

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER – JOBS, ECONOMY AND
TRANSPORT**

10 September 2013

Report of the Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services

**REQUEST TO FINANCIALLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE LOWLAND
DERBYSHIRE AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE LOCAL NATURE
PARTNERSHIP COORDINATOR POST**

(1) **Purpose of the Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval to contribute £5,000 annually, for three years, to the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire (LDN) Local Nature Partnership (LNP) Coordinator Post.

(2) **Information and Analysis** The LDN LNP was established in 2012, in response to proposals included in the 2011 Natural Environment White Paper.

LNPs are strategic cross-sectoral partnerships that have been given a remit by Central Government to:

- Promote the greening of economic growth.
- Embed the value of the natural environment in local decision-making.
- Promote sustainable land use and management.
- Advise on strategic planning matters.
- Enhance the quality of life, health and well-being of citizens.

The LDN LNP's Vision is "To help business, communities and individuals to create and enjoy the benefits of a better natural environment".

Its ambition is:

- All businesses safeguarding and enhancing the environment from their premises
- All communities having access to wildlife-rich natural environments and engage in caring for them
- All homes and businesses set within wildlife-rich natural landscapes."

To help deliver the vision and ambition and economic growth, the LDN LNP's role in supporting the Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire (D2N2) Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) includes:

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- Promoting that there is no fundamental conflict between what is good for business and what is good for the Environment.
- Highlighting that the environment should be a driver for business growth, not a barrier – *“Green Business is Good Business”*.

Unfortunately, no funds have been made available by Central Government to help resource LNPs. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) currently provides secretarial and administrative support to the LNP. In addition to this, the Lowland Derbyshire Biodiversity Partnership (LDBP) has offered 2 ½ days a fortnight of its Officer's time.

While this gives the LNP some resource, it is not sufficient for it to operate at the strategic influencing level that is envisaged. To this end, the LNP Board is in the process of securing a Coordinator. Funding for this three year post is currently being finalised. Toyota and Derby University have both confirmed that they will each contribute £10,000 a year for three years. It is proposed that Derbyshire County Council also offers a contribution to this post. A sum of £5,000 could be found from the Conservation and Design Section's revenue budget annually, for three years. NCC has indicated that it will be able to match the Council's £5,000 annual contribution. This gives a total of £30,000 a year. The LEP is also investigating the possibility of contributing towards the Post.

It is thought that there will be sufficient funds available, if the aforementioned monies can be assembled, to appoint a Coordinating Officer on a part-time basis of 25-30 hours a week assuming a £32,000 pro rata annual salary including on-costs such as mileage. The exact hours for the post will not be able to be confirmed until the final job description has been agreed and evaluated by the appointing body who is the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce.

A role profile for the position is being developed by the LNP Board in conjunction with the Chief Executive of the D2N2 LEP.

(3) **Financial Considerations** The funding contribution of £5,000 over a three year period can be met from the Conservation and Design Services revenue budget.

(4) **Human Resources Considerations** The Coordinator will be employed by the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce and collocated with the D2N2 LEP team. The Post will be line managed by the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust Chief Executive, who is on the LNP Board. Support will also be given to the management of the Post by Derbyshire County Council's Conservation and Design Section Manager and Nottinghamshire County Council's Conservation Team Manager.

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(5) **Environmental and Health Considerations** The purpose of the LNP Coordinator Post is to give a resource to the LDN LNP to support and promote its Vision and Ambition which are aligned to creating a better natural environment for everyone with all the associated health benefits.

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, property and transport considerations.

(6) **Key Decision** No.

(7) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(8) **Background Papers** None. Officer contact details – Adam Lathbury, extension 39791.

(9) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION** That a financial contribution of £5,000 per annum for three years, commencing in 2013/14, be made to the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce towards the costs of employing the Lowland Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership Coordinator Post.

Mike Ashworth
Acting Strategic Director – Environmental Services