

**NORTH YORKSHIRE & YORK LOCAL NATURE PARTNERSHIP –**  
**CONSULTATION OVERVIEW**  
**13<sup>th</sup> JANUARY – 9<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2014**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the wider contacts of the North Yorkshire & York Local Nature Partnership (LNP) of the outcomes of the draft strategy consultation.

**2.0 THE CONSULTATION**

- 2.1 The consultation exercise was carried out over an 8 week period between 13<sup>th</sup> January and 9<sup>th</sup> March 2014 and was publicised to the board members, the partnership's wider contact list, the Local Enterprise Partnership's contact list, in County Council staff bulletins, and press releases.
- 2.2 The draft strategy was available on the North Yorkshire Partnerships website and responses to the consultation were encouraged through an online survey, but email or paper copies could also be requested.
- 2.3 The main aim of the consultation was to seek views on the draft strategy of the LNP to enable views and comments to be taken into account to inform the final strategy.
- 2.4 In total 53 responses were received with a split of 57.7% made by individuals and 42.3% by organisations. Responses were received from a range of organisations including commercial, community groups, local authority, statutory agencies, wildlife charities/groups and others including an advisory agency, angling association and a neighbouring LNP.
- 2.5 From the consultation, 25 new contacts were added to the wider contact list and several groups and partnerships were suggested for the LNP to make contact with; this will be pursued. In addition, the survey captured projects and work active within the LNP boundary. This information will be used in the future by the LNP to develop work in the priority areas.
- 2.6 Overall, the majority of the feedback was positive and people were supportive of the themes and objectives set by the LNP. From the consultation specific changes were suggested for the strategy and issues were raised for the board to consider. An overview of the consultation can be found at Appendix 1.

### **3.0 KEY ISSUES TO INCORPORATE INTO THE STRATEGY**

- 3.1 One change to the strategy was in relation to themes. The LNP is a nature partnership and therefore it was raised that the first theme of 'Nature' is already an overarching theme for the whole strategy. A 'Habitats and Species' theme was suggested and is now included in the final strategy.
- 3.2 Several respondents raised a lack of clarity on the LNP's links with other partnerships. Therefore further information on this has been added to the strategy along with additional information on how the LNP will look to build relationships with a range of listed partnerships to improve efficiency of work. Further clarity has also been added on the role of the LNP in providing support and help where needed, and not adding further bureaucracy and obstacles. River catchment partnerships in particular have been referred to as key delivery groups.
- 3.3 Several responses were unclear about the links to the economy and public health agendas. The "Health and the Economy" section has been rewritten, and opportunities and project examples have been included into the table to show the links more clearly.
- 3.4 Several responses were unclear on the role the LNP will play in response to planning applications. To give clarity on this matter, a new Section has been created, "Promoting Sustainable Development", with information regarding the role the LNP can play in shaping Community Infrastructure Levies, Green Infrastructure strategies and Biodiversity Offsetting, in relation to development of the area to ensure the environment is protected and enhanced. It also clarifies that the LNP is unable to respond to individual developments.
- 3.5 The consultation raised concerns over how the LNP will monitor and research its work. Information has now been included to clarify what the LNP could look to monitor, linking in with the data gathering of other partners and if necessary look to develop new recording schemes.
- 3.6 Clarity on where the specific targets have come from has been included within the document after many queried how these had been drawn up.
- 3.7 There was a lot of interest in the role the LNP would play in funding and whether the LNP would distribute funding to projects. The strategy has been partially amended to clarify this and the sustainability and funding of the partnership is a key theme that the Board is currently considering. Linked to this, a spread sheet of funding opportunities is available on the LNP webpage.
- 3.8 A boundary change was suggested for the Long Preston priority area to extend its scope to include the adjacent SSSI's of Cocket Moss, Austwick and Lawkland Mosses and Newby Moor SSSI. In addition, a name change to 'Craven Lowland Wetlands' was proposed. This priority area has now been expanded to incorporate these sites and other assets and has taken the name 'Craven Lowlands'.

- 3.9 In relation to the communications of the LNP, there was a mixed response towards an annual conference with some agreeing it would be useful and others feeling it would not be suitable. More accessible forms of communication proposed included newsletters, press releases, emails, additional conferences per year, smaller working group meetings and a website. The LNP is currently updating its communication plan.
- 3.10 All changes to the strategy can be seen in the revised strategy document (available July 2014).

#### **4.0 KEY ISSUES RAISED FOR THE BOARD TO CONSIDER**

- 4.1 Several individuals raised the issue of the loss of hedgerows and inappropriate cutting of road verges and what the role of the LNP is in addressing this.
- 4.2 Energy generation projects were put forward by a number of responders as an area of work that the partnership should be interested in.
- 4.3 Many additional contacts were suggested for the LNP; however the majority were already included on the wider contact list. Therefore, the LNP contact list of organisations and groups has been made available on the website.

#### **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Overall, despite quite a low number of respondents the consultation was very productive and support for the LNP in general was positive. A range of useful comments have now been incorporated into the strategy, and the number of contacts and knowledge of projects and local groups is much greater.
- 5.2 The board will now approve the amended strategy and in June 2014 the strategy will be adopted on behalf of the wider partnership and the board formalised.

<b>North Yorkshire &amp; York Local Nature Partnership Strategy – Overview of online responses</b> <b>(email and paper responses not included in these statistics)</b>				
		<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Valid percent</b>
		33	100.0%	- no answer
<b>About you</b>				
<b>a</b>	<b>Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of an organisation?</b> <i>(Please tick one box)</i>			
	Individual	18	54.5%	56.3%
	Organisation	14	42.4%	43.8%
	No answer	1	3.0%	-
<b>b</b>	<b>[If organisation] Which of the following best describes your organisation?</b> <i>(Please tick one box)</i>			
	Commercial organisation/business/ business support	1	3.0%	6.7%
	Community group	2	6.1%	13.3%
	Local authority	3	9.1%	20.0%
	Other please specify:	4	12.1%	26.7%
	Wildlife charity/group	5	15.2%	33.3%
	No answer	18	54.5%	-

<b>Vision</b>				
<b>Q1</b>	<b>Do you agree with North Yorkshire and York Local Nature Partnership's vision? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	30	90.9%	93.8%
	No	2	6.1%	6.3%
	No answer	1	3.0%	-
<b>Themes</b>				
<b>Q2</b>	<b>Do you agree with the four themes of the partnership? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	29	87.9%	87.9%
	No	4	12.1%	12.1%
	No answer	0	0.0%	-
<b>Q3</b>	<b>Do you agree with the Local Nature Partnership's objectives? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	26	78.8%	78.8%
	No	7	21.2%	21.2%
	No answer	0	0.0%	-
<b>Q4</b>	<b>Do you think that the LNP targets are appropriate? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	24	72.7%	75.0%
	No	8	24.2%	25.0%

	No answer	1	3.0%	-
<b>Outcomes of the partnership</b>				
<b>Q5</b>	<b>Do you agree with the outcomes of the Local Nature Partnership? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	25	75.8%	78.1%
	No	7	21.2%	21.9%
	No answer	1	3.0%	-
<b>Q6</b>	<b>Do you agree that the priorities identified in the Local Enterprise Partnership and Health &amp; Wellbeing Board are relevant to the work of the LNP? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	26	78.8%	83.9%
	No	5	15.2%	16.1%
	No answer	2	6.1%	-
<b>Q7</b>	<b>Do you know of other partnerships that the LNP should look to work with? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	18	54.5%	64.3%
	No	10	30.3%	35.7%
	No answer	5	15.2%	-

Priority areas				
<b>Q8</b>	<b>Do you think the Regional Green Infrastructure Network was a suitable evidence base to identify the priority areas? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	22	66.7%	73.3%
	No	8	24.2%	26.7%
	No answer	3	9.1%	-
<b>Q9</b>	<b>Do you agree with the initial priority areas that will be focused on first? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	25	75.8%	86.2%
	No	4	12.1%	13.8%
	No answer	4	12.1%	-
<b>Q10</b>	<b>Are the Statements of Ambition for each of the priority areas suitable? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	22	66.7%	78.6%
	No	6	18.2%	21.4%
	No answer	5	15.2%	-
<b>Q11</b>	<b>Do you agree with the LNP's role within the priority areas? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	23	69.7%	82.1%
	No	5	15.2%	17.9%
	No answer	5	15.2%	-

<b>Partnership structure and operation</b>				
<b>Q12</b>	<b>Do you think the current board membership has the correct representation of organisations?</b> <i>(please tick one box)</i>			
	Yes	22	66.7%	73.3%
	No	8	24.2%	26.7%
	No answer	3	9.1%	-
<b>Q13</b>	<b>Do you think the structure of the partnership (LNP Board, champions and delivery groups) is suitable?</b> <i>(please tick one box)</i>			
	Yes	27	81.8%	93.1%
	No	2	6.1%	6.9%
	No answer	4	12.1%	-
<b>Q14</b>	<b>Do you think that an annual forum is the best way to communicate with the wider partnership?</b> <i>(please tick one box)</i>			
	Yes	19	57.6%	61.3%
	No	12	36.4%	38.7%
	No answer	2	6.1%	-



<b>General</b>				
<b>Q15</b>	<b>Are there additional project ideas or links to other strategies you would include? (see appendix 1 (page 27 - 34) in the draft strategy)(please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	14	42.4%	51.9%
	No	13	39.4%	48.1%
	No answer	6	18.2%	-
<b>Q16</b>	<b>Are you or your organisation involved in any projects within the priority areas? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	19	57.6%	63.3%
	No	11	33.3%	36.7%
	No answer	3	9.1%	-
<b>Q17</b>	<b>Do you think the overall draft strategy is clear? (please tick one box)</b>			
	Yes	30	90.9%	90.9%
	No	3	9.1%	9.1%
	No answer	0	0.0%	-