



Role and membership of the TVNP Board

1. Background

The objectives and structure of the TVNP was set out in a Draft Terms of Reference that formed part of the application to Defra to receive its “government recognised” status. The application was underpinned by extensive consultation with a wide range of stakeholders in 2012. It is anticipated that the Terms of Reference will be adopted by the Board at its first meeting. Information relating to the Board, taken from the draft Terms, is presented below.

2. Partnership governance and structure

The TVNP will be governed by a Board, which will be serviced by a management group and delivery/implementation groups. The TVWT will act as the accountable body for the partnership. A Partnership website will provide a vehicle for communication and members will have the opportunity to engage further through membership of the Board, management group or via input to delivery and task and finish groups.

3. Role of the board

The TVNP will be steered by a representative Board. The Board will provide a strategic leadership and direction for the work of the TVNP. It will be responsible for the following roles:

- Defining the strategic priorities of the TVNP Based on the aims of the Partnership
- To further develop the Partnership by reviewing and developing the TVNPs strategic aims, ensuring that they remain relevant and reflect the views of the Partnership and the local needs of the Tees Valley
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and performance of the TVNP to deliver integrated environmental benefits
- Champion the vision of the TVNP to ensure that this vision is communicated to wider decision makers across a diversity of sectors.

4. Processes and procedures of the Board

- The Board will meet a minimum of twice a year to set strategic direction and monitor progress
- Meetings will be minuted and, where appropriate, action points will be identified with the individuals or groups responsible shown.

- The Board will elect a Chair and a Vice Chair on a biennial basis. Board membership will be for a three year term with two terms of office as a maximum.
- Secretariat will be provided initially by the TVWT.
- Where possible the Board will make decisions based on consensus and agreement. If this is not possible then decisions will be taken by a majority vote of the Board members, with the meeting Chair having the casting vote. For a vote to be quorate at least one third of the Board members must be present.
- The business of the Board and decisions taken will be communicated on the Partnership website.

5. Composition of Board

The Board will comprise of 12-15 members. Each representative will have multiple interests and will not be representing a single organisation.

Membership of the Board will include the following representatives;

- One collective representative of the five Tees Valley local authorities
- Two representatives of the Environmental charity sector
- One local community representative
- One collective representative of the Defra delivery agencies
- One representative of the LEP/business community
- One representative of the health and wellbeing sector
- One representative from a local academic institution
- One representative from the agricultural/rural affairs sector
- One representative from the countryside access, recreation and tourism sector
- One representative of a major natural heritage funder
- Representative of accountable body

6. Expectations and role of Board Members

- Champion the work of the Partnership to relevant partners, organisations and networks
- Provide strategic input into the key decisions of the Board relating to vision, strategic objectives and delivery plans
- Actively seek opportunities to influence the strategy and plans of relevant organisations and groups to further the aspirations of the Partnership
- Represent and be accountable for the wider interests of their sector at Partnership meetings

- Operate in an open, responsive and accountable manner that adheres at all times to high standards, ethics and governance of public life.

7. The role of the Board Chair

- The principal duties and responsibilities of the Chair will be to:
- Build support for the vision and aspirations of the Partnership by acting as an influential advocate
- Chair Board meetings, having regard for the agreed procedures of the Partnership, fulfilling these duties in a manner that is free of political influence or bias
- Represent the Partnership, acting as a spokesperson at appropriate events, forums and meetings
- Ensure a culture of mutual respect, partnership working and quality of opportunity for the Partnership
- Ensure that the views of the wider Partnership are represented and taken into account during decision making in order to deliver integrated benefits for the natural environment.

8. Development work on membership of the board

A development group that was established in January 2012 from members of the TV biodiversity Partnership and the TV Environment Forum. This group has supported the work of the TVNP Development Manager to guide the formation of the Partnership. This group has worked to populate the board and to date eight Board members have been secured. Some places remain unfilled; these are positions that the Development Group felt that it didn't have sufficient knowledge of that sector to make an appointment. The decision was taken to hold the first Board meeting and to involve members' appointing further representatives.

Updated Susan Antrobus 27.09.12