



Briefing Note on Delivering a Natural Capital Approach in Surrey

Introduction

Surrey Nature Partnership (SyNP) was officially recognized in 2012 by Defra as one of England's 48 Local Nature Partnerships (LNP).

Our Vision is to see a healthy natural environment throughout Surrey supporting economic and social benefits.

Our Mission is to **hard wire** recognition of the value of the natural environment **into all decision making** resulting in more informed decisions for Surrey. It will increase recognition of the **value of our natural capital and ecosystems as critical assets for Surrey, as important as its financial, social and other capitals**, and promote the need for thoughtful, sustainable management of these assets.

The SyNP Board comprises senior decision makers from a broad spectrum of organisations as shown [here](#).

The role of LNPs, through a strong national network provides strategic guidance and co-ordination of key players whilst understanding local complexities to ensure effective delivery, is essential as evidenced by the recent Aldersgate Report 'Investing in our Natural Assets: How Government can support Business Action'. This resonates with the stated objective of the Government to implement effective local delivery of its **25 year Environment Plan** currently being developed by Defra to ensure a healthy and resilient natural environment which benefits people and the economy.

Context

There are a number of key challenges to creating a sustainable and thriving future for the county of Surrey including the provision of housing and infrastructure to accommodate a growing population, ensuring sufficient natural resources to support this population and provide a high quality of life, health and well-being to our communities whilst supporting the continuation of Surrey's economy as a net income tax contributor to the Exchequer.

The SyNP approach is to implement a framework which will deliver a Thriveable Surrey and which can be scaled up and implemented nationally and internationally. This approach is being pioneered in partnership, **with the fundamental imperative of healthy natural capital underpinning all we do**, as a practical example of the framework developed by the [Thriveability Foundation](#). It advocates a multi-capital approach to deliver multiple benefits, implemented through collaboration and innovation as shown below.

What does a Thriveable Surrey include?

- Building Bridges**
Dismantling siloes to enable cross sector/disciplinary relationships to prosper.
 - Unprecedented knowledge transfer
 - Enhanced workplace culture
 - Healthier, happier employees
- Inclusive Cultures**
Culture comes alive in our actions. Building trust, integrity and openness is essential to the thrival of any organisation.
 - Strengthen well-being and happiness
 - Improved productivity
 - Build open, trusting relationships
- Sustainable Economic Prosperity**
Delivering the most economic sustainably prosperous business location in the UK.
 - Investment in Business
 - Recruitment and Retention
 - Research and Development
 - Employment opportunities
 - Health and Wellbeing
 - Environmental prosperity
- Multi-Capitals**
When other key factors are valued in decision making processes we can enable:
 - Environmental prosperity
 - Resilient Ecosystems
 - People, Planet, Profit approach/mindset
 - Purposeful existence
- Beyond business as usual**
Halting 20th century responses to 21st century problems by bringing our thinking up to date. Encouraging good /better practice that enables human development, resilient habitats and wise cultures:
 - From survival to thrival
 - Long-term growth and resilience
 - Responding to the three-gap problem through action
- Future Generations**
Involving young people in the conversation sooner is something every organisation should be looking to do. As well as gaining insights into what is going to attract them to your organisations, you should also be looking at how well you show the talent pool that you are open for business.

Thriveable Surrey Partnership



Implementing a Natural Capital Approach in Surrey

A natural capital led approach directly relates to the three key aspects of LNP work; sustainable land management, supporting development of a low carbon economy and promoting health & well-being and quality of life for people. This approach is key to developing the investment needed to deliver a [Living Landscape in Surrey](#) as advocated by Surrey Wildlife Trust.

In November 2015 SyNP published [naturally richer: a Natural Capital Investment Strategy \(NCIS\) for Surrey](#). This Strategy provides an assessment of natural capital in Surrey as of 2015 ([Valuing Surrey](#)), and provides a direction of travel and a set of principles by which natural capital investment can be directed, and identifies investment opportunities to be further developed through approaches such as [biodiversity compensation](#).

The activity to deliver the Natural Capital Approach, the NCIP, and a broader Thriveable Surrey 2050 will include:

1. The implementation of a Natural Capital Approach in Surrey, through the Natural Capital Investment Plan, resulting in sustainable long term management of our natural capital assets
2. An analysis of potential investment mechanisms into Surrey's natural capital with the development of at least one product e.g. a green note or bond for Surrey which can be piloted. Monitoring and reporting the success of this approach
3. Engagement with a wide range of sectors in particular business and health, with a focus on supporting the use of the Natural Capital Protocol as a mechanism for demonstrating the benefits of a Natural Capital Approach
4. Dissemination of the learning and knowledge developed to support the delivery of the 25 year Environment Plan through the Local Nature Partnership network (and in Surrey by Surrey Nature Partnership)
5. Embedding a collaborative, multi capital approach to decision making which can be scaled up nationally and internationally.

Next Steps

The next stage is the publication of a Natural Capital Investment Plan (NCIP) which will focus on the need to develop a portfolio of investable natural capital projects, streamlining the ability of investors to make green impact investments. The NCIP will build on the [Credit Suisse report Conservation Finance, From Niche to Mainstream: the building of an institutional asset class](#) which looks at how to develop natural capital investment opportunities.

The role of SyNP is to stimulate and catalyse a multi-capital approach, with natural capital at its core, and we have been progressing this through conversations with Local Enterprise Partnerships, business, local authorities and Defra. SyNP will implement the NCIP through its activities as an incubator for change and by stimulating new approaches in natural capital investment; as well as providing a forum where new and innovative partnerships can be created to deliver the change required. The NCIP will consider a range of mechanisms by which these investments can be encouraged and deployed to support local delivery of the 25 year environment plan, an essential step in the ambition to achieve a Thriveable Surrey. This approach is summarised [here](#).

Surrey Nature Partnership, 5th September 2017