



## Terms of reference of the TVNP planning Delivery group

### 1. Background

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) has stated that being a 'government recognised' LNP means:

- it will be seen as a balanced, strategic and knowledgeable partnership that can add value to important decision making in an area
- it will have an important contribution to make to strategic planning matters within their area

The government has added (January 2013) LNP's to the Duty to Co-operate in the Local Planning Regulations. This means that bodies bound by the duty to co-operate will need to have regard to the views of LNP's on strategic planning matters. This will include informing and working collaboratively with local planning authorities.

A strategic planning delivery group has been set up to enable the TVNP to work towards ensure that the vision and objectives of the TVNP for a sustainable high quality natural environment are met by influencing local, sub regional and national policies and strategies. This group reports to the TVNP Management Group.

### 2. Purpose and remit of group

- to liaise with the local planning authorities and recommend a process for the LNP to become an effective partner in the local plan process
- to identify the main cross-boundary and landscape scale issues affecting the natural environment in the Tees Valley and demonstrate how these could be addressed through the local plan process
- demonstrate the value of the TVNPs "Natural Network and Opportunity Mapping" and how its evidence can be applied
- identify any gaps in the current evidence base for local plans and recommend how these gaps should be filled
- investigate the potential for biodiversity offsetting in the Tees Valley
- contribute to wider policies, such as regeneration, health and wellbeing, to promote the role of a quality natural environment.

### 3. Production of TVNP responses on consultations on strategies and plans

This group reports to the TVNP management group and is tasked with drawing up TVNP input on strategic consultations. It is important that the coordinated response is solely related to the vision and aims and objectives of the TVNP rather than any wider objectives of individual partner organisations.

For example in preparing responses to local land use planning policies and strategies the following questions should be considered if appropriate;

- How will the policies protect, enhance and expand the ecological network in the Tees Valley?

- Do the policies address the need for landscape scale approach to the natural environment?
- Do the policies address the protection of the hierarchy of site protection?
- Do the policies make use of the most up to date and accurate data? Is the additional data that could be used?
- Do the policies support a sustainable ecosystem services?
- Do the policies incorporate/take into account mitigation and adaptation to climate change
- What implications do the policies have in improving quality and accessibility of public open space
- Do policies promote/provide opportunities for people to explore the natural environment through footpaths/cycle ways network
- Do policies promote the transition to low carbon economy and diversify the local economy

#### **4. Mechanism for producing responses**

A working mechanism needs to be established to enable the TVNP to respond to its strategic planning role, recognising the challenges that a Partnership has in having a wide ranging membership and the need to work within short time frames via email and ensuring that there is adequate opportunities for participation and transparency. To do this it is suggested that the following system is trialled;

An influencing strategic plans programme has been produced which will be regularly updated by the TVNP Development Manger. Each plan will be assigned a lead. This spreadsheet will be used to track progress on consultations that will provide dates for the planning group members to contribute input, a time for the assigned lead to draw up a collated response and a defined window of opportunity for members of the Management group to comment if they so wish. The formal response will be send on a TVNP letter head which will include standard paragraphs on the role and remit of the TVNP, its membership and the scope of the response. This will be signed off by either the Chair of the Management group or the TVNP Development Manager on behalf of the partnership.