

Meeting: Environment & Climate Change Partnership Executive Board

Date & Time: 11th December 2023 at 10.00am

Venue: Online Via Teams



Better for everyone

Present:	Name	Organisation
	Jim Cokill (JC) Chair	Durham Wildlife Trust
	Alan Patrickson (AP)	Durham County Council
	Amanda Healy (AH)	Durham County Council
	Sue Parkinson (SP)	Durham County Council
	Cllr Mark Wilkes (Cllr MW)	Durham County Council
	Kate Burrows (KB)	Durham Community Action
	Steve Bhowmick (SB)	Durham County Council
	Maggie Bosanquet (MB)	Durham County Council
	Chris Woodley Stewart (CWS)	NP AONB
	Stuart Priestly (StuartP)	Durham County Council
	Simone Abram (SA)	Durham University
	Glenn Robinson (GR)	Durham County Council
	Angela Brown (ABro) (Minutes)	Durham County Council
Also, in attendance		
	Laura McIntyre Brown (LMB)	National Trust
	Kirsty Wilkinson (KW)	Public Health, DCC
Apologies:		
	David Loudon	Durham university
	Ellie Grimes	Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
1.	Welcome and apologies.	JC welcomed everyone to today's meeting		
2.	Minutes of the meeting 12th September 2023 Matters Arising	<p>The minutes from the meeting on the 12th of September 2023 were agreed as a true reflection of the meeting.</p> <p>Action1 – AH to bring JHWS to future meeting – On agenda today.</p> <p>Action2 – Refresh of ECCP Board – this is now complete.</p> <p>Action 3 – If interested in becoming Vice Chair – It has been agreed that KB would stand in for JC as she had previously done at County Durham Partnership Board meetings.</p> <p>Action 4 – AB to send link to awards - Complete.</p>		
3.	Durham City Green Corridor Project	<p>LMB presented to the Board on Durham City Green Corridor Project</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>Cllr MW asked where do you get across the river? Until you get to Finchale Abbey there is no other crossing and he felt this is needed but asked how to pull everyone together to get a plan of how to do that.</p> <p>LMB agreed that there is no connectivity for green corridor across. It is something that they will be discussing at the planning meeting.</p> <p>SB felt it was an excellent presentation. The key point being infographic slide of the area which underpins the mosaic of landowners beyond DCC and the National Trust, we need to try and ensure that LMB has support to engage with these 3rd parties. Great that the trust has taken ownership of Crook Hall which</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>will act as a hub for the project, partners could promote this area, but will need help to push the message out.</p> <p>LMB said we need to be clear what we can do and when. They have done a full review of the area, looking at access points into the green corridor. Its about management and people understanding what we are trying to do.</p> <p>AH asked how this would be developed with people? County Durham Together Partnership could help.</p> <p>LMB replied that any offers were greatly appreciated. It would be great to be connected more, to support a place-based approach.</p> <p>SA felt this was great to hear and asked what conversations Laura had had with the University and Students Union? LMB replied that she had had good conversations with the University Engagement Team and is also talking to the Uni/students as next year. The National Trust are hoping to run Blossom Festival and are speaking to Uni to see how this can link to the wellbeing agenda and see what works for students.</p> <p>CWS asked what engagement they'd had with LNRS development as he would like to see those links? It was agreed Stuart P talk to LMB about engaging with the Ecological Emergency Board.</p> <p>LMB felt it would great to have that link, she had already had engagement with StuartP so felt would be great to continue that conversation.</p> <p>AP felt that this was a great presentation and all the Board have agreed to link in with making connections. He mentioned that the Ministry of Justice will need to be involved as we have prison in the middle of this. Also, we are working on finalising Rights of Way Plan and are looking at access to nature for people who cannot walk far. The green corridor project could link with this.</p> <p>JC felt all data collected during the project would be a useful resource for all partners, helping to provide a local perspective.</p> <p>LMB agreed to take this information away and explore options.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LMB to take this information away and explore further options with partners. 	LMS	

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
4.	County Durham Together Partnership & Links to ECCP	<p>Kirsty Wilkinson gave a presentation on County Durham Together Partnership and links to ECCP.</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>KB could definitely see connections between County Durham Together and the Place, Health, and Communities Board.</p> <p>JC said Durham Wildlife Trust have a 1 in 4 engagement target by 2030. CDT can support us to identify and link to people we need to be influencing, and support funding bids. JC asked KW what he needed to do to get his information to KW. KW said that this could go through the JSNA Group. She mentioned that they are about to purchase a community engagement tool to ensure intel and info is more accessible to all partners.</p> <p>JC said that he would arrange to meet with KW in the New Year to discuss.</p> <p>Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JC to meet with KW in the New year for further discussions on CDTP and links to ECCP. 	<p>JC/KW</p>	
5.	ECCP Workstream Updates	<p>Place, Health, and Communities Workstream – Kate Burrows/Steve Bhowmick</p> <p>KB mentioned they have looked at their workplan in light of ECCP update in September. They have strengthened connections with public health. They are working with Sean Barry on CERP looking at concepts of health prevention. They are also looking at housing to see where environment links come together e.g., green spaces. They are focusing on planning, health, economy, and culture as key areas where they can see smarter outcomes.</p> <p>SB said that the Environment Awards are still going strong they have managed to get through covid and last year we looked for an improved offer to get a new look</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>for the awards. He said they are now down to 10 core categories and have some cross cutting themes run thread like across the awards programme. Have just closed off entries and have received around 30+ across the categories, SB thanked people who had helped with the judging. He said they now have winners in every category this year and potentially an overall winner. Winners will be announced at the event at Hardwick Hall in February.</p> <p>Climate Emergency Workstream – Simone Abram</p> <p>SA mentioned that Jon Gluyas had now stepped down as Chair and she had taken over. At the last meeting there was discussion around energy master planning. They need to be more coordinated regionally, but she is unsure what will happen when mayoral authority is in position.</p> <p>DCC/Uni/Kromek had been running a project looking at using battery storage developed from waste energy produced at their business to heat Freeman's Quay swimming pool.</p> <p>MB mentioned there had been a special meeting of the group last week looking at the draft Climate Emergency Response Plan version 3 (CERP3) where stakeholder organisations were invited to review specific chapters. We will need to work closely with CWS on LNRS and links to CERP3.</p> <p>Ecological Emergency Workstream – Chris Woodley Stewart</p> <p>CWS said the work of the group is centred around the County Durham LNRS. He mentioned that they have appointed a support role to Stuart P's team to help deliver the project.</p> <p>Stuart P informed the Board that a regional group has been set up so everyone is connected. Governance is already set up with data group using ERIC. They are looking to set up smaller groups to look at specific themes, but this is still to be finalised. The Ecological Emergency Group meeting on Friday and we looked at consultation process and draft set of questions linked to GIS. The Board is hoping to go live with consultation in Spring next year.</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>CWS congratulated Stuart P on doing such an excellent job.</p> <p>JC said we have specific partners that can link into LNRS development e.g., green corridor project. Are we linking with other partners in DCC e.g., Public Health on the consultation.</p> <p>SP said they will link with people to get support with consultation from a variety of sources.</p> <p>MB asked if they were already working with the CERP3 development team.</p> <p>Could look at adaptations impact on biodiversity/nature.</p> <p>Stuart P said they were as impact on biodiversity maybe missing link and climate change is a threat to biodiversity. This will be identified as a threat in the LNRS.</p>		
6.	Joint Local Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28 and the Environment	<p>AH presented on the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2023-28 and links it has to the Environment.</p> <p><i>Questions/Comments</i></p> <p>SB mentioned they are working together a lot and asked AH what her thoughts were on pooling resources as a marker for green outcomes?</p> <p>AH said that they have looked at where resources need to go, and the level of need is great. This would be great time for us to see where green agenda fits and currently looking to partners to see how we can influence ill health prevention. However, resources will continue to be targeted at crisis first then prevention.</p> <p>AP felt it was a good presentation and mentioned that it had been difficult to grasp environment links to the wider determinants of health. But we are working collectively to see how we can improve these links. It's important that we take this linkage forward and grasp resources available. There are some good case study examples e.g., Seascape and Horden projects.</p>		
7.	ECCP Emergency Summit	<p>JC discussed the ECCP emergency summit – he felt this would be a great place where we can discuss ideas for cross workstream and thematic partnership work for 2024 and beyond, with a focus on delivering outcomes.</p> <p>JC suggested if board members are not already signed up can they please do so</p>		

Item No.	Subject	Discussion and Decision	Lead Officer(s)	Timescale
		<p>or identify a deputy to attend on their behalf if you are unable to attend.</p> <p>GR asked if Board members would be able to facilitate the workshops on behalf of the Board? JC said this will be sorted in the new year.</p> <p>KB felt it would be good to know who from the workgroups have committed to attend, so the chairs can push members to sign up.</p> <p>GR mentioned he will be contacting Board members to see if they have accessibility needs or dietary requirements.</p>		
8.	Any Other Business	<p>CWS mentioned that North Pennines AONB has now be rebranded to North Pennines National Landscape.</p> <p>Cllr MW mentioned that the peatland restoration wok is going from strength to strength and has generated lots of investment.</p> <p>JC wished everyone a Happy Christmas.</p>		
	Date and time of Next Meeting	The next meeting of the ECCP Board will be 19th March 2024 – 9am-2pm (ECCP Emergency Summit followed by Executive Board meeting) at the Durham Leadership Centre, Enterprise Way, Spennymoor DL16 6YP		

Summary of Actions (as meeting date above)

No	Action	Lead	Timescale
1	Durham City Green Corridor Project – LMB agreed to take information away and explore further	LMB	
2	County Durham Together partnership & links to ECCP – JC to meet with KW in the New Year for further discussions	JC/KW	