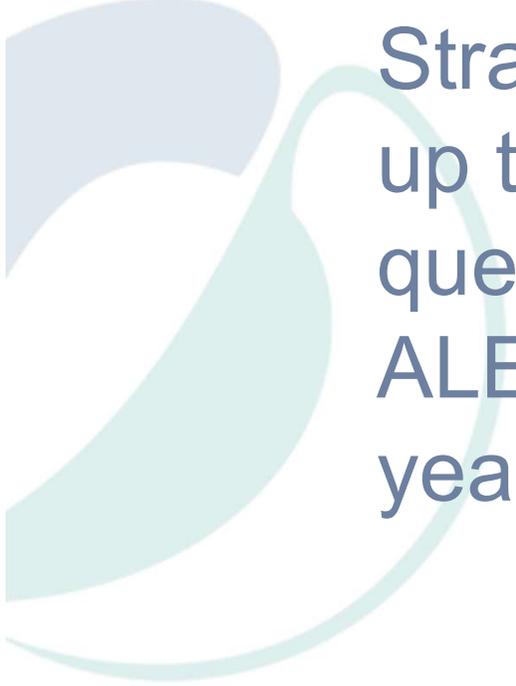




# ALERC Strategy 2015-20

Mark Wills



“The Association of Local Environmental Records Centres Strategic Plan has been drawn up to answer the fundamental question, what direction will ALERC take over the next five years?”

# The 2015 Landscape

- UK is partway through an austerity programme of budget cuts – DEFRA's budget is cut severely
- Biodiversity not high on UK & devolved governments agendas; DEFRA heavily under-resourced
- Anti-regulation culture in government; Free and Open Data agenda.
- DEFRA 'Biodiversity Monitoring & Surveillance Strategy' has been released in draft form. Includes working with devolved administrations collectively
- Funding from government to support LERCs in shorter supply and pressure is on local partnerships to fill the gaps
- LPA budgets also shrinking – so a possible opportunity for LERCs to support LPAs
- European legislation and targets
- The rise of Ecosystem Services, Ecological Networks, Catchment planning
- LERCs see resource-hungry data processes developing, increased access to high quality IT and some shared developments of solutions – is the traditional LERC output out of date?

## What were our aims and did we achieve them?

Analyse all our audiences and identify our priorities. ?

Revisit our branding and how we position the association and its members. 👍

Establish and build links with partners who can also promote ALERC. 👍

Deliver our communications with a view to making them more directed and with a clear idea of what we seek to get out of them ?

## What were our aims and did we achieve them?

Matching income and costs in discrete functions; such as the annual conference



Building up our cash reserves over time to allow for match funding of project bids



Securing long term funding of the ANC, through external project bids, long term partnerships and increased membership income over time



## What were our aims and did we achieve them?

	<b>Target</b> (to be reached by 2017-18)	<b>Current</b> (2019-20)
<b>Small LERC</b>	£500	£475
<b>Medium LERC</b>	£850	£800
<b>Large LERC</b>	£1200	£1125

## What were our aims and did we achieve them?

Securing 100% membership of LERCs



41 to 46 with 7 main LERCs yet to join (77 - 87%)

Delivering a profitable conference, annually



Thanks for your support

Accreditation of all LERCs



6 to 15 (33%)

# What were our aims and did we achieve them?

What will ALERC look like in five years time (2020)?

If ALERC succeeds in delivering these priorities, we will be an association that:

- a) has a high profile, operating in equal partnership with others within the NBN
- b) provides benefits for all LERCs within the UK
- c) provides a co-ordinated voice for biodiversity data within the planning system and within government departments and agencies
- a) has sufficient resource to grow strategically and be reactive to our members needs
- b) is integral to developing national partnerships and initiatives for long term biodiversity data projects, which deliver nationally and locally

# The 2019 Landscape

- DEFRA's budget is still cut severely
- SBIF review
- NBNT seeking to develop a more commercial business model
- Brexit
- 25 year environment plan - Environment Bill introduced yesterday
- Biodiversity Net Gain, Natural Capital, Nature Recovery Networks, **Local** Nature Recovery Strategies
- Funding from government to support LERCs in short supply. LERCs need to continue to diversify to thrive
- Government Free and Open Data agenda
- Big data, hosted IT solutions, enhanced LERC products being developed through e.g. species distribution and habitat suitability modelling, novel monitoring methods e.g. DNA barcoding, UAVs/remote sensing
- Open data movement provides signposting/advertising opportunities for LERCs.
- British Standards for data management?
- Is the world ready for LERC 2.0?