



**County Durham Environment Partnership Board
Minutes**

**Wednesday, 13th September 2017
The Lantern Room, Town Hall, Durham**

Apologies

Jamie Fletcher (JF) - Environment Agency
 Jim Cokill (JC) - Durham Wildlife Trust

Attendees:

Interim Chair:

Oliver Sherratt (OS) - Durham County Council

Liz Charles (LC) - Durham Community Action
 John Reed (JR) - Durham County Council
 Tim Wright (TW) - Durham County Council
 Gordon Elliott (GE) - Durham County Council
 Maggie Bosanquet (MB) - Durham County Council
 Stella Hindson (SH) - Durham County Council
 Victoria Burrell (VB) - Durham County Council
 Tarryn Lloyd Payne (TLP) - Durham County Council
 Angela Brown (Minutes) (AB) - Durham County Council

Item No.	Subject	Action By
1.	Welcome and Introductions OS welcomed everyone to the meeting and initiated round table introductions. Apologies were noted.	
2.	Minutes and Matters Arising Amendment to Page 3 currently showing as NLP is now MP and this should be NP – Nature partnership – AB to amend this All other actions were agreed as a true and accurate record	AB
3.	Draft Environment Strategy Building on previous discussions at the board OS proposed that the board look to now better understand its own strategic priorities. This would better place the board in determining its own structure and wider positioning going forward. The Strategy/Priorities will not be too detailed it will be to shape and guide the board and key deliverables. It was suggested that this would fit well with the local authorities	

	<p>position in regards to “plans on a page”</p> <p>TLP gave a presentation in way of further introduction to the development of the Environment Strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Context for Change ○ Environmental Strategy Audit ○ Vision ○ Existing Priorities and Measures <p>The board discussed the implications of ensuring an effective strategy that provided an overarching strategic theme and not trying to replace existing plans. The board agreed that the process would be complimentary, although duplication would also be highlighted for consideration by the board.</p> <p>The board further discussed the existing vision and priorities. Initial thoughts from members where that the vision itself seemed still appropriate but further consideration would be needed of the priorities.</p> <p><u>Next Steps</u></p> <p>It was agreed that we would circulate the priorities for board members to consider and share with networks. Comments should be feed back to TLP within three weeks.</p> <p>TLP is to write a short description working closely with OS on this to do a summary of links and benefits of Environment to wider partnership groups. We can take this opportunity to highlight all other links with partnerships.</p> <p>At the next meeting we can then issue what we think is a Plan on the Page Strategy and discuss:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How we want to deliver this through thematic groups? ● How do we then want to measure this and what do we value as projects and key actions? 	<p>Board Members</p> <p>TLP & OS</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>Prioritising Prevention</p> <p>GE gave a presentation on prevention. He mentioned that he attends a group chaired by Jayne Robinson in Adults and Health and have been set a task for October/November to look at areas where coordination isn't working very well and where procedures can be put in place to intervene early.</p> <p>Looking for thoughts around 1 or 2 areas where partners</p>	

	<p>can take a different approach and move things on around Environment.</p> <p>The board discussed wider partnership considerations, including links to areas surrounding improvements to mental health through building community resilience and access to services.</p> <p>The board discussed possible areas considered to date including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ian Houlton has been leading on a partnership response to derelict buildings and addressing root causes of problems in responding to poorly maintained buildings and possible fire risk. ○ OS mentioned in relation to littering we currently give out over 500 fixed penalty notices per year. There is an opportunity to offer further discount (there is discount now if pay fine early) on an e learning package that could be completed at home. We would be first in the country to offer this alternative. Also cigarette littering working with health to possibly offer a smoking cessation course as an alternative to a fine could be a possibility. Kirklees did this and got some good results. ○ It was agreed Mental Health could offer lots of environmental links such as outdoor exposure and gardening. The Coastal Heritage Group also focus on the Environment and could join up in relation to impacts for mental health. <p>Areas agreed for further consideration included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Derelict/Empty Buildings – Ian Houlton 2) Developing an area based approach (Orcuma) – Ian Houlton 3) Benefits of the environment to Mental Health/Well-Being – Steve Bhowmick 4) Innovation in litter education - Oliver Sherratt <p>It was agreed that there is a need to work on headline areas. GE agreed to provide proformas and advise the Board on deadlines for prioritising prevention.</p>	<p>GE</p>																
<p>5.</p>	<p>Environment Awards</p> <p>MB gave an update on behalf of SB. She mentioned that Jonathan Seymour is coordinating the awards. She have list of entries and amount they had received in each category:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Building Environment</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Climate</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Community partnership</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Craftsmanship</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Green Business</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>National Environment</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Places & Spaces</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Schools & Colleges</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table>	Building Environment	8	Climate	1	Community partnership	1	Craftsmanship	2	Green Business	1	National Environment	2	Places & Spaces	10	Schools & Colleges	5	
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	<p>Volunteer Group of year 6 Volunteer over 18 7 Volunteer under 18 1 Waste Management 4 TOTAL 51 Entries</p> <p>The awards were extended by two weeks. The figures are slightly lower than previous years. There are 3 judging sub groups which will all meet on 10th October to submit for final. The Final Awards night is 23rd November at the Radisson Blu – SH is to check to make sure that the date is in Terry Collins diary. The Sponsorship for the awards are: Banks Groups – Gold Sponsor Durham University – Gold Sponsor Durham Wildlife Trust Groundwork Northern Echo</p>	SH
6.	<p>Updates from Group Chairs & Questions</p> <p><u>Coastal, Heritage & Landscape Group</u> There was no update as Steve Bhowmick was absent from today's meeting.</p> <p><u>Environment in Your Communities</u> Liz Charles provided an update of the work of the group which included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Dowding is coming to Bowburn Community Centre for organic event where he will speak about No dig gardening and growing great vegetables. Booking for the event will be open soon. LC will circulate the link • Growing Durham now has 3 years extended funding for social therapeutic horticulture, currently working with NHS looking at GP surgery and Recovery College. • The leaf compost campaign is going into the next edition of County News. LC will be going out to promote this with the Waste Team when they deliver their Recycling Roadshows. • The group work plan is being populated. The Waste Less Save More Grant fund has had additional funding from Sainsbury's. • Promoting Olio Food app which is a free app that connects neighbours with each other and local businesses so surplus food can be shared, not thrown away. This could be food nearing its sell-by-date in local stores, spare home grown vegetables, bread from the baker or groceries from your fridge when you go away. This could link to the prevention work. • Recycling week is Monday 25th September until 	LC

	<p>Sunday 1st October. Have lots planned for this week.</p> <p><u>Local Nature Partnership</u> There was no update as Jim sent apologies for today's meeting.</p> <p><u>Climate Change Group</u> JR updated the Board with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The window for EU funding is now closed, have been trying to promote bids for the Council for ERDF for Chester-le-St & Lanchester. • Energy Efficiency – There is EU money that has not been taken advantage of as match is 40% which is proving to be a big barrier. Calls are about to reopen soon. <p>MB mentioned that she had been successful with transnational projects.</p>	
7.	<p>Environment Partnership Communications SH circulated a copy of the Newsletter and informed the Board that it is not yet complete as they are awaiting news from the Northumbria in Bloom Winners. Caring for your Environment Award was presented by OS to Malcolm Watson from Stanley, Malcolm who is blind and goes to exceptional efforts to improve his local area. The North Pennines AONB partnership Nectar works project won the Bowland Award which is an annual award for the best project, best practice or outstanding contribution to the wellbeing of an area of outstanding natural beauty. The project has involved practical conservation, surveying, oral histories, education and training which engaged thousands of people SH mentioned that the newsletter will be circulated at the end of next week. GE mentioned that we should be checking on AAP events and these could be added to the 'What's on section' at the back of the Newsletter. GE will chase this</p>	GE
8.	<p>AOB VB mentioned that as part of the National University Awards, Durham University have been shortlisted for Green Gown Award and Green Move Out Award. They will find out if they were successful on 16th November. The Waste Team have been invited as key partners as they have been working closely with the University and County Durham Furniture Scheme. This is a good partnership project.</p> <p>TLP informed the Board that he would be the partnership officer lead going forward and AB will now be circulating the papers and taking the minutes for this meeting. VB would continue in her role as Strategic Waste Manager on</p>	

	<p>the Board.</p> <p>OS updated on the Litter Innovation Fund and asked the Board members to google Litter Innovation Fund, deadline is fairly tight but they only requiring expressions of interest. MB will highlight this to Niall Benson as 10% of national funds is for Marine Coastal.</p> <p>AB will circulate future meeting dates to the Board</p>	AB	
8.	<p>Date and time of next meeting 6th December 2017, 10.00am, The Burlison Room, Durham Town Hall.</p>		