

Local Nature Partnership Planning Charter

Given the different roles, the LNP Planning Charter takes a different form to that of the LEP, but aims to provide a consistent and complementary approach to that of the LEP but with:

- A clear focus on and commitment to the issues that lie within the LNP's remit and strategy, that are relevant to its planning role, i.e. nature and the wider environment.
- A clear statement of commitment from the LPAs, to reflect the specific role and interests of the LNP.

The LNP supports the early engagement and pre-application discussions by proposers of major development schemes, not only with Local Planning Authorities but also with statutory and other consultees and local communities. It also supports and promotes a consensual approach to the development of planning conditions and agreements, prior to applications being submitted, which can often overcome or satisfactorily mitigate/compensate environmental or indeed other concerns and lead to schemes being supported (perhaps with modifications), where otherwise they may not.

The LNP will not take the place of, or override the role of statutory and other consultees in respect of environmental matters and has no powers to direct any such organisation in its views.

The LNP will commit to:

- Taking a strategic overview of planning policies, statutory plans and major new development proposals, providing an informed view and guidance to Local Planning Authorities when their Local Plans and other planning documents are prepared and subject to consultation.
- Supporting Local Planning Authorities in defining sustainable development, identifying existing and potential ecological networks and policies for their improvement, and helping to ensure that their plans are based on an accurate and up-to-date environmental evidence base.
- Promoting creative approaches to overcoming traditional conflicts between economic and environmental objectives.
- Drawing upon and making available to LPAs, the knowledge, experience and expertise, within the constituent bodies of the LNP and its Board and when requested, to advise on the appropriate level of compensation measures, when 'Biodiversity Offsetting' is being negotiated with developers/planning applicants.
- Advising on opportunities for biodiversity gains, quality improvements and increased connectivity (the White Paper's 'bigger, better, more joined up' approach).

The LPAs Commit to:

- Undertaking regular and consistent communication and consultation with the Dorset Local Nature Partnership, in respect of emerging strategic and local plans, land allocations or major proposals for development or infrastructure.

- Ensuring that such consultation takes place early on in the planning process or when major developments are first proposed.
- Ensuring that when Local Plans have reached an advanced stage, the LNP is made aware of the strategic proposals and the stage which the plan has reached, towards formal adoption.
- Ensuring that the LNP's views have been sought on Local Plans, prior to Examination in Public by an independent Planning Inspector, in order to help ensure that the 'Duty to Cooperate in met, as required by the NPPF.
- Engaging with the concept of 'Biodiversity Offsetting' to secure financial or other compensatory measures where developments impact adversely upon the natural environment and ensure that robust mitigation measures are implemented.

Adopted by the Borough of Poole, 18 November 2014