

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**HIGHWAYS AND NEIGHBOURHOODS
CABINET MEMBER**

LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIPS

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member about the development of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) in Lincolnshire and around the Humber Estuary.
- 1.2 To approve support for the development of a Humber LNP and a Lincolnshire LNP.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are an initiative announced in “The Natural Choice”, the Natural Environment White Paper published on 7 June 2011. The White Paper notes that many existing partnerships already do a lot for wildlife. The aim for LNPs is to create more strategic partnerships. These will address economic and community priorities as well as wildlife issues. As such, LNPs will make links with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). They will involve groups representing health, businesses and the local community as well as councils, wildlife groups and bodies such as Natural England.
- 2.2 In our area, two different groups have gained funding from Defra in order to start building new LNPs. In each case, project staff are working with partners to create a vision and aims for the LNP, to bring in new partners, to form working groups and to decide on actions to take forward. Each LNP will aim to add value to work already in hand.
- 2.3 The Lincolnshire Biodiversity Partnership (LBP) is working towards an LNP for the whole of historic Lincolnshire. They are preparing a new business plan and communications strategy. They are also consulting key partners to see what people would want out of an LNP. So far, people have suggested that the LNP could link with businesses through planning, tourism and support for agriculture. Links with the social sector would focus on public health.
- 2.4 The Humber Management Scheme is working towards an LNP for the Humber Estuary, with links to the Humber LEP. Currently, there is a project to map environmental, economic and social organisations that may wish to be involved. Partners held a consultation workshop at Reeds Hotel, Barton upon Humber, on 30 March to seek the views of a wide range of groups. Future work is likely to focus on increasing links between different sectors

and building a shared vision for the Humber. The LNP will also work on tools to support economic development in harmony with the wildlife of the Estuary.

2.5 The council could participate as a key partner in both LNPs. Staff from the two groups would like to hear the views of councillors and senior officers from economic, social and environmental functions. They can then take account of the council's views before the funded projects end in June 2012. In the meantime, both groups are likely to make formal applications to create LNPs in May 2012.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Support the Humber LNP and the Lincolnshire LNP.

3.2 Support the Humber LNP only.

3.3 Support the Lincolnshire LNP only.

3.4 Support neither LNP.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

4.1 The table below contains a summary of the benefits of each option.

Benefit	Option 3.1: Humber LNP & Lincs LNP	Option 3.2: Humber LNP only	Option 3.3: Lincs LNP only	Option 3.4: Neither LNP
Work with Humber Social, Economic & Environmental Partners.	✓	✓		
Work with Lincs Social, Economic & Environmental Partners.	✓		✓	
Support sustainable development around the Humber Estuary.	✓	✓		
Conserve the wildlife of the Humber Estuary.	✓	✓		
Link wildlife with tourism.	✓	Possible	✓	
Link wildlife and farming.	✓	Possible	✓	
Link wildlife and planning.	✓	✓	✓	
Link wildlife and health.	✓	Possible	✓	
Bring natural value into decision-making	✓	✓	✓	

4.2 Working with both LNPs would bring significant benefits in terms of joint working. The groups would encourage economic activity that respects the natural value of the area. Option 3.1 is therefore recommended.

- 4.3 Working with a single LNP would bring some benefits, but would leave the council without a voice in other important activities. Working with neither LNP would bring none of the benefits and would leave the Council isolated from other partners.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

5.1 Financial

LNP development is currently fully funded by Defra. In the future, partners may be asked for funding. LNPs may also bring funding into the area.

5.2 Staffing and Property

There are no significant impacts for council staff or property. The LNPs may support existing social, economic and environmental projects involving council staff or council land.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 Statutory

All public authorities have a duty to conserve biodiversity under Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006.

6.2 Environmental

The recommendations will improve the natural environment and may also improve the built environment and historic sites.

6.3 Crime and Disorder, Health and Social Inclusion.

Actions to improve biodiversity can assist towards reducing crime, fear of crime and vandalism. They also help to improve the mental and physical health of local people. The LNPs will involve participation by volunteers and community groups.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultations for both LNPs are still underway. Early results are described in section 2 above.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Cabinet Member supports the development of a Humber LNP and a Lincolnshire LNP.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

- Lincolnshire Biodiversity Action Plan – Third edition
- Humber Management Scheme
- The Natural Choice