

**REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Summary:** To (1) provide a high level summary of activity since the last Board meeting in June 2022 and (2) outline the key decisions/ discussions required from this meeting.

**Recommendation:** That the Board notes the report.

**Report by:** Andy Parsons - Chief Executive

**KEY ACTIVITY (not included in other papers)**

## 1. Members, Team and Volunteers

- Board Member inductions were held for Rosie Pearson (West Oxfordshire District Council), Emma Kearsy (Wychavon District Council), Martin Brown (Stroud District Council), Ellie Fujioka (Secretary of State) and Katherine Chesson (Secretary of State).
- Martin Horwood has joined as our Cheltenham Borough Council Member. Martin has previously served on the Board.
- There is currently one vacancy for a Worcestershire County Council Member.
- Della Morris has organised two quarterly 'get togethers' for the whole team. In June we had a BBQ and social at Chipping Campden Cricket Club and in September the team undertook practical work at Cleeve Common – working alongside the Cleeve Common Trust.
- Ann Wyatt (Head of Finance) has returned to work after a period of maternity leave. Diane Bassett (maternity cover) left last month.
- Ruth Rudwick (Everyone's Evenlode Community Outreach Officer) has left the organisation and we are currently recruiting a replacement.
- The Volunteer Handbook has been completed and is now available on our website for current volunteers.

## 2. Local Authority – partnership strategy

- The Chair, Vice Chair and Chief Executive have met with the Board's local authority Members to start planning how we develop a truly collaborative and progressive partnership between the CNL Board and the 15 local authorities.
- Priorities are being reviewed and the basis of how their respective financial contributions may be updated, with the goal of ensuring these contributions are equitable and reflect the 'value-add' that the CNL Board provides.
- A verbal update will be given at the meeting.

## 3. Secretary of State appointments 2023

- The Chair is recommending the reappointment of Susan Crawford, Ben Dent and John Swanton to serve a second 3-year term.
- The Vice Chair is recommending the reappointment of Brendan McCarthy to serve a third 3-year term.
- Ed Macalister-Smith will be leaving in June 2023, after serving ten years as a Board Member.
- We will be informing Defra that the priority skill set the Board requires is financial and accountancy expertise.

4. National Association of AONBs (NAAONB)
  - The NAAONB are drafting a 'big ideas' prospectus that will be presented to Defra (and other key stakeholders) in response to the government's comments on the Landscapes Review 2019.
  - Defra has provided funding to roll-out the 'National Landscapes' brand this current year. NAAONB are facilitating meetings to take this forward across the AONBs in England.
  - The NAAONB Annual Conference was held in September. Mike Elliott (Climate Action Lead) and Rosalind Marsden (Everyone's Evenlode Education Officer) represented the team.
  
5. Property Matters
  - *The Old Prison* – replacing the sections of roof (identified in the survey) is currently being scheduled. The Chair and Chief Executive are regularly liaising with our landlords (Friends of the Cotswolds) to agree on a settlement figure for the remaining 'schedule of works'.
  - *New office location* – there is an outline agreement in place with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust to co-locate at their head office (Robinswood in Gloucester) and Greystones Farm in Bourton-on-the-Water.

#### **KEY ENGAGEMENTS (Chief Executive)**

- A417 Missing Link:
  - 6, 8, 18, 28 July – Designated Funds (biodiversity net gain) meeting with National Trust
  - 15 July – Strategic Stakeholder Panel meeting
  - 26 July, 15 September – Collaboration session on detailed design, led by Kier (main contractor) and National Highways
  - 3 August – Designated Funds workshop, with National Highways and National Trust, to review progress and improvement ideas
  - 25 August, 9 September – Designated Funds (dry stone walls) meeting with National Highways
  - 31 August – walk and talk with Roger Mortlock (CEO, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Nick Droy (Assistant Director, National Trust) to discuss a potential collaborative designated fund project
  - 7 September – Barrow Wake car parking and access meeting
  - 21 September – Designated Funds (connecting trails and PROW) meeting with National Highways
- 28 June – attended a presentation on the Severn Thames water transfer scheme.
- 30 June – Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Board meeting.
- 26 July, 6 September – National Association of AONBs (NAAONB) Lead Officer meetings.
- 31 August – Green Finance meeting with NAAONB partners.
- 8 September – GFirst LEP Visitor Economy and Tourism Business Group meeting.
- 20 September – West Oxfordshire District Council stakeholder event: "Helping the Council to shape the future of West Oxfordshire".
- 27 September – Cotswold Integrated Locality Partnership meeting.
- 6 October – Cotswold Canals Partnership Board meeting.

## OVERVIEW OF THIS BOARD MEETING – 11 OCTOBER

The key items of focus at this meeting are:

- Items 4 and 5 – presentations about two key (and inter-related) areas of our work:
  - *Climate Action* - to hear from Mike Elliott (Climate Action Lead) on our progress and priorities
  - *Planning and Development* – to hear from John Mills (Planning and Landscape Lead) and Simon Joyce (Planning Officer) on current scope and focus
- Item 8(a) – to review the Business Plan Framework for the period 2023-26, and to seek formal Board adoption.
- Item 8(b) – to have a discussion on the draft Management Plan (2023-25), ahead of the second round of external consultations.

## SUPPORTING PAPERS

- None

OCTOBER 2022