Vision: A rich and healthy natural environment in the Tees Valley that sustains a vibrant place for people to live, work and learn

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS
Protecting & improving the natural environment

Priority 1: ***Protect & enhance the geodiversity & biodiversity*** of the Tees Valley ensuring the conservation, ***restoration & creation*** of key landscapes & habitats, including mitigating & adapting to the impacts of climate change

- **Outcome 1:** The areas of highest wildlife value including designated & non designated ***sites are protected & well managed***. Habitat & species numbers are increasing
- **Outcome 2**: Opportunities for ***new habitat creation*** including buffer zones around key features & ***sites & restoration*** of existing key habitats which have been lost or significantly reduced in the Tees Valley are realised.
- **Outcome 3:** There is a ***greater understanding & appreciation*** of the range of services & benefits that the natural environment brings to communities & the local economy in the Tees Valley which informs decision making
- **Outcome 4:** Existing core ***habitat areas are well managed*** to ensure species can adapt & are resilient to pressures such as climate change

Priority 2: Work at a landscape scale to ***restore & deliver robust ecological networks*** that demonstrate a wide range of environmental, social & economic outcomes

- **Outcome 5**: Habitats are better connected, either physically or functionally & coherent ***ecological networks are established*** (so that wildlife can move easily between habitat patches)
- **Outcome 6**: The countryside, urban green infrastructure & previously developed (Brownfield land) are more ***permeable to wildlife*** through a mosaic of different habitats in the landscape - the ***range of habitats needed*** by some widespread species is present

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH
Growing a sustainable economy

Priority 3*: Influence local decision making* & contribute to the preparation, review & implementation of local plans & strategies.

- **Outcome 7**: ***Industrial & commercial areas*** of the Tees Valley are set within ***high quality environments***, encouraging further investment that enhances the local economy & provides employment opportunities
- **Outcome 8:** Natural environments are ***created & enhanced*** through creative use of ***planning mechanisms*** e.g. Section 106, Environmental Impact Assessments, & biodiversity offsetting

Priority 4: Raise the profile of the Tees Valley as an attractive place to live, work or visit by championing the value & contribution of the natural environment through ***strong leadership, advice & support***

- **Outcome 9:** ***The image of the Tees Valley*** as a place to establish or relocate a business is enhanced
- **Outcome 10:** The ***tourism sector*** experiences growth as more green and attractive
- **Outcome 11:** ***More volunteering opportunities*** are available through ongoing habitat creation, restoration & maintenance which act as a stepping stone into employment

Priority 5: Seek positive outcomes for nature & the local economy by ***working closely with the economic sector***, providing objective knowledge, expertise & advice

- **Outcome 12**: The environmental sector is stronger providing greater ***employment opportunities***
- **Outcome 13:** ***Business*** across the Tees Valley are ***environmentally sustainable*** and able to adapt to the changing climate

THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH & WELLBEING –
Reconnecting people & nature

Priority 6: ***Engage with local communities*** to ensure that their views are reflected in the activities & priorities of the Partnership, & that they understand the opportunities offered by the natural environment on their doorstep.

- **Outcome 14:** People ***are better informed*** regarding the links between the natural environment and healthier lives
- **Outcome 15:** ***Connections between people & nature*** are strengthened, to the benefit of both

Priority 7: Make positive contributions towards the health and wellbeing of local people by demonstrating the opportunities that ***better access to & use of the natural environment*** can provide

- **Outcome 16:** Communities have ***improved access*** to the natural environment & local green spaces
- **Outcome 17:** People have increasingly ***healthy lifestyles*** improving their mental, emotional & physical wellbeing
- **Outcome 18*: High quality green environments*** exist in towns & villages with clean air & water, contributing to public safety & well-being