

## Integrated Planning and Partnerships Conference for Devon and Cornwall.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019

### Breakout groups – Summary of discussions.

Morning session
<p><b>What and where are your priorities and investment opportunities?</b></p> <p><b>Spatial Planning:</b> identified through strategic plans and used to embed policy changes in approach eg. biodiversity/ environmental net gain</p> <p><b>Land management change:</b> Cornwall Council have a new strategy for their county farms that goes to committee in December with financial support to encourage best practice (incentivise). Catchment partnerships and the farming sector want <b>better incentives</b> to manage land appropriately eg. New ELMS is seen as a key opportunity <b>to secure multiple benefits</b>. Soils conservation / management is a priority across south west and closely linked to the water cycle (below)</p> <p><b>Integrated Water management and planning:</b> should be a joint plan not by responsibility, increase understanding of the journey of water. Responsibility – should include land managers. This integrated approach is a priority for SWW and others, consider capital versus revenue funding.</p> <p><b>Nature Recovery Network:</b> Direct links to sustainable water management and conservation/ restoration of Natural Capital.</p> <p><b>Flood risks are changing:</b> this needs to be recognised by communities and by Risk Management Authorities. RMA's should set priorities for funding through FRMP's, SWMP's and LFRMP's. need to be careful of reactive funding in response to community pressure/ local impacts. Need to increase community understanding of flood risks and promote a <b>sustainable approach to flood risk management</b>. Empowering communities is a priority for RFCC</p> <p><b>NE and LEP wish to target investment to support Natural Capital</b>, links to Natural Flood management and Nature Recovery Network and restoration of natural processes? HotSW LEP are intending to adopt a Natural Capital report to help target investment. Links to EA's net carbon zero target.</p> <p><b>Coastal Change:</b> needs community engagement/ understanding. Coastal Change Management Areas have been identified and work should start to communicate the inevitable changes and potential options.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> It's a complex picture but there are lots of common strands and overlapping priorities, both in terms of themes and geographic location. Overriding need to secure funding and resources</p>
<p><b>How can we maximise and align opportunities for effective collaborative working?</b></p> <p><b>Spatial Planning:</b> need to move towards co production of plans rather than just consultation on draft plans. We all have a plan but at different scales / directions, how do we bring these together? Mapping is seen as the solution and we need a lead to coordinate this. <b>Consistent information sharing</b> and the mechanisms to do it. Easy access to a hub.</p> <p><b>Innovation:</b> attracts funding but it is important to share lessons learnt eg. from the North Devon pioneer project and forthcoming ELMS trial. How can we get better at sharing this information? Information exchange.</p> <p><b>Land management change:</b> target Cornwall Council county farms, and significant land owners. There is an opportunity to develop a network to share best practice, disseminate early work on the ELMS trial, develop business models and pool resources, one of the main barriers is that we still tend to work in silos. Need to actively find routes for integration.</p> <p><b>Evidence base v opportunity:</b> capitalise on existing partnership opportunities, move to payment for ecosystem services and use opportunities to deliver multiple benefits. Finding the right <b>Delivery Partner is key</b>, not necessarily public bodies. Work with NGO for delivery eg. Catchment partnerships and identify appropriate project lead (mutual aid), long term finance for NGO's, use Local Government Plan plus model.</p> <p><b>Climate change action plan</b> linked to spatial plans and neighbourhood plans. But it is wider we need to move from "it's someone else's responsibility" to "taking responsibility" – this is particularly true of the water environment. Who would be responsible for taking forward a catchment?</p> <p>Consistent <b>messages around coastal flood risk</b> and how we respond to it – needs to reflect proof/ evidence not societal pressure, encourage adaptation, practical measures to support roll back and to move communities.</p> <p><b>Timing of conversations</b> is key to align projects/ programmes. <b>Making time for conversations</b> within and between organisations is essential. Create a virtual team across organisations supported by an Area facilitator to make the links.</p> <p><b>Nature Recovery Network:</b> need common objectives to align and remove conflicts. Could provide a focus for Natural Capital and identifies areas where nature based solutions to reduce flooding and maintain water supply during droughts are effective.</p> <p><b>Summary:</b> Recognition that we do a lot already we know how to improve but need to <b>make the time for effective conversations</b> and to support those who coordinate/ facilitate action including community led initiatives.</p>
Afternoon session
<p><b>What activities and tools do we need to take integrated working forwards to 2021?</b></p> <p><b>Map of our strategic priorities</b> – signpost/ directory of strategic leads/ contacts could be part of the Area Integrated Plan. Natural Capital has a key role in sharing priorities spatially then linking areas to organisational plans could utilise the climate emergency to build momentum. Could use software to link applications.</p> <p><b>Better use of Catchment Partnerships</b> - need more resources to do this but preferable to creating another group. Support to bring people together around the catchment theme (investing in coordinators). Larger organisations could utilise technology more eg. Webex, co-location of staff to encourage communication and interchange of ideas, using Webex for partnership meetings.</p> <p>Possible role for an <b>area/ regional based catchment partnership equivalent</b> – could package issues in the right way to those with funding eg. Acting as a conduit to engage with LEP's on investment priorities. Need to recognise the benefits of coordinators eg, within SWIFT. Links to timing of conversations point in previous section. Could follow the <b>Soils Alliance as a model</b>.</p> <p><b>Develop Integrated programmes</b> through: Agreed evidence base, alignment of beneficiaries, mapping opportunities and alignment of delivery.</p>

**Accelerate ability to deliver** through: Simplified tool for approving public spend, business case and justifying costs particularly on smaller partnership projects and easy “wins”. Aligning work streams between organisations.

**Directory of organisations** setting out scope, expertise, interests etc. current flood responsibilities are too complex.

**Better quality conversations:** eg. Gelling ideas together, increased understanding of who needs to be involved, early stakeholder engagement to allow co production and develop community understanding of flooding, raising awareness of additional outcomes that could be achieved. Wider **recognition and acceptance of nature based solutions**, and sustainability. Share knowledge and experience eg. On Flood Resilience through Facebook.

**Targeted meetings:**

- with RMA's, land managers and others to raise awareness of issues/ solutions and seek integration,
- with communities to raise awareness of flood risks, options and impacts and bring forward local solutions and actions (self-help), this needs to be supported with a local action fund.
- collate information on benefits gained from projects present this in common language (killer facts)
- role of town and parish councils and resilience forums in raising awareness.

**Summary:** Common themes around **better communications and utilising existing partnerships/ groups**. There seems to be an assumption that the larger organisations should take this forward and have a role in actively facilitating conversations and in providing tools particularly mapping to streamline information exchange. Information dissemination should be at a local level through community groups.

**What are outcomes are you looking for through improvements to collaborative working?**

**Connect source to sea benefits** - Clean rivers, wetlands, estuaries and coast; **building resilience in the water cycle** to drought and flood.

Better **utilisation of existing groups** rather than creating new ones. Community involvement and building relationships with local business - local suppliers for local solutions. Role of agriculture to be recognised and supported. Existing partnerships need time and energy to be invested in them.

Clear **Area vision/ plan** that reflects strategic priorities - it should be a live document that everyone is signed up to, with spatial representation to encourage community ownership. The AIP could be a focus for public bodies. Catchment partnership to develop local visions for catchments.

Achieving **better projects and outcomes through integration** eg. Planting trees in the best places to deliver multiple benefits. Efficient ways of working, community links and decision making. Invest in informed decision making linking people to environment eg. Price of milk versus impacts of farming.

Use **climate change emergency as an opportunity to come together** – encourage community based action and integration around this theme; value of Place based strategies.

**Innovative and easily accessible funding**

**Summary:** As previous section