



TVNP Draft Plan September 2016

The following document sets out a plan for the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. To help achieve our vision of '*a rich and healthy natural environment in the Tees Valley that sustains a vibrant place for people to live work and learn*' there are seven priorities with associated outcomes across three key themes. These were developed through the partnership in 2012/2013 and are laid out in the diagram on the following page.

A partnership event on 30th June 2016 developed this initial framework to give ideas on what the partnership should be focusing on short term, one year and medium term, five years. These are laid out in the plan in this document.

For the first year much of the work identified involves building a sound base for the partnership to work from. This includes; producing reports, guidance, bringing together evidence, identify specific priorities and making meaningful connections with the economic and health and wellbeing sectors. Most of the former actions work across all three themes.

Some actions identified by the partners have been moved from the short to the medium term and will be picked up as the partnership progresses. It is important to acknowledge that the partnership needs to be pro-active whilst also leaving space to respond to opportunities that arise.

The main actions (larger pieces of work) identified for the first year can be summarised:

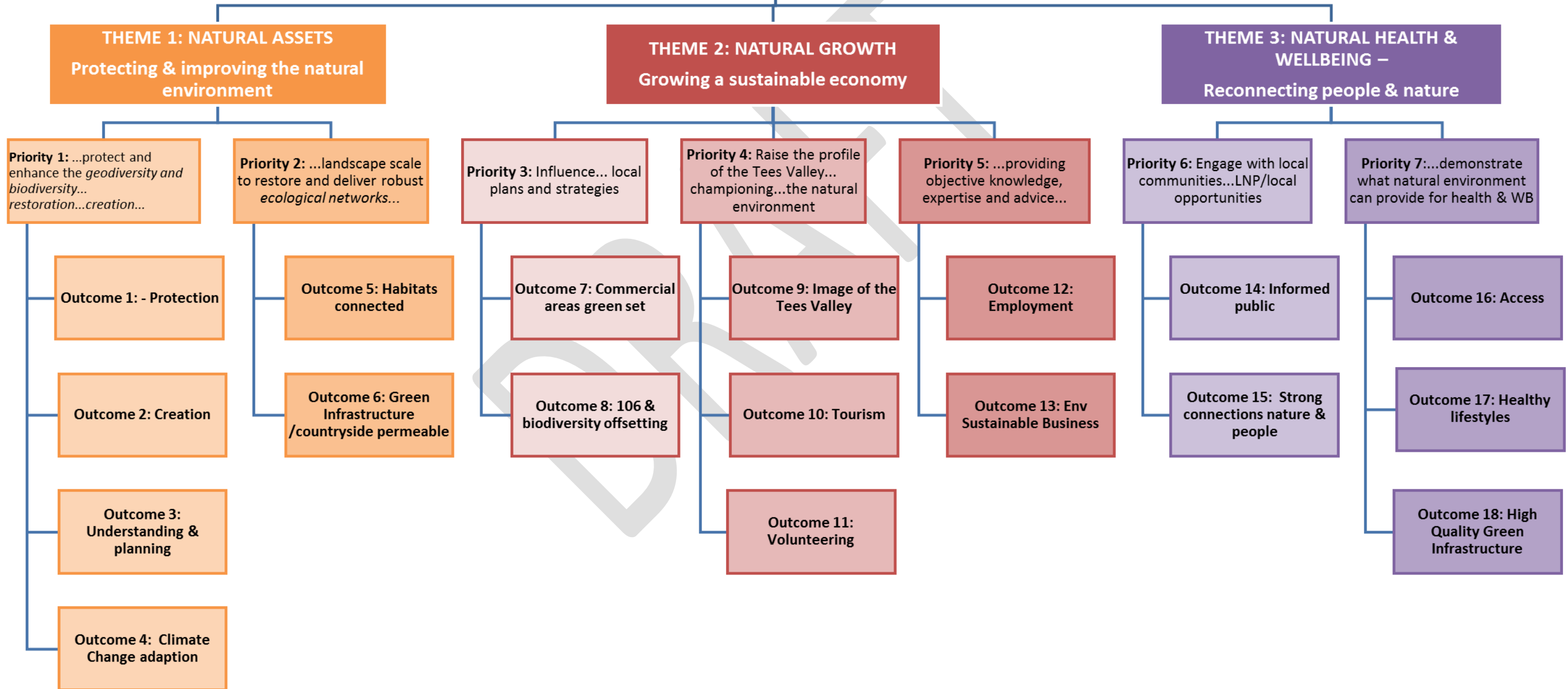
- Produce guidance and assessment tool for local plans based on TVNP priorities and landscape scale opportunity maps that Local Planning Authorities' can check against & prove they are compliant with the principals of the TVNP **REPORT 1**
- Produce a report on the distribution, importance and condition of the Tees Valley 's key habitats and species as a baseline for priority actions in the future. **REPORT 2**
- Identify local priorities for landscape scale project delivery, agree core principals and identify target areas which would deliver greatest biodiversity, social and economic benefit. **REPORT 3**
- Pilot in a sample area a more detailed mapping exercise that: identifies new areas of core habitat or potential wildlife sites; better defines the ecological networks; shows restoration opportunities; ascertains the priorities for buffer areas, movement routes, habitat creation etc. Produce a report to scale it up to Tees Valley **REPORT 4**
- Host an annual TVNP forum event

Rachel Murtagh, Tees Valley Nature Partnership Officer 16/09/2016

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

Purpose:

- To be an effective unified voice to champion the Tees Valley's environment;
- To provide a strategic framework for local environmental delivery;
- To influence local plans, strategies & policies in order to integrate the delivery of environmental benefits & services alongside economic & social benefits



TVNP – Vision- themes-priorities and desired outcomes



THEME 1 NATURAL ASSETS - Protecting and improving the natural environment

Our ambition: To create a more resilient natural environment for the benefit of wildlife and people by conserving, restoring, recreating and reconnecting wildlife-rich spaces



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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME-SCALE | PRIORITY |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|
| 1. The areas of highest wildlife value including designated and non-designated sites are protected and well managed . Habitat and species numbers are increasing. | Support the sustainable management of wildlife habitat/core habitat areas e.g. ancient woodland, meadow, priority ponds etc. by developing a partnership approach that has multiple environmental, economic and social benefits. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a report on the distribution, importance and condition of the Tees Valley 's key habitats and species as a baseline for priority actions in the future. REPORT 2 Identify current and planned projects in core habitat areas – summarising in broad terms what we are already doing Re-launch core habitat & geological site maps – Natural Networks & Opportunity Maps. Identify management leads in each local authority area | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Natural Assets Working Group (NAWG) NAWG Rachel Murtagh (RMM) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 2016 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 3 |
| | Co-ordinate an effective Local Sites Partnership to support the management of the network of Local wildlife and geological sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-launch Local Sites Partnership as working group of TVNP (Natural Assets Working Group (NAWG)) Identify a 'work programme' based on baseline 'Report 2' Work out/examine ideas of how to mutually resource work needed on identified sites | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM NAWG NAWG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 8/2016 2016 2016/17 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 3 |
| | Work in partnership with ERIC NE (Environment Records Information Centre North East) to actively signpost stakeholders to new and existing sources of evidence and data about the natural environment; identifying gaps in evidence or data and promoting steps to fill these. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact ERIC NE & establish a clear working agreement on how to take this forward | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 |

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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME-SCALE | PRIORITY |
|---|---|--|---|--|----------|
| <p>2. Opportunities for new habitat creation including buffer zones around key features and sites and restoration of existing key habitats which have been lost or significantly reduced in the Tees Valley are realised.</p> | <p>Develop the Tees Valley landscape areas map to greater detail to highlight future nature development opportunities.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local priorities for landscape scale project delivery, agree core principals and identify target areas which would deliver greatest biodiversity social benefit and economic benefits. REPORT 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC (to be confirmed) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/10/16 Joint workshop with NELNP, NUCLNP, TVNP & HLF | <p>1</p> |
| <p>3. There is a greater understanding and appreciation of the range of services and benefits that the natural environment brings to communities and the local economy in the Tees Valley which informs decision making</p> | <p>Help decision makers adopt an ecological evidence-based approach, employing the Tees Valley 'Natural Network and Opportunity Map's as a resource to underpin landscape scale initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Influence DEFRA – input into new farmland grant schemes <p>Engage a broad spectrum of disciplines across the five Local Authorities to win their support including health & wellbeing and economic regeneration.</p> <p>Engage with the Combined Authority – aim to win their support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding/support to commission a report on the Natural Capital of the Tees Valley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce guidance and assessment tool for local plans based on TVNP priorities and landscape scale opportunity maps that Local Planning Authorities' can check against & prove they are compliant with the principals of the TVNP REPORT 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&N WG/RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/16 | <p>1</p> |
| <p>4. Existing core habitat areas are well managed to ensure species can adapt and are resilient to pressures such as climate change</p> | <p>Identify changes likely to have a significant impact on habitats and species in the Tees Valley, and identify appropriate mitigation measures</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify habitats/species at risk in the Tees Valley | | | | |

THEME 1 NATURAL ASSETS - Protecting and improving the natural environment



Our ambition: To create a more resilient natural environment for the benefit of wildlife and people by working at a landscape scale to restore, recreate and reconnect wildlife-rich spaces in rural and urban areas

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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIMESCALE | PRIORITY |
|--|--|---|---|--|-------------------|
| 5. Habitats are better connected , either physically or functionally and coherent ecological networks are established (so that wildlife can move easily between habitat patches) | Create landscape scale natural networks which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing designated sites (SPA, SSSI, local sites etc.) Other, often disconnected sites and features such as parks, amenity open space, pockets of woodland, river and stream corridors, roadside verges, ponds and hedgerows The wider countryside and urban green infrastructure | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local priorities for landscape scale project delivery, agree core principals and identify target areas which would deliver greatest biodiversity, social and economic benefit. REPORT 3 Support Landscape Partnerships in the Tees Valley from concept to delivery | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC TVNP board/steer grp. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/10/16 Joint workshop TBC | <p>1</p> <p>2</p> |
| | Support local authorities & government agencies to identify opportunities to restore, extend and create ecological networks and work with local planning authorities to develop the appropriate policy response to support the natural network concept through local plans | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pilot in a sample area, to produce a report to scale up to Tees Valley a more detailed mapping exercise that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identifies new areas of core habitat or potential wildlife sites Better defines the ecological networks Shows restoration opportunities Ascertain the priorities for buffer areas, movement routes, habitat creation etc. REPORT 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Task and finish group within P&N WG | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC | <p>1</p> |
| 6. The countryside, urban green infrastructure and previously developed (Brownfield land) are more permeable to wildlife through a mosaic of different habitats across the landscape ensuring that the range of habitats needed by some widespread species is present | Influence strategic opportunities for strengthening natural networks. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Historic Stockton-Darlington green link take advantage of 2025 rail bicentenary Review Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy alongside Natural Network & Opportunity Maps. Identify/extract key projects that could be developed with environmental-socio-economic benefits REPORT 5 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce guidance and assessment tool for local plans based on TVNP priorities and landscape scale opportunity maps that Local Planning Authorities' can check against & prove they are compliant with the principals of the TVNP REPORT 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&N WG/RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/16 | <p>1</p> |
| | Examine the strategic use of Countryside Stewardship schemes. Joining up farms/landholdings and their owners/managers to enable wider landscape scale environmental improvements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feed Tees Lowland & Cleveland Hills priority area information into the more comprehensive Opportunity Mapping proposal | | | | |

THEME 2 NATURAL GROWTH - Growing a sustainable economy



Our ambition: To create a quality resilient natural environment that supports sustainable economic growth & investment in the Tees Valley

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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME- SCALE | PRIORITY |
|---|---|---|--|--|----------|
| 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 | Establish a monetary value for the Tees Valley natural environment – ‘natural capital’ and eco-system services for integration into investment decisions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek funding/support to commission a report on the Natural Capital of the Tees Valley (as identified in Natural Assets Outcome 3 actions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make the Natural Networks and Opportunity mapping data publically available in an accessible format. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2016 | 1 |
| | Establish links with the Tees Valley Combined Authority in order to share information and ideas and promote the natural environment at key decision stages. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local Environment and Economic Development (LEED) Toolkit (NE & EA) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find a key person within the Combined Authority to link to (Reports & proposals will build evidence base needed) Ensure all partner organisations and their staff are championing the TVNP and message regarding the natural environment are consistent with TVNP guiding principles and priorities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVNP board/ steering grp | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2016 | 1 |
| 8. Natural environments are created and enhanced through creative use of planning mechanisms (conditions and obligations) e.g. Section 106, Environmental Impact Assessments, and biodiversity offsetting | Encourage the use of biodiversity offsetting as a potential solution that allows development to go ahead without loss of biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate best practice & consider training/guidance for key Planning Officers in the Tees Valley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an area on the TVNP website that provides: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Documents e.g. Tees Valley SUDs guidance Case studies/best practice | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> July 2016 & on-going | 1 |
| | Encourage the provision of innovative and cost saving solutions to flood risk and climate change challenges which may impact upon businesses, including making use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDs) and improving developments through better design. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above | | | |

THEME 2 NATURAL GROWTH – Growing a sustainable economy



Our ambition: To create a quality resilient natural environment that supports sustainable economic growth & investment in the Tees Valley

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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME-SCALE | PRIORITY |
|--|--|--|--|--|----------|
| 9. The image of the Tees Valley as a place to establish or relocate a business is enhanced | Investigate the potential to create best practice on good developments for industrial areas maximising environmental sustainability and the natural environment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign-post examples of best practice & offer case studies of good business/industrial development through the TVNP website | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Produce guidance and assessment tool for local plans based on TVNP priorities and landscape scale opportunity maps that Local Planning Authorities' can check against & prove they are compliant with the principals of the TVNP REPORT 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P&N WG/RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9/16 | 1 |
| 10. The tourism sector experiences growth as more green and attractive | Promote opportunities for nature-based tourism which will have positive impacts on the local economy | | | | |
| | Help signpost opportunities for nature-based tourism in the Tees Valley and support initiatives to increase accessibility to the natural environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a data base of nature sites across the Tees Valley • Create a 'get involved' area on TVNP website | | | | |
| | Identify alternative sites to ease pressure on 'honey pots'/popular sites and/or mitigate against negative impact of tourism on sensitive sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link in with North York Moors National Park | | | | |
| 11. More volunteering opportunities are available through ongoing habitat creation, restoration and maintenance which act as a stepping stone into employment | Develop a nature based Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) programme | | | | |
| | Integrate with current opportunities and activity that link to pathways to volunteering and/or employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a monetary value for nature based/environment volunteer time across the Tees Valley (as a contribution towards natural capital report) • Develop a project that can go forward to LEADER funding (NYM Coast & Hills or Tees Valley & Vale of Mowbray) | | | | |

THEME 2 NATURAL GROWTH - Growing a sustainable economy



Our ambition: To create a quality resilient natural environment that supports sustainable economic growth & investment in the Tees Valley

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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME SCALE | PRIORITY |
|---|--|------------------------------|------|------------|----------|
| 12. The environmental sector is stronger providing greater employment opportunities | <p>Encourage the development of (support where appropriate) skills and training programmes that can create opportunities for employment in sectors such as land management, food production and environmental industries and explore the content and outcomes of these programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV Combined Authority proposed employment and skills board. Ensure there is a seat /voice to represent the inclusion of the environment sector • Map current provision of nature based skills, development and training programmes and support signposting/referral • Conduct a skills gap analysis – what does the sector need and how can these programmes be created | | | | |
| 13. Business across the Tees Valley are environmentally sustainable and able to adapt to the changing climate | <p>Promote to business the opportunities gained from sustainable and greener growth initiatives such as products and markets derived from natural resources or environmental technologies designed to improve resource efficiency or reduce pollution.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify local projects that have achieved the objective of reducing pollution, flood mitigation etc. Raise awareness of these as best practice to business and community activists • Develop a series of workshops to harness other creative ideas. Identify funding and key partners to support specific geographical area to avoid trying to be all things to all people e.g. River Catchment interventions | | | | |
| | <p>Promote the practical use of natural solutions to help build resilience to extreme weather events and show how these could be cost effective</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign post using links on the TVNP website | | | | |

THEME 3 NATURAL HEALTH & WELLBEING - Reconnecting people and nature

Our ambition: To contribute to health, well-being and quality of life by providing greater opportunities to enjoy, understand, benefit from and take action for the natural environment.



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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME SCALE | PRIORITY |
|---|---|--|--|--|---|
| 14. People are better informed regarding the links between the natural environment and healthier lives | Support local people including community green space groups in taking a greater role in the decision making, management and promotion of public green space. Including long term structured support and access to ecological expertise. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage participation at every level - TVNP structure of involvement; board/steering group, working groups, forum Host an annual TVNP forum. Set up a working group to organise & stage event Support Tees Valley Wild Green Places project. Publish and disseminate outcomes. If needed look to aid long term sustainability beyond the projects 5-year life-time | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM RMM Tees Valley Wildlife Trust | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On-going Autumn/winter 2016? On-going? | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 3 |
| | Engage a wide range of people as volunteers in monitoring of the natural environment by promoting Citizen Science projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify data gaps & assess the suitability to gain data through Citizen Science | | | | |
| 15. Connections between people and nature are strengthened , to the benefit of both | Foster the development and delivery of Landscape Partnerships in the Tees Valley that will deliver integrated programmes of heritage access, volunteering, training and skills development | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify local priorities for landscape scale project delivery, agree core principals and identify target areas which would deliver greatest biodiversity, social and economic benefit. REPORT 3 Include health & wellbeing into Landscape Partnerships community activity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TBC TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11/10/16 Joint workshop TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 |
| | Develop a communication, & engagement strategy for the Partnership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore the use of conference calls and 'webinars' between partners on working and task & finish groups Publish on TVNP website evidence and examples of best practice of the benefit of Nature to our wellbeing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 12/16 TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 2 |

Theme 3 Natural Health & Wellbeing - Reconnecting people and nature

Our ambition: To contribute to health, well-being and quality of life by providing greater opportunities to enjoy, understand, benefit from and take action for the natural environment.



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

| LONG TERM OUTCOMES 20 years | MEDIUM TERM ACHIEVEMENTS What should we do? 5 years | SHORT TERM ACTIONS Year 1 | LEAD | TIME SCALE | PRIORITY |
|---|---|--|--|--|----------|
| 16. Communities have improved access to the natural environment and local green spaces | Champion the provision of environmental access, education and training for young people to ensure that every child has opportunities to experience and learn about their natural environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a seat on the board/executive group/steering group for a young person to sit on & support their personal development in this role. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4/17 | 1 |
| | Ensure opportunities for people to access public green space and green travel routes near their homes and workplaces are incorporated into new housing and commercial developments through the Local Plan process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy alongside Natural Network & Opportunity Maps and identify/extract some key projects that could be developed with environmental-socio-economic benefits REPORT 5 | Produce guidance and assessment tool for local plans based on TVNP priorities and landscape scale opportunity maps that Local Planning Authorities' can check against & prove they are compliant with the principals of the TVNP REPORT 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> P&N WG/RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9/16 | 1 |
| | Highlight the value of green spaces as part of everyday life. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key strategic walk/cycle route opportunities and seek to enhance adjacent corridor habitat Make links with transport/highways sections within Local Authorities Identify common measures of health & wellbeing relating to access to nature in order to build evidence base for green space management | | | | |

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

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|-------------------|
| <p>17. People have increasingly healthy lifestyles improving their mental, emotional and physical wellbeing</p> | <p>Form closer links with the health and wellbeing sector and develop a partnership approach to maximise the potential of the Tees Valley natural environment and environmental projects to address health and wellbeing agendas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host funding session (meet the funder?) with ACE/Big Lottery/HLF/CCG etc. • TVNP host a workshop to bring health & environment sector leaders & practitioners together to improve the connection between health priorities & access to the natural environment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build links with strategic health & well being groups e.g. Physical Activity Strategic Partnership • Work/form connections with CCG commissioners/health & wellbeing boards | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMM • TBC | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July 2016 • TBC | <p>1</p> <p>2</p> |
| | <p>Build a robust evidence base of the wider outcomes and benefits of natural environment projects in the Tees Valley by sharing best practice, monitoring and evaluation outcomes between partners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the LEP/Combined Authority/Public Health to generate information about economic benefits • Collate and review current practice across the Tees Valley – things that work & things that don't work – publish on TVNP website & disseminate REPORT 6 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill the seat on the board/steering group for health and wellbeing representative | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RMM | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4/17 | <p>1</p> |
| <p>18. High quality green environments exist in towns & villages with clean air & water, contributing to public safety & well-being</p> | <p>Support the development of a natural environment that encourages active lifestyles, training and learning opportunities especially in our most deprived communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Generate project ideas with partners at the Workshop in outcome 4 (e.g. promote nature based activities to the public in doctor's waiting Rooms) • Link to healthy new towns? | | | | |