

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin

Local Nature Partnership application



“The Local Nature Partnership will secure functioning, sustainable, and resilient ecosystems to sustain the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of the people of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.”

Prepared by Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Councils
Capacity building fund LNPR2-61

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Section A

Q.1a. Describe the geographical location and boundary of your proposed LNP.

Our proposed Local Nature Partnership will cover the administrative areas of Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council (Figure 1).

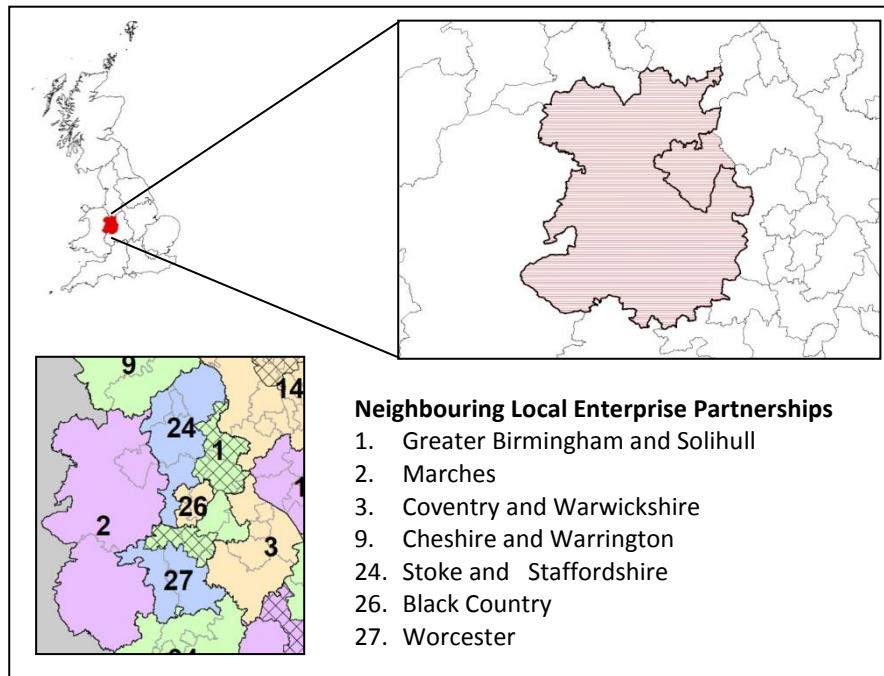


Figure 1. Location of proposed partnership to cover Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin – red hatched area. Insert indicates how this relates to the areas covered by Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

Q.1b. Describe your partnership's current membership and structure, including the level of involvement of the different members (feel free to use a diagram if it is helpful)

The partnership development process engaged organisations from a broad range of sectors (Table 2). All of the key sectors identified by the guidance as desirable LNP stakeholders have been engaged and expressed interest in becoming involved in a formal LNP for Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin. The Marches LEP and the Health and Wellbeing board have been engaged and were represented at Shadow board meetings and the '*Building a LNP for Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin*' workshop.

Table 1. Shadow Board members and skills

Name	Organisation and position	Key Skills
Amanda Smith	English Heritage, Planner (West Midlands)	Heritage; planning
Andy Whyte	Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford, Chair; Ricoh, Environment Officer	Business networking; Sustainability
Carl Moss	Environment Agency, Environment Manager	Aquatic ecology; policy
Carolyn Healy	Shropshire Council, Shropshire Partnership co-ordinator	Partnership; policy
Colin Preston	Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Director	Community engagement; strategy; fund-raising
Dan Wrench	Shropshire Council, Biodiversity Officer / County Ecologist	Partnership; ecology; biodiversity data; fund-raising
Gareth Parry	Shropshire Council, Community Biodiversity Project Officer	Partnership; ecology; community engagement
Glen Lawes	Shropshire Tourism	Business networking; publicity
Helen Cork	NFU, Regional Environment Adviser	Agriculture; Policy
John Harrison	Shropshire Council, Environment and Sustainability Manager	Partnership (national & local); financial management
John Mercer	NFU, Regional Director	Agriculture
Jon Power	Telford & Wrekin Council; Delivery and Planning Manager	Planning; policy
Julie Jones	Shropshire Council, Marches LEP Officer; Chair of Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA	Accessing funding; partnership working
Katherine Kynaston	Telford & Wrekin Council, Housing & Development Planning Manager	Planning; policy
Mike Morris	Severn Rivers Trust, Senior Project Manager	Aquatic ecology; landscape management
Phil Holden	Shropshire Hills AONB Team	Partnership; landscape management
Rachel Humble	Telford and Wrekin Council, Partnership and Planning Officer	Partnership; planning

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Rachel Taylor	Telford and Wrekin Council, Planning Implementation Team Leader	Planning; sustainability
Rod Thomson	Primary Care Trust, Director of Public Health	Health; partnership
Roger Owen	Natural England, Regional Director (West Midlands)	Agriculture; policy
Simon West	Forestry Commission, Partnership and Expertise Manager	Forestry; partnership
Sue Swales	Shropshire Council, Natural Environment Manager	Ecology; planning; policy

Table 2. Organisations engaged through the LNP capacity building process indicating how they have been engaged.

SC = Shropshire Council; T&WC = Telford and Wrekin Council; E = Engagement event; M = meeting; C = other communication.

Sector/Organisation	Representatives	Involvement
Business		
Business Sustainability Support Scheme for Telford	Chair	EC
Great Ness Oil	Director	C
HF Holidays	Long Mynd Hotel Manager	EMC
Marches LEP	Economic Development Manager (T&WC), Marches LEP officer (SC)	EMC
Shropshire Tourism	Chair	EC
Ricoh	Environment Officer	EC
Tarmac	Restoration Manager	EC
Health and Wellbeing		
BTCV Green Gym	Telford Co-ordinator	C
Health & Wellbeing Board	Shropshire PCT Director of Public Health, Senior Public Health Intelligence analysis, Programme Development Manager – will liaise with T&W counterparts.	EMC
Headway	Fundraising Officer	C
Rural Health Institute	Chief Executive Officer	C
Severn Hospice	Estates Manager	M

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Political		
Cllr Cecilia Motley	SC cabinet member for Rural Affairs, Education, Carbon Reduction and Sustainability.	EMC
Cllr Chris Turley	T&WC member for The Nedge Ward and member of Shropshire Hills AONB partnership	EMC
Cllr Hilda Rhodes	T&WC cabinet member for Transport & Community Protection	EMC
Local Authorities		
Shropshire Council	Environment and Sustainability Manager, Natural Environment Manager, Strategic Delivery Manager, Outdoor Recreation Manager	EMC
Telford and Wrekin Council	Housing & Development Planning Manager, Parks & Open Space Group Manager, Delivery & Planning Manager.	EMC
Sector/Organisation	Representatives	Involvement
Agriculture/landowners		
Fordhall Community Land Initiative	Manager	E
National Farmers Union	Regional Director, Environmental Policy Advisor, Shropshire NFU chairman	EMC
Education		
Field Studies Council	National Biodiversity Learning Manager, Head of FSC headquarters at Preston Montford Field Centre	E
Walford and North Shropshire College	Director	E
Natural Environment		
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Director	EC
Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership (70+ organisations - mainly environment sector)	Co-ordinator, Chair	EMC
Woodland Trust	Regional and Local Government Officer	E
RSPB	Regional Conservation Officer	EM
Historic Environment		
Amanda Smith	English Heritage, Planner (West Midlands)	EC
Existing partnerships		
Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS)	Project Manager	M

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Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA and LPS	Chair, Project Manager	E
Shropshire Partnership	Co-ordinator	EMC
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership	Manager	C
Telford Partnership	Co-ordinator	EMC
Grow With Wyre Landscape Partnership Scheme	Project manager	M
Statutory bodies		
English Heritage	Regional planner	EC
Environment Agency	Regional Environment Manager	C
Forestry Commission	Partnership and Expertise Manager	C
Natural England	Regional Director	EMC
British Waterways	Senior Regional Ecologist	E
Sector/Organisation	Representatives	Involvement
Voluntary/community		
Waterways & Leisure Group	Committee Member	E
Shropshire Anglers Federation	Treasurer	E
Severn Gorge Countryside Trust	Countryside Officer	E
Wyre Community Land Trust	Managing Director	EMC
Severn Rivers Trust	Senior Project Manager	EM

There is a strong desire that the LNP should have a streamlined influential board. This should be composed of high level representatives from a range of key sectors (Figure 2). Several of those stakeholders are already representatives of the LEP board and Health & Wellbeing boards and we are assured of good links and representation on these groups. We also have good links with Local Partnership strategic groups and will be working on developing effective communication channels with these bodies. The LNP board will represent, and make decisions on behalf of, a broader Forum.

To widen and maximise the benefits of expertise and current connections of stakeholders the board can consult a Forum of experts regarding specific strategies and actions. The Forum will also facilitate links to bodies that can undertake delivery and monitoring. The

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Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership will form a significant role here as the advisory body for natural environment issues.

Figure 2. Proposed structure, position and composition of the Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin Local Nature Partnership.

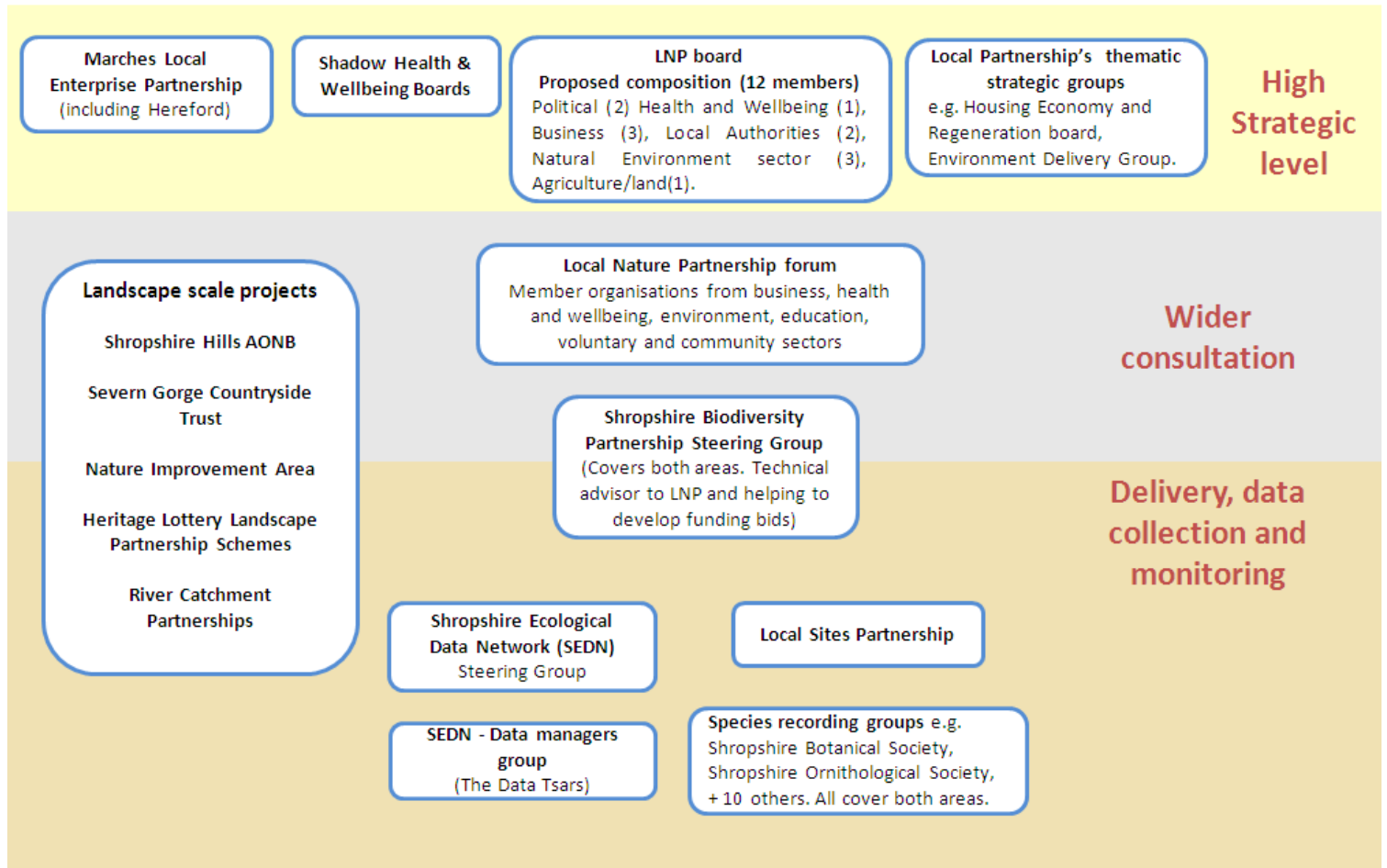
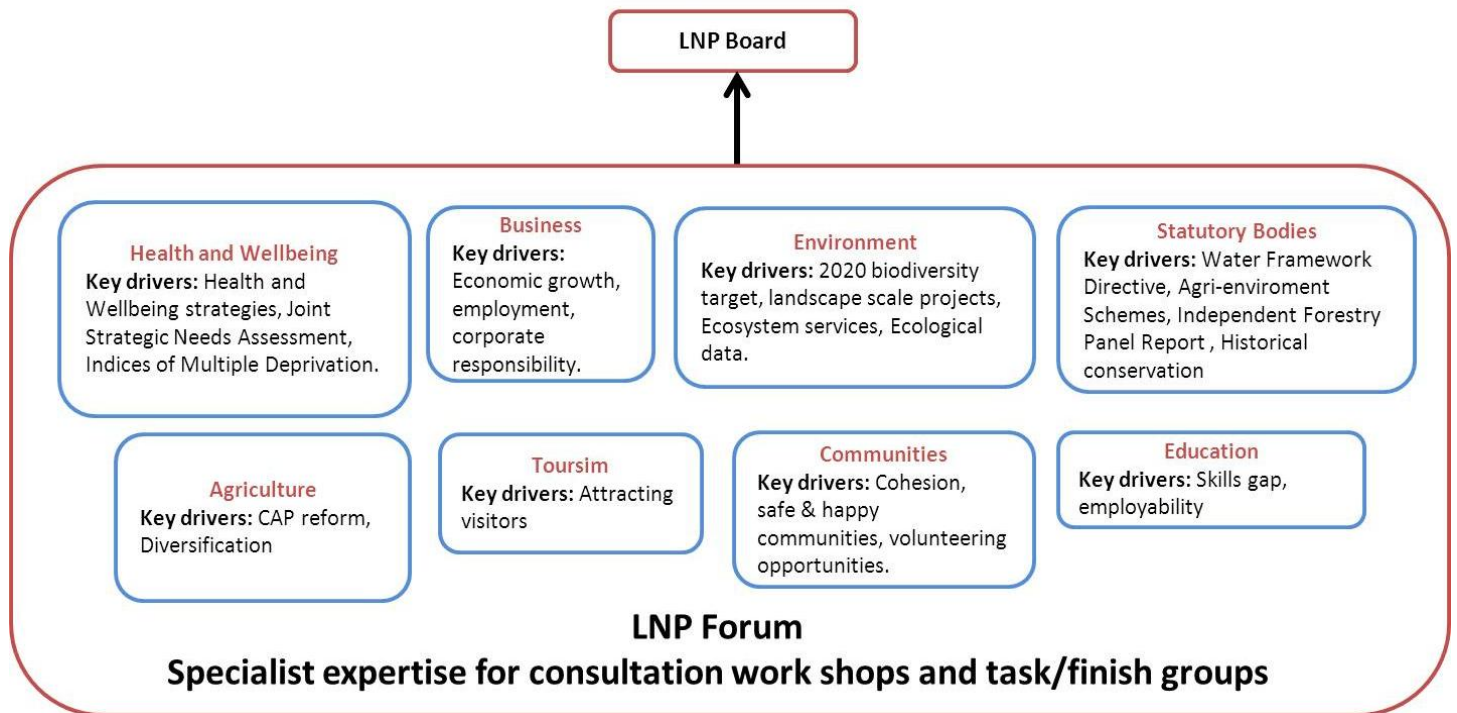


Figure 3: Role of LNP forum in providing a pool of expertise and bottom up communication to LNP board. Refer to table 2 for list of specific partners from each sector.



Section B: A summary of your ideas and plans for an LNP in your area

Q.2. We are keen to capture a summary of both what your ambitions are for an LNP in your area and an overview of the initial steps you plan to take towards it. Please:

2a. Summarise what you feel the LNP role could mean for your area - what difference could your LNP make at a strategic level and how might it go about doing it?

Improving the quality of the natural environment is the overarching aim of the LNP. Through an influencing and practical role it will ensure that the true value of the natural environment is embedded into strategies, policies and relevant work across the board in the LNP area.

In practice the Board will:

- Contribute to the Marches LEP Business Plan, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy
- Encourage development of an ecosystem approach where practical

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- Facilitate a joined up approach to current work streams and new ventures to generate multiple benefits for the economy, health and well-being and natural environment.
- Facilitate and improve communications between sectors, partly through ambassadors with a non-environmental background.
- Develop and implement a Publicity Strategy to raise public awareness; employing case studies, social media and other web based channels.
- Offer a co-ordinating role between high profile landscape scale initiatives. These would include the Meres & Mosses of the Marches NIA and LPS; Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country LPS; Shropshire Hills AONB; Severn Gorge Countryside Trust; Meres and Mosses Strategic Cross-county Group; Wyre Forest Partnership and River Catchment partnerships.
- Take a strategic role in promotion and development of new landscape scale initiatives
- Support the development of policy and guidance for the Shropshire's Environmental Networks Maps and use the maps as a tool to further the aims of the LNP.
- Coordinate input to the Place Planning process to ensure Community Infrastructure Levy allocation considers fully the natural environment
- Share best practice, both locally and nationally, provide good networking opportunities, and raise the profile of the LNP at all levels.
- Cross Border working
- Monitor results and outcomes

Representatives from all sectors have expressed support of the LNP and an interest in being included in the wider LNP Forum. Each Board meeting will cover a specific current theme e.g. health and wellbeing. The Forum will provide an essential pool of skills and expertise from which specialists will be drawn to provide specific information and recommendations for the Board to consider.

2b. Provide a high level summary of the key actions you plan to undertake in the first 6 months if you become a Government-recognised LNP – ideally in a table / list of bullet points of not more than 2 pages

The capacity building process has consulted widely with stakeholders and identified a long list of potential actions for the LNP. The following actions are possible in the first six months.

Governance and structure

- Formalise the LNP board and constitute the vision and Terms of Reference
- Using feedback from the workshop the LNP board will discuss and agree an initial list of priorities and objectives.
- With additional one-to-one meetings further develop the broader LNP Forum and broaden its membership to include Education, Highways Agency, utilities companies and a greater range of representatives from business and land-based sectors.

Influence

- Identify a team of inspirational and well respected ambassadors to influence those in the non-environmental sectors, championing the LNP's objectives.
- Working with Herefordshire LNP, integrate the LNP and opportunities provided by the natural environment into the LEP business plan.
- Integrate the LNP and opportunities provided by the natural environment into the Health and Wellbeing board strategy and Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for both administrative areas.
- Ensure opportunities provided by ecosystem services and the risks of degrading ecosystem services are considered when the Shropshire Strategic Infrastructure Forum set their list of priorities.
- Contribute to the CAP consultation by providing Defra with local priorities for Common Agricultural Policy Pillar 2 funding. Facilitate communication with DEFRA via the England LEADER Exchange Group, Programme Monitoring Committee for RDPE, Rural and Farming Network to influence policy development.
- Support the two local planning authorities in developing planning policy to cover the natural environment, ecosystem services and landscape-scale biodiversity projects

Evidence gathering

- Determine what data is needed to address priority work areas for the LNP and whether these data are available. Broker sharing of available data across sectors and identify data gaps.
- Use these data to identify overlaps between priorities, leading to new opportunities for partnership working. E.g. 1) Links between obesity, deprivation and green space access. 2) Improve use of natural environment to create and market tourism opportunities.
- Use the findings of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment to identify where the natural environment can play a role in addressing specific health issues.
- Review the opportunities for making a major impact on improving the quality of, access to, and use of water and wetland environments within the context of using upstream thinking to generate downstream benefits. Assess mechanisms, such as the Water Framework Directive, to act on such opportunities.

Guidance and communication

- Produce a communication plan to ensure that the LNP board, the wider Forum, and delivery bodies are well informed.
- Provide policy wording, using clear language, for those in the non-environmental sectors to utilise for their own operations
- Work with projects such as '2020 Vision' to improve communication of the concept of ecosystem services and the aims of the LNP to a socially and demographically diverse audience
- Work with the proposed Herefordshire LNP to ensure a coherent joint working with the LEP.
- Add key projects, and any inter-relations between them, to BARS to enable more effective reporting to the LNP by delivery projects. Projects will be encouraged to add delivery actions to their project areas in BARS.

Sustainability

- Investigate opportunities to ensure the LNP has the resource it requires to be successful and sustainable in the long-term.

Promoting and adding value to landscape scale action

- The LNP will establish opportunities to support three current major landscape-scale conservation projects the strategic level, aiming to improve the wider socio-economic benefits they generate.

Section C: Your preparations and plans for becoming an effective LNP

Q.3. Describe any progress you have made towards developing, and / or how you plan to develop, a strategic vision for your area and how you plan to use your vision to inform your work and priorities.

Discussion on developing the vision has taken place at the shadow LNP board meetings. The following vision is subject to the approval of the formal LNP board, should our application be successful.

“The Local Nature Partnership will seek to secure functioning, sustainable, and resilient ecosystems to sustain the health, wellbeing and livelihoods of the people of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.”

Communication is fundamental to realising the vision. The LNP will use plain English to lay out the issues and challenges to the whole population and what positive action and solutions are available to make a real difference to the environment, economy and communities. Feedback will be encouraged as part of the monitoring process.

Q.4. Describe how the individuals and organisations in your current membership reflects the range of skills, expertise, interests and level of authority needed to become an effective LNP and how you will address any gaps.

Representatives from the desired target sectors for an LNP have been engaged on the Shadow Board and have been instrumental in developing the shape and role of the Partnership. Their skills and sectors are indicated in Table 1. In addition, a wider group of stakeholders were engaged, either during the workshop or via specific meetings. A list of the key sectors is presented in Table 2. The formal LNP Board will be set up in early autumn 2012 – membership is likely to include Ron Thompson (Director of the Shropshire PCT), Cllr Cecilia Motley (Shropshire Council cabinet member for Rural Affairs, Education, Carbon Reduction and Sustainability), Cllr Hilda Rhodes (Telford & Wrekin Council cabinet member for Transport & Community Protection), (Andy Whyte (Chair of the Business Sustainability Support Scheme for Telford) and Jon Mercer (Regional Director of NFU).

Areas where additional representation or skills gaps are identified will be pursued via sector-specific ambassadors, as one of the key actions during the first six months (see question 2b).

Q.5. Describe how you have involved and engaged, and / or how you plan to involve and engage, wider interests who may not be represented in your membership in your work.

To date the Shadow Board has met to develop the Partnership with input from wider stakeholders via one to one meetings, phone calls, and a facilitated workshop session.

It has become clear that identifying overlaps between the priorities of different sectors, and pursuing these as opportunities, will be key to achieving LNP objectives. The Forum will provide a platform for a diverse range of organisations to communicate with the LNP, and become involved with the formation and delivery of relevant strategies. The specialist groups will draw on the broad and varied expertise of Forum members to ensure the development and delivery of LNP strategies. For example, enabling the health sector to work with countryside access staff in areas where childhood obesity levels are high, or identifying ways for businesses to protect, enhance and manage the natural assets they need.

Where a sector or organisation is not represented within the LNP structure, but is identified as relevant to a specific action, advice will be sought from the board as to the most appropriate means of engagement and an invitation made accordingly. The LNP will maintain a web presence and by implementing the communication plan will maintain a wider public profile, which it is hoped will continue to attract new partners to the Forum.

Q.6. Describe any progress you have made towards establishing, and / or how you will establish, the partnership's credibility in the area and ensure it has the ability to effectively engage and collaborate with a range of local senior decision makers.

The capacity building process has laid the foundation of a credible partnership, with support from a broad range of sectors and local political support. Forming a streamlined high level board will provide the credibility and influence of the LNP.

The LNP will:

- Have a distinct role, which does not duplicate that of existing partnerships,
- Recognise that there is a need to generate mutual benefits for the range of sectors involved,
- Through the Forum will ensure that the board has access to the expertise it requires to make sound decisions,
- Maintain effective two-way communication with existing groups and delivery bodies by exploiting overlaps in membership and through the sector-specific ambassadors,
- Maintain an effective secretariat to engage and collaborate with partners, Shropshire Council has offered to provide the secretariat function for at least the next 6 months,
- Contribute to the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership and Health & Well-Being Board's policy documents,
- Continue to explore further opportunities to contribute to key policy documents in other non-environmental sectors,
- Promote the values of the natural environment using business models (e.g. infrastructure/ecosystem services, supply chain, triple bottom line accounting), so that they are relevant to the business sector,

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- Acknowledge the cost implications of environmental land management and the need for incentives, such as compensation, for profits foregone,
- Work with Defra and Natural England to ensure that agri-environment schemes achieve the best possible results and provide broad benefits,
- Publicise and celebrate successes, encouraging others to participate.

We have sought statements of support from local senior decision makers and list these below:

Dr Geoffrey Davies OBE – Chairman of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership

“Our natural environment is an economic asset for our area. Through innovative links made between business, health provision and the environment sector the Local Nature Partnership can lead the way in making the most of our natural assets. In partnership we will encourage sensitive farming practices that are also more productive, more attractive and wildlife-rich areas to attract tourists and businesses, and improved health and well-being of our residents. As Chairman of the Marches Local Enterprise Partnership I look forward to working with the LNP in the development of a joint agenda that meets our business growth agenda while respecting the high quality of the natural environment at the heart of the region.”

Councillor Cecilia Motley, Cabinet Member with responsibilities for Rural Affairs and Carbon Reduction and Sustainability, Shropshire Council

“The Building a Local Nature Partnership workshop gave us the opportunity to really drive home the message that managing and enhancing our natural environment is integral to meeting Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin’s social, economic and environmental challenges.

We have started to develop a vision and objectives for the Partnership that recognises the true value of the natural environment to everyone’s lives.”

Councillor Hilda Rhodes, cabinet member for Telford & Wrekin Council

“The Natural Environment is one of our greatest assets and how we harness it is crucial to the well-being of residents in both Telford & Wrekin and Shropshire.

It was wonderful to be involved with the workshop and I sincerely hope the Local Nature Partnership achieves its objectives. Telford & Wrekin is a Co-operative Council so partnership working is at the heart of our activities.”

Tom McCabe - Corporate Director of Places, Shropshire Council

“The Marches Local Nature Partnership has great potential to add value to high level discussions across and beyond Shropshire as we take forward our plans for sustainable economic growth.

As Chair of the Strategic Infrastructure Forum, that oversees coordinated investment decisions by Shropshire Council as CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) Charging Authority and our partners, it is crucial that we continue to strike the right balance between social, economic and environmental considerations in the difficult funding choices we make. For me, the LNP represents the crucial missing link and I would welcome the opportunity for the Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Partnership to take a seat at the Forum’s top table.”

Q.7. Describe any progress you have made towards ensuring, and / or how you will ensure, that the LNP has effective and accountable governance and decision making processes.

To avoid the risk of the partnership becoming an ineffective talking shop, the Board will establish an effective structure and processes based on the experiences of members. Following consultation, the Shadow Board have already drafted Terms of Reference which, after wider consultation, will be adopted later in the year.

Following our workshop and additional communication several key points have been drawn out and, subject to consultation, these could be incorporated into the Terms of Reference.

These are listed below:

- The shadow board membership will mirror that of the March LEP and the Health & Wellbeing Boards with representation by cabinet members from both Local Authorities and a Chair of similar status and influence to that of the LEP,
- To maintain the involvement of those who are able to make key decisions we are limiting the board meetings to 3 per year,
- To make best use of the time of board members we aim to hold themed workshops prior to the board meetings, which will provide proposals and evidence for the board to discuss. Themes will be set according to a roadmap of approaching milestones and subject areas will vary to ensure all partners involved have a good reason to be involved. Workshop attendees will be the secretariat and key individuals drawn from the broad membership of the LNP Forum,
- Board members must be able to take decisions on behalf of their organisations and not normally have to refer back to more senior management,

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- To enable bottom up communication we will aim to ensure representation from other key partnerships on the LNP board. For example a shared secretariat for the Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership and the LNP may facilitate good communication channels,
- The LNP Forum will have a broad membership and will hold an annual celebration event and workshop,
- The Forum and workshops will seek input from those controlling communication channels (for example the Rural Hubs and Shropshire Tourism) to sectors which are currently fragmented.

Q.8. Describe how your partnership plans to embed the value of the natural environment into the strategic planning and decision making of others, particularly the economic and health and wellbeing sectors.

The Local Nature Partnership will seek to develop a team of environment ambassadors from outside of the environmental sector. Environment sector representatives of the LNP Forum will train these ambassadors and provide evidence to justify change. Much of the feedback from our developing partnership on this issue has emphasised the need for good evidence to back up any proposals to embed the value of the natural environment into other strategic documents. We already have useful data from the tourism and health sectors, which can be combined with extensive census and environmental data to provide mapped evidence for prioritisation of effort by the LNP. The developing partnership will use this information to underpin its project development and seek ways to fill gaps in our understanding.

Planning and Environmental Networks

We are however already ahead of the game in many ways with the provision of evidence. Shropshire Council have developed an 'Environmental Network Map' that, while still in draft form, is already relevant to active policies in our adopted Core Strategy. The ecological element of the map is based on the network definitions outlined in 'making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network'. They indicate core areas, buffer areas, sustainable landuse areas, and corridors & stepping stones for biodiversity, together with green infrastructure sites (following the PPG17 classification). Layers for accessible elements of the historic environment and public access routes will be

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added to complete the Environmental Network Map. Telford & Wrekin also have a Green Infrastructure Framework with similar policy implications. Meetings have already been held to join these networks across administrative boundaries.

Both these maps provide:

- A starting point for discussions with developers in the LNP area to achieve strategic environmental benefits through sustainable development,
- An evidence base supporting more detailed planning policy and guidance notes. These are currently being drafted in both administrative areas. Documents accompanying the network maps emphasise the benefits that the natural and historic environment bring to the economy and the communities living in the area,
- A means of directing the geographical allocation of resources, assessing the geographic distribution and value of ecosystem services, and identifying the broader environmental context for a range of initiatives and policies,
- An indication of environmental networks both within and between current landscape scale projects and areas where habitat restoration or creation will increase resilience to climate and demographic changes.

Health Sector

We are organising a workshop to enable the shadow LNP to comment on the Shropshire Health and Well Being Board strategy which is being drafted for wider consultation in July. The results from the workshop will be presented to the shadow LNP board to allow a greater level of input from the sectors involved. Results from the workshop will also feed into the on-going review of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Economy

The Marches LEP, which includes both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, is currently drafting their business plan. Through our established links we are being offered the opportunity to 'environment proof' this plan. The [LinkedIn](#) online network for England shadow LNPs (established by us) has provided some good examples of LEP business plans that already embed the natural environment well. This includes the [Economic Growth Strategy for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly](#).

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Building on the experience of the Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford (BESST) and their 150 member businesses, the LNP will aim to increase the reach of BESST into Shropshire or encourage the development of schemes with similar aims.

Q.9. Describe how you see the LNP adding value to the range of other local projects and initiatives concerned with the sustainable management of the natural environment in your area, including any Nature Improvement Areas, biodiversity off-set pilots and catchment partnerships and other land management initiatives.

Such initiatives include:

Project / initiative and approximate total funding	How the LNP will add value
Meres and Mosses of the Marches, Landscape Partnership Scheme £970k	<p>The LNP can help provide high level ambassadorial and influencing role with key decision makers in a range of sectors (in particular L.A. planning departments) to ensure appropriate support is provided, links made and resources identified to realise the goal of integrated delivery of these landscape scale projects.</p> <p>The LNP can also facilitate sharing best practice across Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin, neighbouring LNPs, Wales and nationally.</p> <p>The key projects, and any inter-relations between them, will be added to BARS to enable more effective reporting to the LNP by delivery projects. The list on BARS can also be used as a register of active projects.</p>
Meres and Mosses Nature Improvement Area £560k	
Shropshire Hills AONB partnership	
Catchment Partnerships of Rivers Clun, Teme, Perry and Tern	
Severn Gorge Countryside Trust	
Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme £100k development fund	
Grow With Wyre Landscape Partnership Scheme £4million	

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CAP reform	The LNP will review the opportunity for revised agri-environment schemes to help support key improvements to the natural environment in Shropshire.
Place Plans	<p>LNP can act as a coordinating body for the Place Plan annual review identifying and agreeing environmental infrastructure and investment priorities for incorporation into the Place Plans.</p> <p>Strategic Infrastructure Forum – An LNP representative will sit on this Forum alongside LEP and H&WB representatives and strategic infrastructure providers. The role of this group is to identify and agree strategic infrastructure priorities for Shropshire and allocate funding for delivery including providing the governance arrangements for CIL moneys.</p>
Biodiversity Offsetting	The LNP can help review the efficacy of biodiversity offsetting through a trial led by Telford & Wrekin Council.
Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	LNP can highlight areas where existing initiatives such as landscape scale projects can be altered to provide better benefits for public health – particularly in terms of provision of green space and opportunities for volunteering in the environment sector. The LNP will also use results from JSNA to help prioritise their work.
Corporate Responsibility	The LNP will work with organisations such as the Business Environmental Support Scheme for Telford to ensure that opportunities for engagement with a broad range of businesses are maximised.
Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership [SBP, coverage includes Telford & Wrekin]	The LNP will use the SBP as a technical advisory service on the natural environment and will add considerable political weight to the recommendations provided. The LNP will also encourage members of the SBP to report against national biodiversity targets and thereby assist the evaluation of the effectiveness of the LNP.
Energy provision	The LNP can take a strategic view of large schemes such as windfarms, biomass production, new grid provision, and solar installations.

Significant providers of external funding	Where appropriate, the LNP could help guide the strategic allocation of funds from bodies such as the Lottery, SITA, Wren, Violea, and Esmee Fairburn.
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Q.10. Describe the opportunities you see for funding the delivery of your aims, for instance by aligning and targeting local resources and sources of funding, and how you plan to support the running of the partnership.

The wide range of sectors involved in the LNP and continued cross-border working will open up new sources of funding to achieve the LNP's objectives. Identifying overlaps and aligning objectives between these sectors will increase the opportunities for joint projects. For example it may highlight opportunities for the health sector to work with countryside access staff in areas where childhood obesity levels are high or make suggestions as to the most effective means for farmers to improve crop yields by increasing native or domesticated bee populations.

Joint working to draw down funding will be encouraged and promoted by:

- Demonstrating clearly the benefits to participating organisations,
- Identifying which sectors and organisations are stakeholders in each of the LNP's key objectives/aims,
- Bringing together groups of specialists for each key objective, who will also consider sources of funding,
- Holding joint meetings with the Marches LEP and the Herefordshire LNP to develop a strategy for identifying and acting upon the economic opportunities presented by the natural environment,
- Collating and circulating information on sources of grant funding and application dates to members of the LNP forum,
- Keeping a list of proposed and funded projects to enable value-added cross connections to be made. Funded projects will be encouraged to register and report on BARS for the additional exposure this database can provide.

Possible sources of funding for projects we are considering include:

- Grant funding from bodies such as SITA, WREN, Government agencies, Aggregates Levy, charitable trusts etc.
- Contributions from businesses and other non-environmental sector organisations in line with ecosystem benefits they receive and to support the environmental aspirations of their organisations.
- Community Infrastructure Levy or other levy raised on inward investment
- Contributions for services rendered to 'clients' e.g. land owners and businesses,
- Establishment of a central fund to support small scale projects, for partners and others to contribute to [Equivalent to the Community Foundation model?],
- Community payback scheme - as a source of free/gift in kind help.

To support the running of the LNP, the following resources have been identified:

- All partners will provide staff time in kind to attend board and/or forum meetings,
- Partners will provide staff time in kind as appropriate to task and finish groups and any projects they focus on,
- Shropshire Council have offered to provide secretariat support to the LNP board until such time as the board identifies an alternative arrangement,
- Contributions could be sought for the LNP from major projects e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund projects and other grant programmes for awareness raising at strategic levels and developing buy in from decision makers of non-environmental sectors,
- Funding will be sought for a co-ordinator post to aid communication between partners and support the board in developing the LNP role further.

Q.11. Describe why your boundary is the most appropriate one for your LNP and why any overlaps are necessary. Please also tell us about what you have agreed with neighbouring LNPs about how you will work together, including how any overlaps will be managed or resolved.

After consulting our key partners, and other developing LNP's, we decided to cover the administrative areas of Shropshire Council and Telford & Wrekin Council. Administrative

Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Local Nature Partnership

boundaries were chosen, as opposed to physiographic boundaries, on the basis that many of the partners work to administrative boundaries and cover both local authority areas.

The Marches LEP adheres to the administrative boundaries of Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin, but also covers Herefordshire. During the development process we have met with representatives from neighbouring developing LNP's, including Herefordshire. Although there will be no geographical overlap between our areas, we will continue to meet on a regular basis to ensure effective cross-border working where it is appropriate and provides additional value. A case in point would be the development of environmental network maps that cross administrative boundaries including national boundaries.

The proposed LNP area borders Wales, and although we recognise there are innately different systems in place, we will pursue opportunities for effective joint initiatives. The ability to achieve this is already demonstrable through cross-border landscape scale conservation projects, such as the Meres and Mosses of the Marches NIA and Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) and the Stiperstones & Corndon Hill Country LPS. There are also several Catchment Partnerships underway, which cross borders into Wales or Herefordshire. These include the partnerships for the River Teme, River Clun, and River Dee. Annual meetings are held with Butterfly Conservation, the north Wales Wildlife Trust, the Shropshire Wildlife Trust, the Shropshire Biodiversity Partnership, CCW and NE to discuss cross-border management of sites in the Oswestry Hills area that support a range of rare butterfly species.

Q.12. Describe how you plan to monitor and evaluate your work, including how you will know you are making a difference.

The LNP board will monitor progress, particularly of key priorities, and report back to the wider partnership at forum meetings. Monitoring of achievements will be designed to suit the circumstances of each priority, which will have SMART actions. The key actions for the first six months (listed in question 2b), will be treated as milestones. Some measures of how the LNP has made a difference will be:

- The number of non-environmental sectors represented on the LNP and the number of non-environmental organisations involved,
- The number of non-environment sector strategies and plans, which the LNP has fed into,
- Continued attendance of high level representatives at LNP board meetings,
- Amount of funding (cash and in kind) brought in annually to achieve the key priorities,
- Number of press releases, events and other media methods used (per annum) to raise awareness of the natural environment and the benefits it provide.

Links to further information (QR codes used for hard copy):

	LinkedIn http://linkd.in/England_LNPs
	Place Plans http://bit.ly/tVfiSo
	Economic Growth Strategy for Cornwall & Isles of Scilly http://bit.ly/KAiIrE