board wishes to employ a Co-ordinator on a part-time, temporary basis for a period of three years. As the post will work closely with the D2N2 LEP, it has been agreed with the LEP Chairman and Chief Executive and the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce that the post will be employed by DNCC and co-located with the LEP team. Management for the post will be through one named Board Member (John Everitt, Chief Executive, Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust) with support from the Team Manager Conservation (NCC) and the Conservation and Design Section Manager (Derbyshire County Council).
7. The budget required to employ a Co-ordinator for three days per week at a salary of circa £30,000 p.a. pro rata plus on-costs, travel, organisational overheads and a small budget to cover activity costs is £27,860 in year 1, rising to £28,395 in year 2 and £28,944 in year 3. One-off costs for recruitment, purchase of office equipment and redundancy total £3,407, giving an overall budget requirement of £88,606 over three years.
8. Toyota and the University of Derby have both offered contributions of £10,000 per annum for three years. Their contribution is, however, conditional on a contribution from the two County Councils of £5,000 per annum each over three years. The lower 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. A further in-kind contribution has been offered through the Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust agreeing to provide the management of the Co-ordinator on behalf of the Board.
9. The requested Nottinghamshire County Council contribution of £5,000 per annum for three years can be met from within the Conservation Team budget.

### **Other Options Considered**

10. The work to establish the Local Nature Partnership and to form a cross-sectoral Board of influential partners has been extremely successful and the Board is keen to move forward with a number of key objectives. There is, however, a recognition that no individual partner has the capacity to take on the additional work load, particularly in relation to the current work with the LEP, and the Board has rejected this as a viable option.
11. The County Council could choose not to contribute financially to the cost of the Co-ordinator. The two main non-local government contributors have, however, already indicated that their contributions are conditional upon 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 of funding will be withdrawn.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

12. 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 establishment of the Board and make the initial links with the Local Enterprise Partnership. There is, however, no further capacity to support the emerging work programme. The contribution of £5,000 per annum for three years will unlock further contributions of £25,000 per annum and enable the employment of a part-time Co-ordinator.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, the public sector equality duty, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service 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 the report.

### **Ways of Working Implications**

As the post will be based at the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce offices, there are no Ways of Working Implications.

### **Equalities Implications**

The recruitment to the proposed Co-ordinator post will be carried out in line with Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce's equalities policy.

### **Human Resources Implications**

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

### **Implications for Sustainability and the Environment**

14. The Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership will make a significant contribution to Priority 2 of the current Strategic Plan, i.e. to promote the economic prosperity of Nottinghamshire and safeguard our 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.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

1) To approve the financial contribution to the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership on the basis of £5,000 per annum for the financial years 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16.

**Jayne Francis Ward**

**Corporate Director Policy Planning and Corporate Services**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Team Manager Conservation (tel. 0115 9696508)**

**Constitutional Comments ([initials and date xx/xx/xx])**

15.

**Financial Comments ([initials and date xx/xx/xx])**

16.

**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.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.