

**Agenda Item 9**  
**Report PR20/21-12**

Report to	<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>
Date	<b>24 September 2020</b>
By	<b>Director of Countryside &amp; Policy Management</b>
Title of Report (Note)	<b>Partnership Management Plan Thematic Update – People and Nature Network</b>

**Recommendation: The Committee is recommended:**

**I. to note the report**

**I. Introduction**

- I.1 Following the AGM and the appointments to Committees, there has been some discussion between the new Policy and Resources Committee Chair, his new deputies and the Director of Countryside Policy & Management about the future approach to agendas for these meetings.
- I.2 The intention is to bring to very committee meeting a PMP Thematic Update report to focus on the four key cross-cutting challenges set out in the new Partnership Management Plan (PMP) 2020-25 which are as follows:
- Nature Recovery
  - Climate Change
  - Health & Inclusion
  - Rural Economy
- and to use these items as an opportunity to invite external partners, who are crucial to the delivery of the PMP outcomes, to come and share their experiences and progress to date.
- I.3 The enhanced focus on these four challenges does not mean that the Committee will ignore other projects and programmes set out in each year's Corporate Plan, which are reviewed quarterly and at the year end. Nor will it reduce the committee's ability to deliver its important scrutiny, audit and governance functions. The intention is to focus the strategic expertise of the Committee on the four big challenges as these are central not only to our own PMP, but also to the Glover "Landscapes Review" and the Defra 25 Year Plan.
- I.4 To start our new approach, this meeting will hear about the successful launch of the People and Nature Network (PANN) framework document and some examples of the projects which are coming forward within this framework.

**2. The People and Nature Network**

- 2.1 Work started on the PANN in 2016 with a technical working group comprising several of the local district councils, county councils and statutory bodies and NGOs. The objective was to produce a strategic sub regional approach to address a range of environmental issues focussing on green infrastructure delivery (as opposed to 'grey'). This resource could be

used as high level evidence to support and inform local decision making; thus enabling a range of actions by others to form part of and contribute towards a wider framework.

- 2.2 It is worth noting that the Authority was ahead in developing this approach in 2016. The way the PANN is researched means that it fits with many current initiatives which are now being mainstreamed – Net gain in the planning system; nature recovery in 25 year plan and the Glover Review; the call from DEFRA for Local Nature Recovery Strategies and the more recent work of the Surrey, Sussex and Hampshire Local Nature Partnerships
- 2.3 The PANN is designed to be used by a wide range of organisations and groups as a starting point and to stimulate creativity and innovation. It seeks to combine the 3 pillars of sustainability - environment, society and the economy - through careful planning of the functions of land and finding innovative solutions to people and nature problems.
- 2.4 These are some examples of the benefits of this approach;
- **Health equity** – doorstep access to high quality open space & the health benefits this provides. eg to mental health, physical health, non-communicative diseases and environmental issues
  - **Sustainable transport** – walkable and rideable neighbourhoods – benefits of physical activity and carbon use reduction, building healthy behaviours
  - **Climate change adaptation and mitigation** – natural flood management, reduction in air pollution, noise pollution, improved water quality, carbon sequestration, reduced urban heating and shade
  - **Biodiversity** – the Lawton principles – bigger, better and more joined up – the connectivity of habitats, increased mobility for biodiversity, nature on the doorstep, pollination & pest control
  - **Landscape, amenity & culture** –using green infrastructure planning to help with some of these big issues contributes towards a high quality environment where nature is an intrinsic part of our daily lives this is known to reduce stress, increase creativity, improve property values, keep shoppers shopping and helps employers to recruit and retain staff.

#### What the PANN does

- 2.5 The PANN approach considers a wide range of evidence in order to draw together a series of high level strategic goals for targeted delivery of Green infrastructure.
- 2.6 Firstly, the PANN sets out **Strategic principles** and **priority actions** which can be applied across the whole PANN area, these are grouped by the following topic areas;
- Making strong connections;
  - A Natural and Cultural canvas;
  - Support Sustainable and Healthy communities;
  - Become fit for the future;
  - Better through working together.
- 2.7 Secondly the PANN identifies **12 area hotspots** called *Natural Capital Investment Areas* (NCIAs) where a range of environmental issues coalesce and where coordinated action by all parties would achieve targeted benefits to nature and people on a wider scale. Each of these areas have a SWOT analysis and how they are taken forward is a bespoke response to each of the areas issues – they all have different issues and stakeholder groups and the options for finding solutions are equally variable.

#### Using the PANN

- 2.8 Since the PANN was initiated in 2015 the SDNPA has increasingly found the evidence to be robust and reflects many of the issues that have become live for the Authority in the past 5 years. For example, the Authority is working with a range of partners specifically in and around the hotspot areas: Winchester (1), Arundel (9), Surrey Heaths (2), Adur and Worthing(12), Ouse valley (11) South Hampshire (3).

- 2.9 The Authority was an early adopter for this approach, which is now becoming more mainstream with the 25 year Environment Plan and the Glover Report setting out Nature Recovery Networks; Natural England National Standards for Green Infrastructure; Net Gain in the planning system and the coordinated regional work of the Sussex, Surrey and Hants LNPs on nature recovery as another local example. We are currently considering working with the LNPs to look at how the PANN and this regional work can be mutually beneficial.
- 2.10 The PANN can be used widely by partners both within and beyond the SDNP boundary to give confidence and robustness to local decision makers in the knowledge that they are contributing to a wider network. We hope that surrounding partners and protected landscapes will use the PANN evidence to drive their own initiatives (eg Rob Fairbanks – Surrey Hills AONB).

#### Press Coverage for the PANN launch

The launch of the PANN framework is seen as a way of drawing the attention of members to a wide range of work on nature recovery not just the report itself e.g. SSCP, Heritage Coast, HeRe, Changing Chalk, as examples of the work the Authority is undertaking with partners.

- 2.11 The PANN was launched on the SDNPA website on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2020
- We had 28 separate pieces of coverage in print/online, as well as two broadcast hits on BBC Solent and BBC Sussex.
  - It was picked up notably in the big cities – Brighton, Portsmouth and Southampton – as well as in key influential publications such as The Planner. It was the main opinion piece in The Brighton Argus with the title pledging support for it.
  - The combined PR value was £21,900 (how much it would have cost to pay for this coverage by advertising instead of earned free coverage which is what we got)
  - Reached an audience of over 700,000 people
  - There's also a couple of follow-up in-depth pieces in Landscape Journal and Public Sector Build Journal (awaiting publication).

### **3. NCIA development work**

- 3.1. Now that the PANN is launched the Authority is developing its approach to the Natural Capital Investment Areas. It is not intended for the SDNPA to be the leader for all of these areas, rather we are about to start a high level audit of local initiatives, stakeholders and activity within each of the NCIAS (a spreadsheet for each) to start to understand what type of approach and involvement (if any) is needed by the SDNPA and how best to take this forward.
- 3.2. Some examples of how this work is being progressed to date are given in **Appendix I**.

### **4. Other Implications**

<b>Implication</b>	<b>Yes</b>
Will further decisions be required by another committee/full authority?	Further decisions to be taken on a project by project basis and where necessary developing the strategic approach to the PANN
Does the proposal raise any Resource implications?	Not at the moment, may be required in the future
How does the proposal represent Value for Money?	The PANN was undertaken by consultants in 2015 at a cost of £5k. This reflects positively against the stated combined PR values that this work has already generated
Are there any Social Value implications arising from the proposal?	None noted

Have you taken regard of the South Downs National Park Authority's equality duty as contained within the Equality Act 2010?	Yes, regard has been given to the Authorities equality duty and no negative impacts have been identified. The PANN seeks to achieve social equity across a range of environmental issues.
Are there any Human Rights implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Crime & Disorder implications arising from the proposal?	None
Are there any Health & Safety implications arising from the proposal?	none
Are there any Data Protection implications?	none
Are there any Sustainability implications based on the 5 principles set out in the SDNPA Sustainability Strategy:	The PANN seeks to achieve a strategic approach to sustainable land use at a sub-regional level and to maximise the use of green versus grey solutions to environmental, social and economic issues.

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Appendices I. Examples of NCIA work  
SDNPA Consultees Director of Countryside Policy and Management;  
External Consultees none  
Background Documents [People and Nature Network – The Evidence and Actions Report](#)  
[Landscapes Review: Final Report - Summary of findings](#)  
[Defra 25 Year Plan](#)