

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

GREATER LINCOLNSHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP POSITION STATEMENTS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To endorse the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) Position Statements on planning and agriculture.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

2.1 On 28 June 2012 the Highways and Neighbourhoods Cabinet Member resolved that the council should support both the Greater Lincolnshire Nature Partnership (GLNP) and the Humber Nature Partnership (HNP).

2.2 The GLNP is a group of 47 organisations across Greater Lincolnshire. It aims to 'achieve more for nature'. North Lincolnshire Council is one of the partners. Others include almost all of the district councils, Lincolnshire County Council and North East Lincolnshire Council.

2.3 The work of the GLNP focuses on eight key areas:

2.3.1 Delivery workstreams:

- Geodiversity Strategy;
- Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre;
- Local Sites;
- Nature Strategy.

2.3.2 The strategic workstreams involve working with people and organisations across four thematic areas:

- Farming with nature;
- Planning with nature;
- Enjoying nature;
- Being well with nature.

2.4 The GLNP is funded mainly through Service Level Agreements. The council is one of these funders. We have recently signed a new Service Level Agreement. This gives us access to ecological data, Local Sites information and support with biodiversity actions.

- 2.5 Last year, the GLNP approved a new business plan and advocacy plan. To carry out these plans, GLNP staff need to be able to speak on behalf of the partnership as a whole. To this end, they are developing a joint view, or position statement, on various topics. Farming and spatial planning are currently the two key areas for this work. The GLNP staff have worked with various partners to draft position statements on these topics.
- 2.6 Once endorsed, these position statements will give a clear idea of what the GLNP stands for and why. Given the wide range of partners in the GLNP, the position statements are relatively broad. They are based on widely agreed principles. Two thirds of Partners need to endorse these position statements for them to be considered a GLNP position.
- 2.7 The full position statements are attached to this report for information, as well as a summary.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Endorse both position statements (Option 1).
- 3.2 Endorse the Farming With Nature Position Statement Only (Option 2).
- 3.3 Endorse the Planning With Nature Position Statement Only (Option 3).
- 3.4 Endorse neither position statement (Option 4).

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Summary of the benefits of each option.

Benefit	Option 1: Both position statements	Option 2: Farming only	Option 3: Planning only	Option 4: Neither position statement
Enable the GLNP to speak on behalf of partners	✓			
Enable the GLNP to respond to government consultations.	✓			
Help to promote farming that benefits wildlife.	✓	✓		
Help to promote the role of planning in enhancing wildlife and geodiversity.	✓		✓	

- 4.2 Table 4.1 above shows that adopting both position statements would bring the greatest benefits.

4 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

5.1.1 North Lincolnshire Council already has a service level agreement with GLNP. This enables them to carry out work on our behalf. Endorsement of the position statements will not affect this.

5.2 Staffing and Property

5.2.1 There are no significant impacts for council staff or property. However, we may need to provide training about biodiversity matters for planning staff. We could do this in-house or through the GLNP.

6 OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 The recommendations aim to promote biodiversity. They may also help to improve the built environment and historic sites. The farming position statement will benefit rural communities in particular.

6.2 The position statements are likely to have a minor positive effect on crime, health, employment and social inclusion. This will come about through the active management of land.

6.3 The recommendations will have a neutral effect on transport, safeguarding and child poverty. There are no significant risks and not impacts on procurement.

6.4 There are no negative impacts predicted.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 All GLNP partners have been consulted on the position statements.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To endorse the GLNP position statements on farming and planning.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Farming with nature position statement
- Planning with nature position statement

Appendix- Summary of Position Statement Principles

A The key principles of the Farming With Nature Position Statement are as follows:

- Work together more effectively to ensure that there are positive outcomes for both agricultural and environmental sectors.
- Promote agricultural policies and practices that improve the state of biodiversity whilst also sustaining profitability.
- Recognise that nature is a fundamental part of the agricultural system.
- Acknowledge that agri-environment schemes have played a critical role in the protection and enhancement of nature on farms but recognise that more can be done.
- Targeting of agri-environment schemes should be a balance between priorities for nature and value for money.
- Publicly funded improvements to nature should be secured for the long term.

B The key principles of the Planning With Nature Position Statement are as follows:

- All planning authorities should recognise and implement their legal and policy duties to protect and enhance biodiversity, as supported by other stakeholders.
- All planning authorities should recognise the importance of ecosystem services within the planning system.
- All planning authorities should recognise that protection and enhancement of geodiversity is an important part of the planning system.
- All stakeholders need a clearer understanding of roles and responsibilities within the planning system.
- All stakeholders should recognise that Local Plans are the key to future planning and should contain robust policies for the protection and enhancement of biodiversity, geodiversity and green infrastructure.
- Planning authorities and LNPs must see the duty to cooperate as a real opportunity for proactive ongoing consultation and strategic consideration of biodiversity and geodiversity.