

	<p>concern around the skills/knowledge on the environment in the LAA structures. The PSD Group has organised a series of seminars around the region (dates to be confirmed) around the SD content of LAAs. It was suggested that this group follow up later in the year (when new guidance on environmental content emerges). Alex B to send round the Defra LAA targets on climate change, and feed back the EG's discussion to LAA colleagues in GOEM - in particular the concern around lack of skills/knowledge in the environment field in LAAs.</p>	<p>AB MD</p>
	<p>Another area discussed under this heading was the structure of groups within EMRA, in particular the groups under the Policy Board. The group want to help Policy Board and ask if the EG can look at this and suggest a review as necessary, having looked at all Terms of Reference, membership and work programmes. The main aim would be to suggest how best to deal with overlaps and gaps, in terms of groups being “fit for purpose” and ensuring that form follows function.</p>	<p>AH/MD</p>
	<p>b) IRS Refresh update The main areas of the IRS Refresh that the EG can influence are the following (in relation to the environment):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aims and objectives • Indicators, actions and targets – particularly re climate change/ environment • Sub regional and local levels <p>Policy Board to be assured that the Environment Group is willing to assist in this</p>	<p>AH</p>
	<p>AH to send out the appropriate sections of IRS text under discussion to EAG/EG for discussion.</p>	
	<p>c) EMRA adoption of the Nottingham Declaration. 100% sign up by Las of the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change has now been achieved. This will be celebrated at an event in April, probably at Conkers. Cllr David Sprason is now keen to widen out the signatories to other sectors. The group discussed the need to encourage the environmental partners in the region to sign up. If possible, willing signatories could stand up and pledge to sign up at the event at Conkers. The Nottm Dec is aimed at LA's and all the associated support mechanisms are geared up to support LA's. Some revision may be needed to the wording to enable others to feel comfortable signing up. Adaptation of the ND will need to take account a wide range of other sectors in the wording.</p>	<p>GP ALL</p>
	<p>GP to look at Universities/ Science City for sign up</p> <p>All EG members to look at how they might set the process in motion to get sign up – nationally if possible, but certainly for the East Midlands</p>	<p>AH/MD</p>
	<p>Policy Board should be assured that the EG is keen to do all it can to support the Policy Board in this and is asking members to sign up, or start the process. The group is keen to assist in helping the EM to blaze a trail on this. It would therefore be helpful if the Policy Board is asking EG members to sign up. We</p>	

	<p>could be the first region to sign up across the board! Role of EG in monitoring the Assembly’s delivery on its commitment to the Nottingham Declaration was agreed, but thought inappropriate and impractical to widen this out to constituent members of the Assembly.</p>	
4.	<p>Update from project sub-groups on the work programme: The update report presented to the group was discussed. Green Infrastructure – the conference to take place on 24 April is entitled “Connecting People and Spaces”, chaired in the morning by Cllr Parsons. AH to approach John Freeman to chair the pm (He has agreed)</p> <p>The Group agreed that the conference should incorporate the growth points event. Natural England agreed to look at incorporating their Growth Points GI event with this one and liaise with AH</p> <p>AH to ensure that LAA people to be invited also, as well as the Growth Points people, LSPs and SSPs.</p> <p>Growth points – the group agreed to the report on the approach to Growth Points in principle, with the following caveat:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The group needs to know who is doing what ie Growth Point Coordinators – are these in each GPt and who employs them? • Is a full GI coordinator post really needed – ie is this the best way to achieve the outcomes required? • Links needed to EA Flood Risk work. Andrew Heaton the link via SP. <p>Natural England to look at these questions</p> <p>Spongy Landscapes/ Soils Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The actions presented in the report need more focus. • Hold on to the idea that soils are the focus • Outcomes and outputs are needed • The term “Spongy Landscapes” was thought to be too wide – need to keep a focus. <p>The sub group will need to meet again shortly to address these points and provide further clarity.</p> <p>Environmental evidence base Agreed by the Group that this project be developed further.</p> <p>Landscapes The report suggested the creation of a sub group to make the forum happen. Group to be chaired by Mark Felton, members from EAG.</p> <p>Suggestions from the group included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep it broad 	<p>AH</p> <p>MF/SB</p> <p>AH</p> <p>SP</p> <p>SB/MF</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>MF/EAG</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the Heritage Forum on the list • The emphasis of this work should be to harness things that are already going on, but not replace them – look for links and gaps • Map the region for who has done what – identify good practice and gaps • Forward looking integrated approach to future landscapes and effects of things such as biomass/ wind energy • Clarity on relationship of this forum to EMRA will be required formally. • NDPB Group MoU with EMRA should be revisited to include forums. <p>Water Although some of this may be covered under the soil management project, a meeting is to take place to discuss what, if anything else might need to be developed.</p>	<p>AH</p> <p>AH/SP /J Luger</p>
5.	<p>Update on regional activity: Launch of Rural Action Plan Copies of the East Midlands Rural Action Plan 2007-2013 and the East Midlands Rural Evidence Base were distributed. For more copies of either document please contact Alex Bowness on 0115 9712527. Alex also tabled a report indicating which actions in the RAP are down to the Assembly to deliver. Alex to forward a copy of this report electronically for distribution to the group.</p> <p>Climate Change Steering Group The EMCCSG has now appointed AEA to produce a draft Climate Change Programme of Action for the region, including specific actions allocated to responsible delivery organisations. Sharon Palmer to check whether this work will include indicators. 1st draft due 12 March, final draft May, consultation over the summer and a launch of the action plan at the EMRA EXPO. There is a proposal for a joint meeting between the EAG and the EMCCSG.</p> <p>AH to check on the CC/economy project with James Luger.</p> <p>Behavioural Change Project The interviews for this project took place on 2 March, Brook Lyndhurst were the successful consultants and the inception meeting will take place on 15 March, with a final report of this first stage by the end of June. Further work will necessitate the involvement of this group on the environmental aspects.</p> <p>Water Framework Directive Copies of the 2nd and 3rd newsletters for the Humber Liaison Panel were distributed with the reports for this meeting. It is suggested that a report be produced for the September round of meetings (to go up to Policy Board).</p> <p>RSS EIP The draft EIP list of Matters and Participants is now available on the Panel's website at: http://www.planning-inspectorate.gov.uk/pins/rss/east_midlands/documents/em_matters_draft_listppm_v5.p</p>	<p>ABo</p> <p>SP</p> <p>AH</p> <p>AH</p> <p>ALL</p>

	<p>df . Deadline for the written statements is likely to be 24 April. The EIP will take place from 22 May to July and will circulate around the region.</p> <p>Regional Biodiversity Forum The RBF has recently undergone a review of structures and Terms of reference. A new chair will be elected at the end of March. Biodiversity Enhancement and Conservation Areas are now in the RSS. Concern re funding (runs out March 08). SITA trust funding for biodiversity projects - Sita Project Assessment Panel has now run out of funds for this year. The success of the Forum advising the Sita Panel was noted and recommended this type of relationship be replicated where possible.</p>	
6.	<p>Suggested agenda items for the Policy Board:</p> <p>Structure of groups covering environment The group want to help Policy Board and ask if the EG can look at this and suggest a review as necessary, having looked at all Terms of Reference, membership and work programmes. The main aim would be to suggest how best to deal with overlaps and gaps, in terms of groups being “fit for purpose” and ensuring that form follows function.</p> <p>IRS Refresh Policy Board to be assured that the Environment Group is willing to assist in this.</p> <p>Nottingham Declaration Policy Board should be assured that the EG is keen to do all it can to support the Policy Board in this and is asking members to sign up, or start the process. The group is keen to assist in helping the EM to blaze a trail on this. It would therefore be helpful if the Policy Board is asking EG members to sign up. We could be the first region to sign up across the board!</p> <p>Strategic River Corridors (SRC) The Strategic River Corridors Initiative is currently overseeing the INTERREG funded Strategic Partnerships Along River Corridors (SPARC) project with European partners. A newsletter was distributed at the meeting. Awareness raising needed with Policy Board on this and the SPARC conference due to take place this September in the East Midlands.</p> <p>Connecting People and Spaces – GI Conference This conference will take place On 24 April at Pera and will formally launch the Public Benefit Mapping Project completed last year, but now made into a more interactive format. The East Midlands GI Network (EMGIN) will also be launched and the workshops in the morning will be used to find out what the structure and content of this web based network should be. Green Space East Midlands Forum are having their formal launch, and there will be a workshop for the Growth Points. A flyer will be available and will be distributed in the next few days. Cllr Parsons will chair the morning, and John Freeman will chair the afternoon.</p> <p>Revision of Group MoU</p>	

	<p>With the replacement of CA/ EN and Defra (RDS) by Natural England, there is now an opportunity to revisit the Group Mou with the Environmental NDPBs. It is suggested that the opportunity be taken to seek to include the relevant forums in this. Alison H to discuss with NR.</p> <p>Water Framework Directive It is suggested that a report be produced for the September round of meetings (to go up to Policy Board) on progress made with the RB Management Plans.</p>	
7	<p>Tit bits/ grapevine</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Climate Change – National Trust and Magnum Photography have produced a photographic exhibition which focuses attention on the impact of Climate Change on Britain “Exposed Climate Change in Britain’s Backyard”. National Launch end March, with a nation tour starting in Nottingham Castle. Preview night 18 May, Public 19 May – 1 July, with events in Nottingham Market (Slab) Square planned for Sat 2 June and possibly 5/6 June (World Environment Day – opportunity for linkages). ○ Natural England are also doing a Climate Change Campaign during the course of this year, with a focus on habitats and species. This is a National campaign with a regional dimension, so will focus on species we can take action on in the East Midlands. ○ English Heritage – copies of “Heritage Counts – The State of England’s Historic Environment 2006” and “Heritage Counts – The State of the East Midlands’ Historic Environment 2006” were distributed at the meeting. Alison H has further copies and will post them out on receipt of physical address details. ○ “Valuing Our Heritage” – an advocacy document by the Historic Environment sector to influence the next round of CSR. ○ 8 March – a written answer in Parliament to introduce the Heritage Protection White Paper – to simplify procedures and designation regimes and put heritage more firmly in the planning framework. Building Historic Environment into the heart of the Planning Process by DCMS. ○ Wellinborough SSP – Community Climate Change Toolkit launched with a visit by David Milliband and four days local press coverage. Regional recognition as a Centre of Expertise for Sustainable Development in Education from the University of the United Nations. 	
8.	<p>Forward dates and venues for meetings: 10 May 2007 (venue to be confirmed) Alison to ask emda if they have a room available.</p>	AH/ JL/KB
9.	<p>Any other business none</p>	