

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Summary: To (1) provide a high level summary of activity since the last Executive Committee in September 2020; (2) outline the key decisions/ discussions required from this Meeting; (3) inform the Committee of any changes to the Covid-19 Risk Register

Recommendation: That the Executive Committee notes the report

Report by: Andy Parsons - Chief Executive

PRIORITY ACTIVITY SINCE THE JUNE BOARD MEETING (not recorded in other papers)

1. Team

- The team has met to review operations (employees and volunteers) during the second national lockdown. The key decisions were:
 - Rural skills courses programmed in November and December have been postponed. The Rural Skills Officer is looking to reschedule before the financial year-end.
 - All Voluntary Warden activity, with the exception of parish wardening, has been stopped until the restrictions ease. The Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands volunteer work parties have also ceased.
 - The Partnerships and Fundraising Lead will liaise with the PR consultant working with us on the Kingfisher Trail to agree how we keep the momentum going in finding hosts for the sculptures at a time when many businesses will be closed.
 - Employees will continue to conduct site visits as necessary to fulfil their work requirements.
 - The office will continue to be manned by one person each day, Monday – Thursday, to carry out administrative tasks.
 - The Communications Lead has updated the various digital channels.

2. Engagements (Chief Executive)

- Continued to attend meetings and workshops regarding the A417 Missing Link road scheme. The Board's consultation response is included within Item 11.
- 10 Sept – with the Chairman, Vice-Chair and Comms Lead, held a Board Member induction meeting for Sue Crawford, Benjamin Dent and John Swanton.
- 14 & 29 Sept – attended GFirst LEP's Visitor Economy and Tourism Business meetings.
- 16 Sept – spoke to BBC Radio Gloucestershire about the National Landscape brand launch.
- 24 Sept – with the Head of Finance, met with Publica to review our existing Service Level Agreement and agree what needs to be included in a new version.
- 30 Sept – attended the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Board meeting.
- 8 Oct – attended the Oxfordshire Environment Board meeting.
- 13 Oct – met with Tom Moat, Natural England, to discuss their report to government on the Glover Review.

- 20 Oct – with colleagues, Board Members and Cotswold Tourism, attended a workshop to start the development of bookable rural skills experiences (facilitated by Chris Brant of Unmissable England).
- 22 Oct – facilitated a workshop with the Board’s Parish Council Members to review their role and identify ways of increasing our visibility and influence at a local/ community level.
- 26 Oct – had my Q2 performance review, with the Chairman and Vice-Chair.
- 29 Oct – attended the artist’s panel meeting for the Kingfisher Trail. Five artists are on the panel and are helping with approaching and selecting the remaining artists to paint the 21 sculptures.
- 3 Nov – with Anna Field (Glorious Cotswolds Grasslands Project Officer) met with Severn Trent Water to discuss ways in which we could become a ‘strategic partner’ in their *Great Big Nature Boost* programme.
- 5 Nov – attended the official launch of Natural England’s *Nature Recovery Network Delivery Partnership*.
- 6 Nov – attended the first NAAONB Collaboration Advisory Group meeting.

OVERVIEW OF THIS BOARD MEETING – 18 November

3. The key items of focus at this meeting are:

- Item 5 – to review our financial position at the end of Q2 and to discuss how the second national lockdown may impact on our year-end position.
- Item 6 – after much informal discussion around the subjects of health, wellbeing and social inclusion, the Executive Committee is asked to approve the proposal to set up a new working group focused on these ever more important subjects.
- Item 8 – an opportunity to get an early insight into our priorities and assumptions ahead of finalising the budget for 2020/21.
- Items 9 and 10 – to hear from our Planning and Landscape Lead and to give any comments on our draft Planning & Development and Housing Position Statements. These are currently out for consultation.

COVID-19 RISK REGISTER

4. The following risks remain amber:

- Absence due to virus, stress or other illness
- IT failure: remote links, hardware and software, broadband failure
- Slippage against Management Plan objectives
- Reduced and/ or delayed output on projects
- Reduction in core funding
- Reduction in additional grants
- Reduction in other fundraising

No new risks have been identified since the last meeting.

SUPPORTING PAPERS

- None

NOVEMBER 2020