

# Local Nature Partnership Capacity Building

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Plymouth Green Infrastructure (GI) Partnership hosted by Plymouth City Council has recently been awarded funds from DEFRA to develop consensus on environmental priorities among key stakeholders in the sub-region with a view to developing a [Local Nature Partnership](#) (LNP). Funding is provided up to the point at which any LNP becomes a reality through applying for formal recognition by central government in summer 2012. This forms part of a suite of proposals launched in June 2011 in the [Natural Environment White Paper](#).
- 1.2 The overall purpose of LNPs is to bring a diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations together to work in a strategic way to create a vision and plan of action of how the natural environment can be taken into account in decision making at a local level.
- 1.3 DEFRA's vision for LNPs is that they will demonstrate leadership and raise awareness about the vital services and benefits which a healthy natural environment brings for people, communities and the local economy. Whilst Plymouth already has several successful environmental partnerships, the LNP philosophy is to broadcast the range of benefits that the natural environment provides into sectors not traditionally engaged by the environmental sector such as social services, health, business, the political sphere, the media and local communities. Plymouth City Council's Planning Services are clear that experience from existing environmental partnerships repeatedly demonstrates 'win-wins' that can result from closer collaboration between these sectors.
- 1.4 The task is therefore to bring together a wide range of stakeholders and determine the priorities and delivery mechanisms for a successful LNP. The Plymouth GI Partnership invites quotes from selected consultants to facilitate the engagement work that will be a major component in the development of the LNP. The work will have the aim of bringing together a broad range of sectors and build consensus around a more integrated and cross-cutting approach to delivering environmental benefits. Subject to the process herein, we will apply for formal recognition as a LNP by central government in summer 2012 and set up a partnership.

## 2. Key Tasks

- 2.1 The scope of work for the consultants is to design and deliver an iterative participatory dialogue that will enable the formation of a LNP with clearly defined objectives.
- 2.2 The consultation process must include the following steps:
  - Explore the need for creating a LNP in the Plymouth sub-region. This should include an investigation of the value of existing partnerships and determine the value of a new structure.
  - Build consensus on the 'win-wins'; projects and activities that could result from closer collaboration amongst environmental stakeholders and stakeholders beyond the environmental sector in the sub-region. Win-wins could include sharing of data/resources/funds, joint planning and delivery of environmental initiatives, promotional campaigns, joint funding

applications and institutional change. Whilst there must be a clear economic rationale that demonstrates value for money, this is not a cost saving exercise

- Build cross-sectoral consensus and sign-off on a Collaboration Plan which will provide an evidence base for the Plymouth Core Strategy Review scheduled for 2012
- Establish a clear formal relationship between the proposed LNP and both the proposed Plymouth Growth Board and the Plymouth Health and Well Being Board

2.3 The Collaboration Plan should detail clear and agreed:

- 'win-wins'
- mechanisms for governance in order to put the environment at the heart of Plymouth's growth agenda
- mechanisms to ensure a self-sustaining and financially solvent partnership
- communication to broadcast the 'win-wins' and ensure partnership can share learning with other partnerships looking to become LNPs

2.4 In building consensus towards an LNP, the consultants will be expected to:

- Budget for liaising with the Working Group (see section 4.1) to ensure that there is full discussion of the emerging proposals, and build in capacity to respond to any changes arising from such discussions
- Liaise with a wide range of stakeholders including statutory agencies, local authorities, the private sector, health, community organisations and charities (refer to Appendix for a list of stakeholders already identified).

### **3. Project Outputs**

The consultant will be required to deliver the following outputs:

- A series of workshops with stakeholders among the environmental sector and beyond to establish opportunities for win-wins, value for money and innovative solutions to affect institutional change, collaboration and environmental planning and delivery
- A Collaboration Plan including governance, funding, administration and a communication plan. The Collaboration Plan must be developed with, and agreed by all key stakeholders within the Plymouth sub-region and should identify clear mechanisms to establish and maintain an LNP through a combination of cash and in kind contributions.
- Interim and final reports documenting the processes that stakeholders have been lead through, summarising the discussions held and learning outcomes.

### **5. Timetable**

5.1 DEFRA have imposed very tight timescales for this project. The timetable below reflects this but we are willing to be as flexible as we can if the proposed activities and timescales seem unachievable. It is expected that the tender submission will provide more detail on the proposed timescales for gaining consensus and developing a Collaboration Plan including as a

minimum when draft reports will be submitted to the group, and when stakeholder consultation will take place.

- Return date for tender documents 9<sup>th</sup> November 2011
- Consultant Interviews w/b 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011
- Appointment of Consultant w/b 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011
- Consultant briefing meeting w/b 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011
- Engagement Strategy 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011
- Workshops and interim report 9<sup>th</sup> March 2012
- Collaboration Plan sign-off 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012
- Submission of Final report 11<sup>th</sup> May 2012