

**LIVERPOOL CITY REGION LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP
BOARD MEETING
NOTES AND ACTIONS**

Date:	29 th November 2016	
Present:	Gideon Ben-Tovim (GBT)	Chair
	Stephen Ayliffe (SA)	Natural England
	Alison Ball (AB)	Arup & Partners Ltd
	Mike Burke (MB)	Natural England
	Nicola Brown (NB)	Natural England
	Juliet Staples (JS)	Liverpool CC
	Paul Booth (PB)	Riverside Group
	Dave Callan (DC)	Chair of Local Access Forum
	Christine Darbyshire (CD)	Liverpool City Council
	Dr Alan Jemmett (AJ)	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service
	Paul Nolan (PN)	The Mersey Forest
	Stephen Sykes (SS)	EMANSYS/MET
	Nick Thompson (NT)	Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
Apologies:	Michelle Cameron (MCa)	Liverpool Chamber of Commerce
	Rupert Casey (RC)	Natural England
	Jackie Copley (JC)	Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE)
	Caroline Davies (CDAV)	Knowsley Council
	Paul Sanderson (PS)	St Helens Council
	Anne Selby (AS)	The Wildlife Trust
Circulation:	As above and Board members.	

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Item	Comments	Action
1.0	Introduction.	
2.0	Apologies: As above.	-
3.0	Minutes and actions from the last meeting: Approved	
4.0	Update from the Chair on his meetings: Gideon updated the group on the various meetings attended relate to the ESIF Committee and sub groups, Natural Health Service and the ongoing discussions about the Combined Authority. All of which are covered in the meeting	
5.0	Rethinking Parks update: Juliet Staples presented to the work of the Liverpool Green Spaces review. Presentation attached to these minutes. There was a reference the work that was initiated by Nature Connected on “Rethinking Parks”. The Final Report contained 38 recommendations under the following themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance – cost reduction, commercialisation and revenue generation • Engagement, Health, Wellbeing and Activity • Categorisation, Provision and Protection of Greenspace • Creation/Improvement of Green and Blue Spaces • Capacity and Resources • The Chair of the review board identified four Key Recommendations: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Charitable Parks Trust 2. Greenspace Maintenance and Development Funding 3. External Greenspace Funding 4. Liverpool ‘Green Web’ The City Council is now looking at the opportunities to take forward the ideas and recommendations through a range of initiatives including the recently announced successful H2020 bid. NT commented that he thought that the report was brilliant!	

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	<p>GBT thanked Juliet and Christine for their work on the Strategy and the presentation and expressed his thanks to Simon O'Brien for leading the review.</p> <p>Knowsley MBC has completed phase 1 of their Green Space review and are currently looking at more detailed work to put in place an alternative delivery model for the borough.</p> <p>GBT emphasised the importance of this work for Nature Connected and the need to keep it on the agenda for future meetings.</p>	<p>NC to write to Simon to thank and congratulate him</p>
<p>6.0</p>	<p>Nature Connected's engagement with the Combined Authority and the Process of Devolution:</p> <p>AJ provided an overview of the discussions with senior local authority officers about the emerging plans for the Combined Authority.</p> <p>Appendix 1 provides the latest position.</p> <p>Key aspects include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An invitation for Nature Connected to help to provide the evidence base for the city region spatial plan • Gideon to be invited to sit on the Housing and Planning Board <p>This provides a good opportunity to ensure that the objectives of Nature Connected are fed into the plans and discussions about the future of the city region.</p> <p>Natural England, recognising the importance of this agenda, has offered to support the work through their newly appointed Green Infrastructure officer, Nicola Brown.</p> <p>Nicola will work to support Nature Connected in the discussions with the emerging combined authority</p> <p>The first action is to set up a Task and Finish group that will look at the evidence needs and more widely at the outcomes that we would like to see from the work with the Combined Authority in the short to medium term.</p> <p>This work also fits with the development of DEFRA's 25 year Plan for the Environment.</p>	<p>NB and to draft ToR and call first meeting of task and finish group –volunteers for the group welcome</p>
<p>7.0</p>	<p>Natural Health Service:</p> <p>PN provided an update on the Natural Health Service and in particular the delivery of the first year's work on Nature4Health.</p>	

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	<p>Link to the first year impact report here - http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/news/first-year-of-results-demonstrate-nature4health-boosts-health-and-wellbeing/</p> <p>As part of the next phase of development, a conference is being organised in May to explore the opportunities for wider commissioning of the Natural Health Service. The event will take place at LJMU in May. The programme is currently being developed.</p> <p>The board agreed that the event should also be branded with Nature Connected.</p> <p>SS also highlighted that this could also be the third seminar supported by MET in the city that looks at the role of the Natural HS. The last event, a talk given by Dr Zoe Knowles in September was a “sell out” and well received by those attending.</p> <p>AB suggested that other Arup offices may be interested in looking at the Natural Health Service model.</p> <p>PN to provide more info on the arrangement for the conference in the new year.</p>	<p>PN</p>
<p>8.0</p>	<p>Update on progress of EU Bids (ESIF and SUD):</p> <p>PN updated the group on the tow applications.</p> <p>The ESIF bid has been submitted. The bid is based on the GI Prospectus developed by ARUP and CFT for Nature Connected and the LEP.</p> <p>The bid links GI with renewable energy projects in the strategic investment areas across the city region.</p> <p>The submission of the bid completes the first phase of our work on the ESIF. Nature Connected has successfully influenced policy and seen the work through to the submission of a bid that we feel meets the criteria of the fund.</p> <p>The second phase begins once we, hopefully, get approval to develop a full bid.</p> <p>The work to develop the ESIF bid features in the new Framing the Future document that was launched on 21st November.</p> <p>https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/media/livacuk/schoolofenvironmentalsciences/planning/framingthefuture/Framing-the-Future-Civic-Design-at-Liverpool.pdf</p> <p>The SUD programme has still not opened for calls and so we continue to wait for that to submit the proposal that has been developed.</p>	

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	A further update to be provided at the next meeting	
9.0	<p>Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework and Green Infrastructure Framework updates:</p> <p>AJ provided an update on the Supplementary Planning Guidance that is being developed for the LCR Ecological Framework.</p>	
10.0	<p>Any Other Business:</p> <p>NT - CPRE have circulated a Tender that call for proposals to enhance stakeholder engagement and also look at models and opportunities for fundraising.</p> <p>AJ - Informed the board of a 2 day workshop on designated sites that dealt with issues of data (there's lots) and data management –the most challenging issue.</p> <p>AB – Updated the group on the likely closure of the National Wildflower Centre.</p> <p>PN – Ministerial visit on Friday. Looking at MF projects and joint work with Liverpool BID.</p>	
11.0	<p>Next Meeting:</p> <p>2:00 p.m. 28th March 2017 at Arup Offices</p>	



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Appendix 1

Subject: How can Nature Connected support the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority?

Date: 31st October 2016

Author: Paul Nolan

- 1) A single spatial plan for the City Region needs to be in place by 2020:
2016-2018 – Evidence base.
2018-2020 – Plan developed.
All six Local Plans will need to be in conformity with the Mayoral Plan.
- 2) Still awaiting more information about how the prospective Mayors see the Spatial Plan and the administration of the City Region developing should they be elected.
- 3) Opportunities for Nature Connected to provide information to fully develop the evidence base and to promote the role of the natural environment in promoting jobs and growth.
- 4) Evidence base needs to be up to date with key documents:
 - Mersey Forest Plan – links to National Planning Policy Framework
 - Merseyside Ecological Framework
 - Merseyside Green Infrastructure Framework
- 5) Nature Connected can also support the Combined Authority by helping to develop specific City Region Policy and identify delivery mechanisms.
- 6) Natural England have appointed an officer to support the Green Infrastructure Policy enabling in the City Region and are keen that this new resource supports and adds value to the work of Nature Connected.
- 7) Nature Connected Chair, Gideon Ben Tovim to be invited to sit on City Region Housing Board (write to Mike Palin to confirm).
- 8) Alan Jemmett sits on the DPO Group and so will have input to the development of the City Region Spatial Plan.
- 9) Nature Connected to set up a task and finish group to look at innovative approaches to delivery of GI that might look at both the regulatory functions of DEFRA agencies and also emerging ideas for CSR bonds, offset etc. (Item on agenda for December Nature Connected board meeting).