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Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership Board Meeting Minutes

- 1.0 Introductions/ Apologies
- 2.0 LCR Careers Hub – (Growth Platform); Claire Caddick
The aim of the careers hub is to:

Support and empower school and college Careers Leaders to deliver an effective and inspiring Careers programme in line with the Governments required Career strategy through the Gatsby Benchmark framework

Create opportunities for businesses to engage with local schools and colleges to raise awareness of employment sectors within the Liverpool City Region and to improve employability skills and work readiness for students

Promote networking, the sharing of best practice and promotion of opportunities to schools, colleges and employers that improves our local economy and upskills our future workforce

Liverpool City Region Careers Hub Team 2021

- Careers & Enterprise Company working in partnership with Growth Platform
- 12 Team members
- 7 Partners supporting the project
- Supporting all 134 schools and colleges across LCR engaging Careers Leaders working towards 8 Gatsby Benchmarks
<https://growthplatform.org/enhancing-skills/careers-hub/>
- 111 Enterprise Advisers volunteering

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LCR Careers Hub: EMPLOYER OFFER

If you're an employer looking to inspire the next generation, here are four opportunities that you can get involved with right now.

We have more to come so be sure to look out for our updates!



@LCRCareersEnt
@allaboutfutures



SPEAKERS for schools

*Spark young people's
ambitions!*

The LCR Careers Hub has teamed up with Speakers for Schools to offer work experience placements across the Liverpool City Region. Employers can engage and enthuse young people by registering with the programme and offering an experience.

Discover how virtual placements work and get involved.

[Click here for more...](#)

Speakers for Schools aims to help level the playing field for state school and college students, by improving access to leading figures of all industries and backgrounds and providing free school talks and experiences of the workplace.



Volunteer as an ENTERPRISE ADVISER

As an Enterprise Adviser you'll work with a school or college's Careers Leader to develop their careers programme in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks.

Combine your passion for raising the aspirations of our young people across LCR with your strategic skills.

[Register here...](#)



Would you like to make a difference to young people, your community and STEM education?

You can join 33,000 fantastic STEM Ambassadors today and become an inspirational role model!

The STEM Ambassador programme is flexible, allowing you to volunteer in a way that suits you, it could be online or in person, in schools or in community groups, by supporting lessons or extra-curricular activities and working with young people or their educators.

If you wish, your whole team can become STEM Ambassadors!

[Email us...](#)



creating careers

Do you have an hour to showcase careers in your field and reach your future workforce?

The LCR Creating Careers employer video series inspires and informs young people about the interesting career pathways that the Liverpool City Region has to offer.

You can join forces with us to create an informative video about your business, your team and what you do.

[Contact us...](#)



For more information please contact Claire Caddick - claire.caddick@growthplatform.org

3.0 LCR Climate Action Partnership update (ref to 2040 paper) *Gideon Ben-Tovim/all*

The draft LCR Net zero plan was circulated prior to the meeting. GBT provided a brief overview of the plan and update on the climate partnership.

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The Plan needs to reflect that carbon reduction sits within the context of the wider scope of climate change mitigation and adaptation.

- The intention therefore, is to produce an over-arching Vision statement outlining what LCR will look

like in 2040 allied to two complimentary plans, one focused on carbon and one on the wider climate goals.

- Both plans will reference activity out to 2040 but give greater focus on the period to 2027 aligning to the UK's Fourth Carbon Budget as it acts as a key performance marker for national and therefore, LCR

actions and interventions.

- An LCR Carbon Budget will reflect the UK's Carbon Budget periods and trajectories

- The NZC2040 Plan will be produced by the Combined Authority but will be owned and delivered by partners across the City Region including the LCR Climate Partnership

Areas of required activities

- Evidence Base Creation

- Assemble a compelling, traceable and up to date evidence base

- Include historic and forecast data and relevant trends and emerging patterns from both internal and external sources

- Carbon Pathway modelling

- Build on LCR's SCATTER data runs allied to Government and industry forecasts to produce prioritised carbon scenarios and models

- Model and stock an LCR Carbon Budget following the principles and approach followed by the CCC in the UK Carbon Budget.

- Intervention Activity

- Produce a 'shopping list' of actions and interventions to deliver the carbon pathways.

- The interventions need to feature opportunities for stretch targets and accelerated actions for particular themes of activity

- Engagement

- First draft NZC2040 for internal review will be created by the end of June

- External engagement programme over the summer LCR stakeholders alongside Government consultation

- Engagement Plans for each Pillar area required by mid June

4.0 COP 26 (and any local planned activities).

It is anticipated that the CA will host an event as part of COP 26 although it is uncertain what this will look like at this point. Other partners indicated that they would be hosting events and information will be circulated in due course.

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5.0 Environment Bill (inc Net Gain update) – Alan Jemmett.

AJ provided an update on the environment bill which is currently in its final review in the House of Lords. Please see <https://bills.parliament.uk/bills/2593> for live updates. We will invite further speakers on the bill and its implications for LCR in future meetings.

At the end of 2018 Defra consulted on BNG and before the outcome of the consultation was published, the government announced, in the Spring Statement 2019, that it would make BNG mandatory for development by bringing forward provisions to that effect in the Environment Bill.

The Environment Bill contains a general duty to enhance biodiversity which will apply to the planning system by insertion of a new section 90A within the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (TCPA), and following government amendments agreed in June to projects under the 2008 Act regime (endnote 3). The provisions are unlikely to become law before 2023.

The new section 90A TCPA will make it a requirement that all planning permissions in England be subject to a condition to ensure the biodiversity value attributable to the development exceeds the predevelopment value by at least 10% - the biodiversity gain objective (BGO). The biodiversity value of a development will be measured using the DEFRA metric.

In summary, the Bill provides that components to mandatory BNG will include the already mentioned minimum 10% gain and approval of a net gain plan. Habitat will need to be secured for at least 30 years via obligations or a conservation covenant. Delivery of BNG may be on-site, off-site or via statutory biodiversity credits and there will be a national register for BNG delivery sites. The mitigation hierarchy will continue to apply and there will be no change to existing legal environmental and wildlife protections.

Environment Bill progress through Parliament

The Environment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 30 January 2020. The pandemic has delayed the bill's progress. Royal Assent is now anticipated in Autumn 2021 and a two year transitional period will follow to allow for accompanying regulations and guidance to be produced to provide further detail on how the provisions will be implemented. The currently estimated dates for introduction of mandatory BNG are indicated below, but are heavily dependent of the bill's Parliamentary progress.

2021

- Summer: new British Standards Institute (BSI) BS 8683:2021 BS 8683 Process for designing and implementing BNG – Specification
- Autumn: Royal Assent for the Environment Bill and a consultation on BNG statutory instruments and regulations is expected.

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2022

- Spring: Government response to consultation expected.

2023

- Spring: BNG site register and statutory credits sales platform
- Autumn: BNG expected to become mandatory for all TCPA (and planning Act 2008) developments.

Matters to consider

When bringing forward sites, consideration will need to be given to how the necessary BNG will be delivered and secured in the planning process in a way that will meet the BGO and the Environment Bill sets up this framework.

In practice, compliance with the provisions, is likely to involve a pre-commencement planning condition requiring a 'biodiversity gain plan' to be submitted for approval by the LPA and setting out how the gains will be obtained, monitored and maintained on an ongoing basis for at least 30 years (endnote 5).

The Environment Bill will allow for the BGO to be achieved by delivering BNG not on the development site itself. Offsite gains may be counted provided they are secured via a planning obligation and recorded in the new BNG site register. The section 106 mechanism could be used in circumstances where land is owned or controlled by the Council and where it may accept a commuted sum secured via the agreement and that it then uses to deliver the suitable compensatory habitat. The Environment Bill also introduces a new statutory covenant between a landowner and a 'responsible body' (Secretary of State, local authority or conservation organisation), imposing positive or negative obligations on either or both parties. Such conservation covenants will be binding on successors in title and will be enforceable by the responsible body and the landowner against each other.

Note that the NPPF states that agreeing conditions early is beneficial to all parties involved in the process and that it can speed up decision-making. It will be advisable for applicants to turn their mind to delivering BNG early in the development design and planning process.

To provide some assistance with this, Natural England, published on 7 July 2021 the Environmental Benefits from Nature Tool (EBNT) to give developers a way of exploring the benefits habitats bring to people, such as improvements to water quality, flood management services and carbon storage.

CIEEM, IEMA and CIRIA have set out good practice principles for development and an associated practical guide and case studies for BNG.

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CIEEM have also published [Biodiversity Net Gain report and audit templates](#) that provide a framework for writing reports for projects that are aiming to achieve BNG. The templates set out a suggested structure and content for reports specifically produced in relation to BNG assessments.

What is next?

The creation of LNRSs was announced in government's response to the 2019 public consultation on net gain which revealed strong support for maps to guide the provision of compensatory habitat.

LNRS are a part of an ambitious package of measures being introduced by the Environment Bill to reverse nature's decline. Environmental Improvement Plans and legally-binding targets, including the additional target for species abundance for 2030, will establish long-term policy direction. BNG is mechanism to drive investment in nature from the development sector and the strengthened "biodiversity duty" will make sure the public sector plays a leading role. Government intends for LNRS to work with all of the measures and to help link them together in a coherent and effective way.

A key purpose of LNRS is to provide a consistent spatial planning framework for the creation of the Nature Recovery Network. The Environment Bill specifies two components a LNRS must contain; a statement of biodiversity priorities and a local habitat map. The strategies are intended to map the most valuable existing habitat for nature in a given area; map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals; and set agreed priorities for nature's recovery.

Once the Environment Bill becomes law, government will issue regulations and statutory guidance to ensure consistent implementation of LNRS across England. To this end Defra published a consultation on 10 August 2021 on LNRS which is open until 2 November 2021 (endnote 4). The first group of consultation questions are on how LNRS should be prepared, published, reviewed and republished. The second set of questions are on content of the strategies and which will be subject of statutory guidance in due course.

As set out above, the Environment Bill ensuring that delivering BNG becomes a mandatory part of the development process. When a development is not able to accommodate the required increase in biodiversity on the development site itself, off-site habitat enhancement will be required. Natural England's biodiversity metric 3.0 includes a 15% uplift in units generated in locations proposed by the LNRS to encourage developers to focus on these places where the benefit will be greatest.

The Defra consultation states that government is keen for LNRS to be in place across England as soon as possible after the bill becomes law. The Environment Bill's next stage will be the House of Lords report stage due to take place 8, 13, and 15 September. This will be followed by Third reading, ping pong and Royal Assent expected for early Autumn.

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- 6.0 Partner updates including current and potential opportunities for collaboration -
all
- 7.0 Any Other Business

Date of next meeting Wednesday 13th October 2021 2pm