

# Agenda



## Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Board

**Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 10.00 am**  
**Virtual via MS Teams**

Contact: Matt Whitney, Local Nature Partnership Manager  
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### Members:

Richard Benwell	Chair
Professor Jeremy Biggs	Environmental NGO representative
Gillian Aitken	Landowner representative
Camilla Burrow	Environmental NGO representative
Tim Coates	Landscape scale delivery representative
Michelle Leek	DEFRA family of organisations
Professor David Macdonald CBE	University representative
James Price	Farming representative
Councillor David Rouane	Local Authority member representative
Ian Boll	Local Authority officer representative
Dr Rosie Rowe	Health representative
Simon Smith	National landscape body representative
Tom Curtis	Business representative
James Price	Farming representative
Matthew Stanton	Environmental NGO representative

### In attendance:

Amber Lyford	Assistant Democratic Services Officer
Becky Chesshyre	Strategic Partnerships Communications Officer
Huw Thomas	Local Nature Partnership Nature Finance Manager
Lizzie Moore	Local Nature Partnership Nature & Health Manage
Matt Whitney	Local Nature Partnership Manager
Susan Harbour	Strategic Partnerships Manager
Kevin Jacob	Senior Democratic Services Officer
Ben Taylor	Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment

## AGENDA

**1 Apologies, conflicts of interest and Chair's announcements** 10:00

**2 Notes of the previous meeting** (Pages 4 - 9) 10:05

To consider the notes of the previous meeting held on 13 March 2024.

**3 Local Nature Partnership Manager update** (Verbal Report) 10:10

The Local Nature Partnership Manager to provide an update to the board on activity since the last meeting, including national policy advocacy, regional partnership progression and more.

Head of Healthy Place Shaping to provide a quick recap of a recent LNP event.

**4 Thames Valley Flood Scheme** (Verbal Report) 10:20

The Environment Agency to provide an update on the Thames Valley Flood Scheme.

**5 Focus on Nature Finance work** (Verbal Report) 10:40

The Local Nature Partnership Manager and the Nature Finance Manager to give a short update/overview of their work on nature finance, including progress on the Innovate UK project.

**6 Alignment with Trust of Oxfordshire's Environment (TOE)** (Pages 10 - 11) 10:50

In order to achieve our vision, and to facilitate delivery of Local Nature Recovery Strategy, it is considered important to be able to influence nature finance. The Board is asked to consider the merits of forging closer alignment with Trust for Oxfordshire's Environment to achieve these aims.

**7 Forum Event** 11:25

The Board is asked to comment on the most appropriate timing and focus for a full partnership get together. Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Manager proposes basing it around Local Nature Recovery Strategy delivery, with focus on nature finance and community engagement.

**8 Activity tracker** (Pages 12 - 14) 11:35

The Board is asked to approve and suggest amendments to the project tracker, which presents an overview of things which will have significant impact on nature recovery.

- |           |  |       |
|-----------|--|-------|
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Board admin</b>   | 11:45 |
| <b>a</b>  | <b>To agree to adopt the proposed register of interest (Pages 15 - 21)</b> |       |
| <b>b</b>  | <b>To agree to hybrid meeting preferences</b>                              |       |
| <b>c</b>  | <b>To nominate a Vice Chair</b>  |       |
| <b>10</b> | <b>Any other business</b>  | 11:55 |
| <b>11</b> | <b>Date of future meetings</b>   | 12:00 |

To note the dates of the next meetings:

- 18 September 2024
- 11 December 2024

# Notes

## OF A MEETING OF THE



# Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Board

**HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13 MARCH 2024 AT 10.00 AM  
HYBRID - DIAMOND ROOM, CORNERSTONE ARTS CENTRE, 25 STATION  
RD, DIDCOT OX11 7NE AND MICROSOFT TEAMS**

### **Present:**

**Members:** Richard Benwell (Chair), Ian Boll, Camilla Burrow, Tim Coates, Tom Curtis, Professor Jeremy Biggs, Professor David Macdonald, James Price, David Rouane, Rosie Rowe and Simon Smith

**Officers:** Kevin Jacob, Amber Lyford, Matt Whitney, Huw Thomas and Lizzie Moore

**Guests:** Chloe Edwards, Melissa Felipe Cadillo, Ej Milner-Gulland and Stephen Thomas

## **22 Apologies, conflicts of interest and Chair's announcements**

Apologies received from Gill Aitken, (Landowner Representative), and Michelle Leek, (Defra Representative).

There were no conflicts of interest.

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting and introductions were made. The Chair started by highlighting that biodiversity net gain is now mandatory as of 12 February 2024 and the guidance change which could potentially discourage local authorities (LAs) going above 10% for biodiversity net gain contributions. The Chair noted that there are opportunities to go above the baseline where it could be supported by robust evidence, and it was felt that Oxfordshire is keen to do so. The Chair also emphasised the importance of private funding now that there is no longer the potential for Government funding.

## **23 Notes of the previous meeting**

The notes of the Board meeting held on 13 December 2023 were agreed as a correct record.

## 24 Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Manager Update

Matt Whitney, Local Nature Partnership Manager provided a verbal update on his work and activities since the last Board meeting.

Highlights were:

- Presenting at Green Finance Conference in January
- Participating in Natural England board and Executive Community workshop in January
- Engaging with Thames water
- Collaborating with Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership (OxLEP) on their Strategic Economic Plan
- Working with Ecosystem Knowledge Network on training around nature finance
- Attending the Nature North Conference in Newcastle
- Supporting Wiltshire County Council in the relaunch of the Wiltshire Local Nature Partnership.

The Chair thanked Matt for the update.

## 25 Oxfordshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy progress

The Chair welcomed Chloe Edwards, (Oxfordshire County Council) to discuss this item. The Chair asked Chloe to potentially discuss any emerging themes and areas of ambition for Oxfordshire and how engagement is going. Especially highlighting the context around engagement and feedback from the farming community and the need to ensure any nature plans made are inclusive of these communities.

Chloe presented some slides which discussed the below topics:

- Progress against Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs' (Defra) steps of preparing contents of a local nature recovery strategy (LNRS)
- Mapping
- Project timeline
- Engagement and priorities
- Requests made to Defra during a recent meeting

Following the presentation, discussion was had around ensuring stakeholders involved are diverse and representation is inclusive of residents across the whole county. Camilla Burrow noted that there is no capacity within the County Council to carry out the data analysis work needed and asked the Board to assist in finding an external resource for this, David MacDonald suggested he could potentially assist.

Tim Coates referred to the steps set out by Defra and whether a shadow step 2 could be included to capture work that is currently being carried out. Chloe advised that this is something they would like to include but it needs to be a consistent and inclusive approach across all groups in Oxfordshire and they are awaiting further guidance.

The Chair referred to the importance of the priorities and objectives and asked for an idea around the scale of effort likely to come from the Oxfordshire LNRS. Chloe explained the process around narrowing down the long list of priorities to a short list with the guidance provided by Defra. Currently they are in the early stages of understanding what the people

of Oxfordshire want and the local strategies and work that already exists. There will be a workshop in May where the priorities will be shown to the public for feedback and then adapted following feedback which is something that doesn't seem to be being done with other LNRSs. Chloe also highlighted that National Highways are looking at possibilities within LNRSs to create green bridges.

Simon Smith suggested the priorities will need to be mappable and will likely be habitats and species as Defra have brought in the treatment of species, noting there is a species working group already in place looking into this.

David Rouane queried if there is ongoing interaction with local plans which are being created. Chloe confirmed that they are aware local plans need to be brought in but also need to balance the focus with other aspects. The mapping exercise through May – July will help with this and will be a key point for asking the district councils whether the LNRS works with their local plans.

Matt Whitney also clarified that there is ongoing engagement with the Future Oxfordshire Partnership Planning Advisory Group (PAG). Ian Boll suggested this could go to the Future Oxfordshire Partnership (FOP) as well.

## **26 People's Assembly**

The Chair welcomed Melissa Felipe Cadillo, (Leverhulme Centre for Nature Recovery at Oxford University), who presented slides on a proposed Citizen Assembly for Nature, joined by Ej Milner-Gulland and Stephen Thomas also in the meeting.

The presentation went over plans to host a Citizen's Assembly to help with answering the challenging questions on nature recovery by bringing together key stakeholders including:

- Oxfordshire County Council
- District Councils
- Local organisations
- Researchers
- Citizens

Melissa asked the Board for assistance in defining the guiding questions that would be asked within the citizens assembly and their thoughts on the concept.

Camilla Burrow raised a question around funding for this plan, Melissa explained they are part of the biodiversity programme and have some budget left but are simultaneously looking for further funding.

Rosie Rowe highlighted the importance around aligning with the existing work in progress across the county and the avoidance of duplication or clashing of work. Councillor David Rouane added further concerns around the calling the event a citizen's assembly and suggested a rebranding/renaming to avoid some negative connotations. Melissa added they plan to host this at the end of 2024 to avoid clashing with other ongoing work but to benefit from the existing momentum.

Concerns were raised around the level of diversity and representation within the Citizen's Assembly and the value of hosting one in this instance in which Melissa explained they will push to be as representative as possible. With regards to the value of the assembly,

Melissa explained this will come down to the questions posed as that will guide the whole event. Ej echoed that the questions being asked is fundamental to the event being successful and that the University of Oxford is keen to invest time and money into this as it views it as a learning opportunity that is broader than the Oxfordshire context alone.

Simon Smith suggested two viewpoints on the timing of this event, the first being if it was happening currently, it would be valuable to inform LNRS, there would be a low risk of engagement fatigue however the workload would be high. The second is for the citizen's assembly to be hosted around the time the LNRS is ready to go live and move into the delivery phase as the assembly could help to inform the delivery and potentially help with a reduction in workload.

## 27 Health and Nature update

Dr Lizzie Moore introduced a report and shared a presentation on this item focusing on Inclusive Nature Recovery in Oxfordshire. The presentation highlighted the current focuses:

- Building capacity and collaboration through the Health and Nature Subgroup
- Developing a Green Social Prescribing pathway
- Supporting LNRS engagement
- Inclusive Nature Recovery

Lizzie explained the approach to Inclusive Nature Recovery, covering the challenges and the opportunities and the process of developing the understanding of Inclusive Nature Recovery. Current work around this involves a workshop which will be held in May and a longer board session following that later this year.

Matt Whitney emphasised that it is key to have everyone involved and interested in this process and stated this approach needs to be utilised across the Board as a whole. Many members of the Board agreed with Matt's observations here.

Rosie Rowe stated she believes having these perspectives and voices within a workshop is the right way to do it. Highlighting there is lots of learnings that can be taken from work in other sectors such as the work around encouraging communities to get involved in active travel which while being a large culture change is something that is adopted when the barriers are removed.

David Rouane referred to increasing the number of people working within the sector stating that two changes were made early on, one of which was removing unpaid internships, the second was removing academic qualifications that are not necessary to be qualified to do some roles from the employment criteria.

The Chair mentioned the importance of including wider groups, such as landowners and tenants, within this work. It doesn't fall within the typical Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (ED&I) definition but is still useful to consider.

The Board agreed to endorse this approach.

## 28 Operationalising the Nature Finance Strategy

Matt Whitney and Huw Thomas jointly presented this update. Matt started by providing a background on the work done thus far:

- The Oxfordshire Nature Finance Strategy was published in July 2023
- The concept of a revolving fund for nature was presented to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership (OLNP) Board in September 2023
- Huw Thomas joined as the Nature Finance Manager in November 2023

Matt then described the bids the team have submitted for funding since the last Board meeting. One was a collaborative project bid into the Nature Environment Investment Readiness Fund (NEIRF). Successful applicants will be notified in July 2024. The other application resulted in £300k being awarded by Innovate UK. Half of this funding will go towards net zero capacity at South Oxfordshire & Vale of White Horse District Councils, West Oxfordshire District Council and Cherwell District Council. The other half will go towards a project which Huw provided some further details on. The deliverables for this project are:

- Establishing high integrity nature market principles for Oxfordshire
- Market assessment
- Development of a nature-based carbon sequestration methodology
- Expansion of Oxford City Council's Area-based insetting approach
- Establishing a 'shop' for other ecosystem services
- Landholder engagement strategy and pipeline development

Matt then continued to explain other ideas they are looking at to attract other capital funding and the approach they will look to take in showing the investible propositions in Oxfordshire, explaining that investors and buyers want larger projects at greater scale.

Finally, next steps were discussed. Matt believes a county scale is a good scale to do this work on but there are conversations being had on regional scale as well, including through Ox-Cam and with the South East Nature Partnership.

Simon Smith supported this holistic approach and suggested that a policy linked to the LNRS could be beneficial and have a safety protocol to these funding channels to underpin the right habitats in the right place. Simon also highlighted another NEIRF bid looking at a grass lands toolkit and code of practice to help address the balance of grass lands and funding other areas are receiving.

In Jeremy Biggs' view it would be beneficial to have discussions with the water industry as there a lot of county wide initiative work going on with the Oxfordshire/Buckingham Fresh Water Network and discussions around financing and how it relates to the LNRSs.

Tom Curtis added that the LNRS has an amazing spatial plan but needs a linked business plan to enable it to fully fund recovery by being part of a strategy that has both a spatial plan and a business plan within it.

## 29 Board membership

The Chair advised that with Dr Prue Addison being on maternity leave it is likely that Matthew Stanton will be joining the Board until she returns. The Chair invited any concerns to be raised following this meeting. If none received, Matthew Stanton will be invited into the Board.



### **30 Oxfordshire's current affairs updates**

No issues were raised under this heading.

### **31 Any other business**

David MacDonald briefly discussed the badger control issues within the county, adding he circulated a thought piece with the group previously that written on this topic. Defra have since published a paper without much change following criticisms which were raised. David advised for the next meeting he is hoping to share a map to show the likely areas where the badger culls will be implemented.

The Chair ended the meeting by re-highlighting the net gain guidance update mentioned at the beginning of the meeting. He advised that the LNP should use some of the previous work done to demonstrate a county wide need and this will come to the Board to endorse, this may be shared with the Board before the next meeting.

### **32 Dates of future meetings**

12 June 2024  
18 September 2024  
11 December 2024

The meeting closed at 12.00 pm.

# Oxon LNP Board Paper for Discussion

<b>Title:</b>	LNP x TOE alignment
<b>Author:</b>	Matt Whitney
<b>Date:</b>	12/06/2024

## Summary:

Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE) is Oxfordshire’s independent environmental funder, with experience of managing biodiversity net gain transactions worth over £1.25million.

OLNP has a role influencing nature finance transactions, which will contribute to facilitating delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

This paper lays some of the key features, benefits and risks around closer integration of OLNP and TOE.

The paper does not make any proposal.

## Actions for the Board:

- Consider the benefits and dis-benefits, risks and opportunities of closer alignment between TOE and OLNP
- Provide guidance to the OLNP Manager and CEO of TOE regarding next steps

Trust for Oxfordshire’s Environment (TOE) is Oxfordshire’s independent environmental funder, with experience of managing biodiversity net gain transactions worth over £1.25million. Established as a charity, they also manage a number of community grants schemes. It is fair to say that most counties across England envy Oxfordshire for the existence of TOE, and a number have made moves to create a TOE equivalent (eg GNCF).

OLNP has a role in enabling and facilitating delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), including by influencing nature finance transactions. There are at least three aspects to this:

- Ensuring real impact, with the right intervention in the right place, all conforming to the highest integrity standards
- Opening up of other emerging markets, such as carbon, natural flood management and material nature-related risk markets. OLNP has an Innovate UK funded project looking at this.

## Oxon LNP Board Paper for Discussion

- Spatial prioritisation, which requires equity of access to these markets. OLNP is exploring the creation of a revolving fund which could pump-prime projects for less affluent landowners.
- Ensure nature recovery benefits people's health and wellbeing, through improved access and engagement, especially for underserved communities.

This paper posits that closer alignment with TOE would enhance OLNP's ability to realise these four points.

There are a number of potential options:

- do nothing
- closer operational alignment
- alignment of governance (for instance some OLNP Board members/officers become trustees of TOE)
- creation of new legal entity.

This paper suggests the second and third options are more desirable but does not ask the Board to decide on these, they are provided for consideration.

# Oxon LNP Board Paper for Decision

<b>Title:</b>	Project tracker
<b>Author:</b>	Matt Whitney
<b>Date:</b>	12/06/2023

## Summary:

Oxfordshire is a busy place with significant risks and opportunities for nature recovery.

It is useful for OLNP Board members to have an up to date understanding of the major projects in the county.

OLNP Manager has drafted a project tracker for the Board’s consideration.

## Actions for the Board:

- Decide whether to request LNP manager to provide a project tracker for every board meeting.
- Suggest possible improvements to the document.

Oxfordshire is a busy place with significant risks and opportunities for nature recovery. Many are working at scale and pace to bring forward nature recovery projects. At the same time, there are some large infrastructure projects which have the potential to either significantly contribute to biodiversity or reduce it, depending on design choices.

It is useful for OLNP Board members to have an up to date understanding of the major projects in the county. Some work in the sector and as such may already be cognisant of these. However, as the OLNP Board is a broad, cross sectoral group, there may be some who have less clear sight of the major opportunities and threats.

In order to ensure a shared level of understanding of the major projects in the county, OLNP Manager has drafted a project tracker, which gives an overview of the projects that might be considered to have the biggest impact on nature. The Board is asked to review this draft and suggest ways it could be amended to become more useful. The Board is also asked to decide whether to request the OLNP Manager to provide an updated version of this tracker with every Board pack.

## Activity concerning biodiversity at scale in Oxfordshire

### Issues register and progress tracker

#### Landscape-scale nature recovery

##### 1 - [Evenlode Landscape Recovery](#)

Led by the North East Cotswold Farmer Cluster. Funded by DEFRA through their landscape recovery element of ELM in 2023. Focussing on soil organic matter for carbon sequestration and water retention. Seeking significant private finance (c.£75m) to expedite the transition.

*By restoring landscapes, nurturing wild habitats, enhancing soil health, and cleansing waterways on a grand scale, farmers will be at the forefront of mitigating the impacts of climate change without sacrificing food production.*

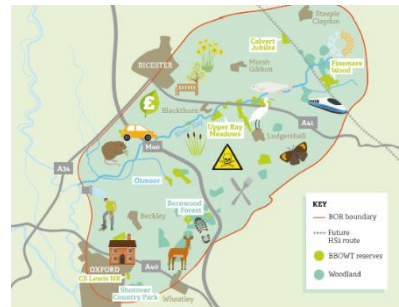
##### 2 - [Freshwater Floodplain Restoration Project](#)

Ock and Thame Farmer Cluster, facilitated by Freshwater Habitats Trust and River Thame Conservation Trust. Funded by DEFRA's Landscape Recovery element of ELM in 2024.

*We're working with farmers and land managers to deliver landscape recovery and build the Freshwater Network across two lowland catchments. This project supports net zero, protected sites and biodiversity - while balancing the needs of farm businesses and food production.*

##### 3 - [Reconnecting the Bernwood, Otmoor and Ray](#)

Led by BBOWT across a 300km<sup>2</sup> between Oxford, Aylesbury and Banbury. Live application to Heritage Lottery Fund for £1million. Ambitious programme including projects on hedges and edges, a new farmer cluster, access to nature for health and wellbeing, enhancing and expanding ancient woodland, and river restoration.



#### Large Infrastructure projects

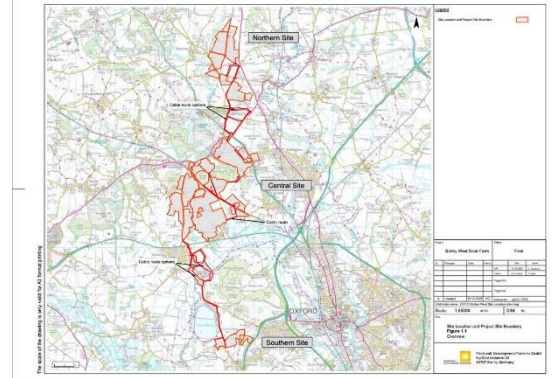
##### 4 - [South East Strategic Reservoir Option \(SESRO\)](#)



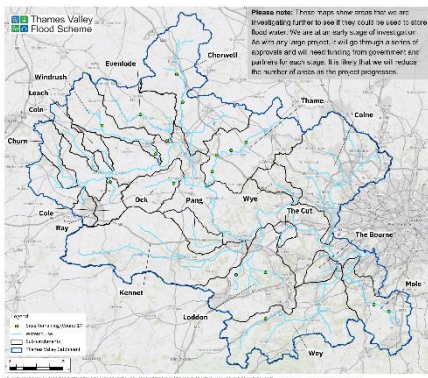
Thames Water are exploring the development of a very large reservoir near Abingdon, as a way of mitigating against water shortages in the south east. This is one of a suite of options being assessed but is becoming the preferred option. A public consultation is planned for June.

5 - [Botley West Solar Farm](#)

Blenheim Palace are developing plans for the UK's largest solar farm, which would be a nationally strategic infrastructure project. The plans claim to deliver 80% biodiversity net gain onsite. OLNP has responded to both stages of consultation so far. The site is currently primarily agricultural land, but is close to some nature rich sites including ancient woodland.

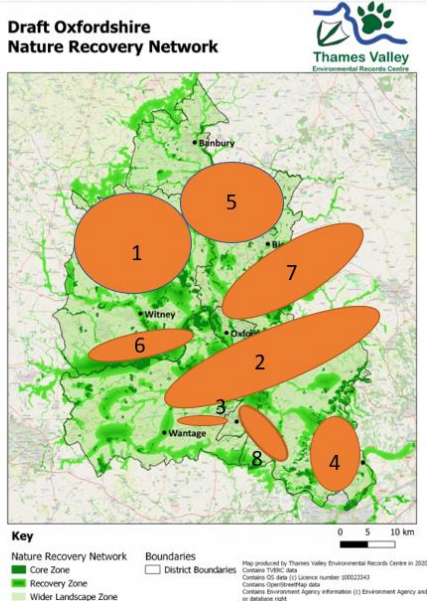


6 - [Thames Valley Flood Scheme](#)



Environment Agency are proposing sites of ephemeral online flood storage across Oxfordshire as part of a larger regional programme of works to reduce flooding across the Thames Valley area. There is a handy explainer video on their website. North East Cotswold Farmer Cluster data may demonstrate an increase in soil organic matter across the upper catchment reduces the need for these pieces of infrastructure.

Current Farm Clusters Oxon



1. **NE Cotswold** Farmer Cluster (LNR Pilot) - Tim Field
2. **Ock & Thame** Farmer Cluster (LNR Pilot) - Freshwater Habitats Trust, River Thame Conservation Trust
3. **Ridgeway** Farmer Cluster (Wild Oxfordshire)
4. **Christmas Common** Farmer Cluster  
Alison Cross - Wessex Farm Wildlife
5. **Cherwell** (Under North East Cotswolds umbrella)
6. **Upper Thames** group – BBOWT
7. **Ray** Cluster – Chloe Timberlake with some BBOWT affiliation
8. **Clumps** Cluster (WO)

# Oxon LNP Board Paper for Approval

<b>Title:</b>	Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Board Register of Interests
<b>Author:</b>	Kevin Jacob, FOP Senior Democratic Services Officer
<b>Date:</b>	12 June 2024

## Summary:

This paper asks the Board to agree to the introduction of a Register of Board Members' interests and to the circulation of the attached Registration of Interests Form.

## Actions for the Board:

1. That the Board agree the introduction of a Register of Board interests.
2. That subject to any amendments proposed at the meeting, the Board approve the draft Register of Interest form and guidance for circulation to LNP Board members with the exception of the local authority councillor and local authority council officer representatives.

## Background

1. The purpose of the register is to give board members the mechanism to declare any private interests which may conflict, or may be perceived to conflict, with their duties as board Members. The Board is made up of individuals who represent other organisations who share an interest in the aims and field of operation of the LNP. At times, the LNP Board may make decisions or grant approval to matters which may – directly or indirectly – affect the financial or other wellbeing of those other organisations.
2. The attached draft register of interest form and associated guidance has been developed to seek to strike the correct balance between achieving necessary transparency and openness whilst not making completion or administration of the register an onerous process. Appropriate guidance on the draft has been sought from expert officers at South and Vale Councils and third-party advisers to the Association of Democratic Services Officers.
3. The Register would not be open for public access but will be open to inspection by the Board Members and by senior officers of the Local Authorities in whose areas the

## Oxon LNP Board Paper for Approval

LNP operates. The contents of the register may also be disclosed by the LNP to government or supervisory authorities with a right to audit its activities or records and to its professional advisers.

4. Council officers and councillors are covered by separate codes of conduct and duties about registering any interests and therefore this register and guidance is not applicable to those Board representatives.



## Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Board Register of Interests Form

**Please read this guidance before completing the form below:**

### Who does this form apply to?

The following form should be completed by all members of the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership Board (“the LNP”).

### Why is this information required?

The Board is made up of individuals who represent other organisations who share an interest in the aims and field of operation of the LNP. At times, the LNP Board may make decisions or grant approval to matters which may – directly or indirectly – affect the financial or other wellbeing of those other organisations.

Members of the Board should consider all matters which come before them on their individual merits, taking into account the overall aims and purpose of the LNP. They should not be influenced – or give the appearance of being influenced – by the interests of the organisation they represent. Similarly, the Board Member’s own financial or other wellbeing may be impacted by the activities.

For these reasons, and in the interests of transparency, members of the Board are asked to give full disclosure of their Interests.

### **Section 1: Employment etc.**

You should include “*any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain*”.

Please ensure that

- you include a short description of the activity concerned: for example, "Computer Operator" or "Accountant"
- you give the name of any employer, e.g. the company which pays your salary or wages, or list yourself as self-employed if applicable
- The address of your place of work or office
- where an office is held, the name of the person or body who made the appointment is given

Please note that there is no need to enter (as examples) “retired” or “retired doctor” – if there is nothing which applies to you under this section, please simply enter “None”.

### **Section 2: Contracts**

You should include details of any contract between you or a body in which either of you have a beneficial interest, and a council in Oxfordshire or the LNP.

- under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; **and**
  - which has not been fully discharged, i.e. is still in operation
- (A body in which you have a beneficial interest means a firm in which you/they are a partner, or a body corporate of which you/they are a director<sup>1</sup>, or in the securities of which you/they have a beneficial interest).

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<sup>1</sup> “Director” includes a member of the committee of management of an industrial and provident society.

### **Section 3: Land and Property**

You should include details of any land **which is within the area of Oxfordshire** in which you have a beneficial interest.

“Land” excludes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you or your spouse to occupy the land or to receive income.

Please ensure that:

- you give the address or a brief description to identify the land.
- you should include your home under this heading as owner, lessee or tenant

### **Section 4: Other Non-pecuniary interests**

A non-pecuniary interest is an interest which is not pecuniary but it is nonetheless so significant that a member of the public with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard it as so significant that it would materially impact upon your judgement of the public interest

- a) Any unpaid directorships
- b) Any body of which you are a member or are in a position of general control or management and to which you are nominated or appointed by your organisation.
- c) Any body
  - (i) exercising functions of a public nature
  - (ii) directed to a charitable purpose; or
  - (iii) one of whose principal purposes includes the influence of public opinion or policy (including any political party or trade union)

of which you are a member or in a position of general control or management.

### **Changes to information provided**

It is essential that any change to the interests specified in the following form, is notified in writing to the LNP secretariat as soon as reasonably practicable after becoming aware of the change, by completing an updated copy of this form with the additional information.

### **Further Declarations of Interest by Board Member directors**

If a Board Member subsequently becomes interested (directly or indirectly) in a transaction or arrangement with the LNP and the nature of that interest is not disclosed on this form, it is the responsibility of the Board Member to ensure that they make a separate and specific declaration of that interest to the Board either prior to the proposed transaction being entered into, or as soon as practicable thereafter. Such a declaration may be made by completing an additional copy of this form.

### **Board Members' conflicts of interests**

In addition to the duty to declare interests in actual or proposed transactions, the LNP should take care to avoid a situation whereby their personal or other interests and the interests of the LNP conflict or have the potential to conflict, unless such conflict or potential conflict of interest is notified to and approved by the other Board Members. An example might be where a Board Member holds a prominent position on another area's LNP that is competing for the same funds or has a divergent view on a matter, or where you or your spouse or your business are in a position to exploit an opportunity that the LNP also wishes to exploit.

Board Members whose personal or other interests conflict with those of the LNP must therefore take steps to withdraw from discussions on any matter where the conflict arises, or else seek the authorisation of the Board to continue to be engaged with it.

**Data protection and Freedom of Information**

The information collected on this form will be used by the LNP to monitor its compliance and the compliance of the individuals completing it with the law relating to conflicts of interests.

The register that will be open to inspection by the Board Members and by senior officers of the Local Authorities in whose areas the LNP operates. The contents of the register may also be disclosed by the LNP to government or supervisory authorities with a right to audit its activities or records and to its professional advisers.

The LNP will comply with its obligations under applicable data protection legislation. If the LNP becomes subject to the Freedom of Information Act, it shall comply with its obligations under that Act.

Subject to the above provisions, the LNP shall not disclose or use the information gathered on this form for any other purpose.

The Register(s) of individual Board Members shall be retained for a period not exceeding two years from the date the Board Member ceases to be a Member of the LNP Board.

DRAFT

**Name:**

**LNP Board membership sector:**

**Date:**

**Section 1:  
Employment,  
office, trade,  
profession, or  
vocation  
carried out for  
profit or gain,  
(e.g., job title,  
company  
name and  
address of  
office)**

**Section 2:  
Contracts  
with a local  
authority  
within  
Oxfordshire**

**Section 3:  
Land and  
property  
owned, leased  
or rented  
within  
Oxfordshire**

**Section 4:  
Other non-  
pecuniary  
interests (For  
example  
membership  
of  
organisations)**

Declaration:

I confirm that I have disclosed all of my pecuniary interests. I understand that it is my responsibility to disclose to the Clerk to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership additional interests as they arise.

Signed: .....

Date: .....

Received:.....

Clerk to the Local Nature Partnership

Date.....

Signed.....

Guidance on bias in decision making

You must not take part in matters which directly relate to the interests of you or a close associate (such as a family member or friend) or where you or they are affected more than the majority of people. In addition, even where no interest arises you must ensure that you take any decision with an open mind weighing up all relevant factors.

If you are in any doubt regarding whether an interest might give rise to apparent bias (or a perception of bias) please contact the Clerk to the Oxfordshire Local Nature Partnership at [futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk](mailto:futureoxfordshirepartnership@southandvale.gov.uk)