

**THAMES BASIN HEATHS  
JOINT STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP BOARD**

Date: 27 March 2008

Subject: **Progress on Monitoring Strategy**

Report of: Natural England

**Recommendations:**

That the Board:

- (i) considers the progress that has been made to date on preparing a monitoring strategy
- (ii) supports the proposal for the production of a draft monitoring strategy by a working group based on the two Natural England reports and agrees to consider the detailed monitoring strategy at the next JSP Board meeting.

**Purpose of the Report:**

To outline progress made towards producing a monitoring strategy for the TBH.

**Key Issues:**

Work has been commissioned by Natural England to look at appropriate monitoring of the SPA and SANG. Once complete this will form the basis of a monitoring strategy for the area. Natural England will provide the Board with a short presentation setting out progress to date.

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. One of the key aspects of success of the ISDP, as suggested by the EIP Technical Assessors Report, was effective monitoring of the SPA. Natural England has commissioned work to provide a starting point for a monitoring strategy of the Thames Basin Heath SPA.
- 1.2. The objectives of this brief report are to inform Members of the JSP Board of progress on the production of this monitoring strategy and to advise the Board of the formation of a small working group to evaluate the recommendations and a possible implementation of the monitoring strategy.

## **2. Background and Considerations**

- 2.1. Natural England has arranged contracts with Footprint Ecology and David Tyldelsey Associates to suggest appropriate monitoring of the Suitable Natural Greenspaces (SANGS), access management and bird populations of the SPA and the planning decisions across the 11 participating local authorities.
- 2.2. The monitoring strategy needs to reflect the situation in Thames Basin Heaths SPA. At the same time, there are similar circumstances in the Dorset Heaths SPA project and the strategy needs to consider the two projects to work.

## **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1. Natural England will provide the Board with a short presentation setting out progress to date.
- 3.2. It is recommended that the Joint Strategic Partnership Board:
  - (i) considers the progress that has been made to date on preparing a monitoring strategy.
  - (ii) supports the proposal for the production of a draft monitoring strategy by a working group based on the two Natural England reports and agrees to consider the detailed monitoring strategy at the next JSP Board meeting.

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