



Tees Valley Nature Partnership

*A Tees Valley where more people are connected
to bigger and better wildlife rich spaces*



Business Plan

2019-2022

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Foreword from the Chair

I am immensely proud to be the Chair of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. We work together collectively to not only preserve and enhance the natural environment of the Tees Valley we ensure that this makes a positive contribution to the local economy and the wellbeing of our communities. Nature is not only all around us, we are ourselves part of it. Nature, through Ecosystem Services, sustains, protects, provides and self-regulates. The quality of our habitats and biodiversity is a clear indicator of our success or failure. We need to act; the State of Nature Report¹ shows more clearly than ever before that nature is in serious decline across the UK. Over the last 50 years, 56% of species have declined, while 15% are at risk of disappearing from our shores altogether.

These are exciting times, the Government has recently published 'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment' setting the scene for a radical change in the sector that recognises not only the intrinsic value of the environment in terms of habitats and species but also the wider benefits to human health, economic growth and climate resilience that can be achieved through protection, enhancement and investment in natural capital. The Tees Valley Nature Partnership will have a key role in localising the upcoming Natural Capital Plans under the 25 Year Plan, providing an important bridge between stakeholders and communities, the public, private and third sectors and academia.

The Tees Valley Nature Partnership is one of 47 in the country, all of which have distinctive geographies, communities and economies. The Local Nature Partnerships were established in 2012 as the counterpart to the LEP's with specific objectives:

- Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities involved and identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.
- Contribute to achieving the Government's national environmental objectives locally, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities.
- Become local champions influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes, in particular, through working closely with local authorities, LEPs and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Tees Valley Nature Partnership has undertaken the baseline work that will ultimately lead into wider opportunities for biodiversity and green infrastructure at a strategic level. This will assist for example local planning authorities in the targeting of Section 106 agreements in local areas and securing net environmental gains, in accordance with the NPPF and the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

Our work over the coming years will embrace the emerging opportunities and will focus on creating the business case for investment in the natural environment, securing benefits for the economy, communities and the environment. In this Business Plan we outline the key activities that the Partnership will undertake to achieve this ambition.



Timothy Crawshaw BA(Hons) MA MRTPI FRSA

Chair, Tees Valley Nature Partnership



¹ Written by a coalition of more than 50 leading wildlife charities and research organisations, the [State of Nature 2016 report](#) assesses the status of wildlife in the UK at land and sea.

1. Introduction

About the Tees Valley Nature Partnership

- 1.1 The Natural Environment White Paper launched by the Government in June 2011 recognised that partnership working is the best way to achieve effective action for the natural environment. This means a move away from a site and species-specific action to landscape scale work. A key objective of this new approach was the formation of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs), to work strategically to conserve biodiversity and improve the range of socio-economic benefits and services provided by a healthy natural environment.
- 1.2 The Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) is one of 47 local nature partnerships across England designated by the Secretary of State. It links organisations in the Tees Valleys' environmental, business, and health and well-being sectors to form an influential partnership working strategically to conserve and enhance a healthy and robust natural environment, proven to aid our well-being and provide the natural assets vital for a healthy economy.
- 1.3 The TVNP's vision is:

*A Tees Valley where more people are connected to bigger
and better wildlife rich spaces*

- 1.4 Our purpose is to:

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

- 1.5 The partnership was officially recognised in 2012 but had a two-year hiatus from 2014 and was relaunched in April 2016. A three-year funding commitment was secured to April 2019 from the five Tees Valley local authorities and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. One year on from the re-launch there was a desire to ensure a continuity of delivery and build an even stronger, more effective and creative partnership.



Our legacy - to help the governments' ambition to leave our environment in a better state than we found it'.

Background to this Business Plan

1.6 Developmental work for this business plan was resourced through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Resilient Heritage Fund. We are grateful to HLF and ERS Ltd. for their support.

1.7 The process of developing this business plan has been inclusive and has involved:

- one to one interviews with TVNP Steering Group members and wider partners,
- visioning event with the Steering Group held in February 2018 that stimulated ideas on the future direction,
- consideration of the approaches undertaken by other Local Nature Partnerships across the country,
- interviews with the DEFRA Local Delivery Team,
- discussion at the Steering Group and the subsequent gathering of views based on an 'Issues Report' circulated in April 2018,
- online survey of the wider TVNP membership alongside a participative workshop session with members in May 2018.

1.8 This process identified new opportunities and priorities. These are detailed in our ambitions, objectives and activities in sections 2 and 3 of this plan and summarised in Appendix 1.



Funding the Partnership

1.9 Since April 2016 TVNP has operated with funding from the five Tees Valley local authorities and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. The latter acting as the host organisation. The current funders made an initial three-year commitment and have extended in principle to funding the TVNP for a further year to 31st March 2020.

1.10 In response to a 2018 national survey of Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) the Defra Local Delivery Team acknowledged 'the most successful LNPs tend to be the ones who have secured funding'. It is critical to the operation of the partnership and delivery of this plan that *core funding* is secured beyond 2020 and additional project funding is found. This is addressed in Objective 10.

*Our wonderful nature is in serious trouble and it needs
our help as never before.*

~ Sir David Attenborough, State of (UK) Nature Report 2016

2. Aims and Objectives

Introduction

- 2.1 A successful partnership has a strong agreement among partners on a clear and simple shared vision, and on a set of outcomes that will be in line with it. This plan sets out the vision, aims and objectives for TVNP for 2019 - 2022.

What does success look like?

- 2.2 We all need to work together to ensure the protection and enhancement of our environment. To ensure sustained future success the major decision makers and shapers in the Tees Valley need to be committed and acting on nature and people's behalf. Constant lobbying is resource intensive, action needs to be integrated into strategies and plans. Success is high level commitment that leads to investment in the environment. Building on the work of our partners and the unique opportunities that are present in the Tees Valley now we could be a national demonstrator of nature and industry working together.

The Evolving Strategic Priorities

- 2.3 TVNP has plenty of strengths to build on. The three key themed areas have been retained as well as an additional fourth theme relating to strategic leadership and management identified as part of the partnership review in 2018.



- 2.4 This fourth strand is considered important to ensuring the themes are delivered through an effective partnership approach, maximising opportunities for partners to engage and deliver for the wider good of the partnership, share news on progress and opportunities and enthusing new members.



THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS

Protecting & improving the natural environment

Lead – Natural Environment organisation (annual rotation)

Our aim: Support policies and projects that ensure the protection and enhancement of the Tees Valley's natural environment

Objective 1: Backing the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP)

- 2.5 The Tees Valley needs to adapt and respond to a rapidly changing environment. We are experiencing at a local level unprecedented global climate change and huge worldwide loss of biodiversity. The socio-political climate is changing too as we enter a post Brexit world. The government is responding to these changes through its 25 YEP, the Environmental Principles and Governance Bill, and the recent additions to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) including the principle of environmental net gain.
- 2.6 We need to deliver at a local level. The 25 YEP Local Delivery Evidence Project aims to build an evidence base to understand what implementation of the 25 YEP means in practice from a local delivery perspective and is focusing on local leadership, collaboration and integration across 3 key sectors: environment, health and economic development.
- 2.7 Key activities include:

- **Activity 1.1:** Ensure our Local Sites process is robust, clear and fully supported by the planning authorities.
- **Activity 1.2:** Plan a series of CPD workshops for local planners on environmental policy changes. Ensure that local planning authorities are informed of new obligations relating to nature under the revised NPPF.
- **Activity 1.3:** Engage with national fora e.g. Natural Capital Investment Forum, LNPs, Defra Local Delivery Team etc to understand innovative practice from elsewhere in particular regard to biodiversity offsetting and natural capital planning.



Drinkfield Marsh, Darlington – an example of positive outcome for nature with good use of planning

Objective 2: Support development & coordination of major projects related to the natural environment

2.8 Funded projects are important in delivering new and innovative flagship activity across the area to showcase what can be achieved and how nature can improve health and wellbeing.

2.9 Key activities include:

- **Activity 2.1:** Establish a 'Large projects sub group' for cross sector support on key strategic projects. TVNP to be facilitators/administrators.
- **Activity 2.2:** Publish 6-monthly report summarising project activity being undertaken by partner organisations which contributes to TVNP objectives.

Objective 3: Tees Valley Evidence Base on the Natural Environment

2.10 Data on natural assets is not standardised and neatly packaged across administrative boundaries and is spread out amongst organisations. TVNP has a key role in coordinating the delivery of a common and consistent evidence base across the Tees Valley ensuring the data is 'fit for purpose' for natural capital reporting.

2.11 Local biodiversity and natural environment metrics need to be adopted that measure what the current state of nature is. The true picture of the state of the Tees Valleys environment can be shown and targets can then be set on where we want to be in the future.

2.12 Key activities include:

- **Activity 3.1:** Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps, developed in conjunction with other strategic plans and linked to Your Tees Catchment Partnership 'story map'.
- **Activity 3.2:** Develop and adopt a system of local biodiversity metrics to assess the value of current assets, set targets and measure future progress.
- **Activity 3.3:** Explore the potential of a natural environment strategic data hub for the Tees Valley. Agree a protocol for ensuring this data is up to date, accessible and open.



Your Tees Catchment Partnership (YTCP) embeds collaborative working at a river catchment scale to deliver cross cutting improvements to our water environments. The essence of YTCP is to drive cost-effective practical delivery on the ground, resulting in multiple benefits including improvements to water quality, enhanced biodiversity, reduced flood risk, resilience to climate change and greater community engagement with our local river.

Objective 4: Maintaining Links & Increasing Networks

- 2.13 This objective has both a local and national element. There is a continued need for greater integration between planning, housing, economic development, tourism and health as to the strategic benefits of nature to all disciplines.
- 2.14 There are three active partnerships which involve nature operating in the Tees Valley. The TVNP, Your Tees Catchment Partnership (YTCP) and the Tees Estuary Partnership (TEP). Greater efficiency can be gained through closer and smarter working, added value is generated and duplication is minimised. Clarity is required to ensure that external partners can quickly understand the roles and responsibilities of each. Such an approach of close partnership could unlock new funding opportunities.
- 2.15 Key activities include:

- **Activity 4.1:** Align the TVNP, YTCP and TEP objectives and communication strategies to ensure continuity of delivery, mutual support and to present a clearer picture of our separate and our shared aims and activities.

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to the body and soul.

~John Muir



Every year the partnerships host a Tees Nature conference which attracts over 100 delegates from across a wide range of organisations and sectors.

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH
Achieving genuine sustainable development
Lead: Local Authority Lead (annual rotation)

Our aim: Embed a natural capital approach across the Tees Valley

Objective 5: Design & drive a natural capital approach for the Tees Valley

- 2.16 The 25 Year Environment Plan states the government's intention to 'set gold standards in protecting and growing natural capital – leading the world in using this approach as a tool in decision-making. We will take into account the often-hidden additional benefits in every aspect of the environment for national wellbeing, health and economic prosperity, with scientific and economic evidence to the fore'.
- 2.17 TVNP need to champion this approach locally and promote natural capital and the value that this could have to a potential partner or investor.
- 2.18 Key activities include:

- **Activity 5.1:** Design and drive a natural capital approach for the Tees Valley. Strategy – Plan and delivery programme.
- **Activity 5.2:** Seek academic partners to work on promoting research into the most effective ways of embedding and implementing a natural capital approach.



The Natural Capital planning, investment and delivery process

Objective 6: Promoting Our Natural Assets

- 2.19 Evidence suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world². To halt this decline and improve our environment we need to promote and aid access to what we have. The Tees Valley has much to offer on our doorstep from the river itself to high-quality woodlands and coastline on the edge of the North York Moors National Park through improved access, pathways, cycleways etc.
- 2.20 There is a need to promote the natural assets in the Tees Valley so that our economic sector can realise the growth benefits from the natural environment and make plans to avoid future costs to growth that could arise from the natural environment.

'No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced'

~Sir David Attenborough

² Written by a coalition of more than 50 leading wildlife charities and research organisations, the [State of Nature 2016 report](#) assesses the status of wildlife in the UK at land and sea.

2.21 Key activities include:

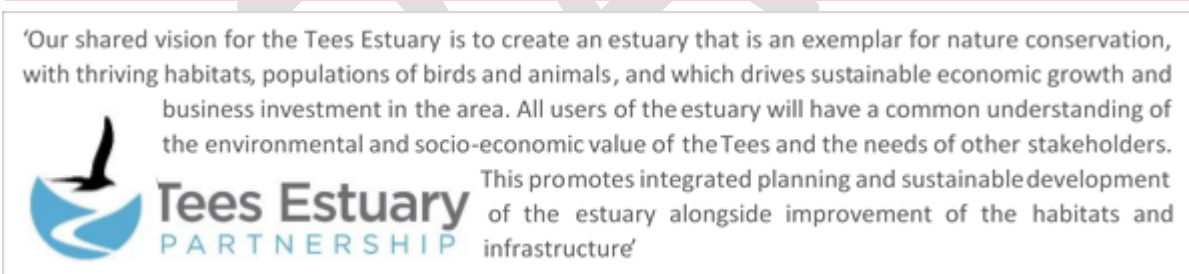
- **Activity 6.1:** Run level 2 and 3 of the Local Environment & Economic Development (LEED) Toolkit with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to review the existing evidence base and inform the emerging Local Industrial Strategy.
- **Activity 6.2:** TVNP act as a facilitator for developing ideas and options to ensure a coordinated response to national and strategic Tees Valley consultation exercises.
- **Activity 6.3:** Work with TVCA on the Mayors 'River Tees Project' to develop a local exemplar of sustainable development.
- **Activity 6.4:** Establish and maintain links with local Members of Parliament and key Locally Elected Members.

Objective 7: Supporting South Tees Development Corporation

2.22 This is the highest profile development site in the Tees Valley and arguably England. Individual TVNP members are involved in specific discussions about the site, such as INCA, TVWT and the Defra agencies. TVNP as a collective voice offers critical added value with an overarching, co-ordinated and integrated approach to the blue-green infrastructure across the whole site.

2.23 Key activities include:

- **Activity 7.1:** TVNP act as a conduit for wider members to understand delivery and be a mechanism to inform delivery of the masterplan.



The Tees Estuary an internationally important site for nature and industry. Photo credit Karl Watts

THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

Reconnecting people and nature

Lead: Public Health England

Our aim: Help more people realise the health benefits of engaging with the natural environment

Objective 8: Engagement

- 2.24 As a strategic partnership working together on behalf of our local delivery organisations it is our role to champion the local voices that speak on behalf of nature and the people who want to connect with it. It is critical we help facilitate wider involvement in the natural world by residents and visitors to the Tees Valley.
- 2.25 Key activities include:

- **Activity 8.1:** Ensure all 32 partner organisations are engaged with the partnership and ascertain any assistance TVNP could provide.
- **Activity 8.2:** Deliver the annual 'Tees Nature Conference' with Your Tees Catchment Partnership.
- **Activity 8.3:** Promote the 2019 Year of Green Action locally.

Objective 9: Improving Health and Wellbeing

- 2.26 The benefits of exposure to the natural world are now well understood. There is strong evidence linking access to good quality green space and physical, mental, social and economic benefits. The most wide-reaching benefits however come from *daily passive exposure to nature*, be it hearing bird song, seeing pollinators or our street trees. It is all the more important in our urban areas. These benefits apply to us as individuals throughout our lives: childhood – cognitive and motor skills; adolescence – healthy weight and social skills; adulthood – chronic disease and social interactions; older-age – physical and mental health.
- 2.27 Wider environmental and health benefits can be realised too; creating new areas of green space and improving the quality of existing green space improves air quality. PHE's Spatial Planning for Health³ evidence states that living in an area with clear air can lead to positive changes in people's health behaviours. It also suggests that living close to green space can increase health regardless of socio-economic status.
- 2.28 There are wider health benefits alongside physical and mental health such as increased community cohesion and reducing social isolation. Aesthetic park improvements for example can increase visits and physical activity, and physical activity in outdoor settings can increase mental health more than activity in indoor settings.
- 2.29 There is unequal access to green space across England. 'People living in the most deprived areas are less likely to live near green spaces so have fewer opportunities to experience the health benefits of green space compared with people living in less deprived areas' - Improving Access to Green Spaces⁴

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spatial-planning-for-health-evidence-review>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-evidence-papers>

- 2.30 A multiagency approach working with key partners is critical to: increasing accessibility to green space across the life course, enabling people to access green space in their communities, empowering people to be involved in maintaining and protecting their own green space and feeling a sense of ownership of communal green space and understanding barriers and working with communities to overcome them.

'Human beings are part of natural ecosystems and depend on them for their survival...Chronic stress, physical inactivity, and lack of social cohesion are three major risk factors for noncommunicable diseases, and therefore abundant urban greenery is an important asset for health promotion'

~ Matilda van den Bosch – University of British Columbia, 2017

- 2.31 The Government, through the 25 YEP has committed to using the natural environment to support physical and mental health. The TVNP is well positioned, through its strategic partnership with PHE and Local Authorities to make this connection to aid turning 'big picture health strategy into increased resident activity on the ground via a range of measures.
- 2.32 There is already a wealth of good practice in the Tees Valley in relationship to Health and Wellbeing, often in the context of severe deprivation. Darlington is a Healthy New Towns Demonstrator site and in South Tees a new pilot is being implemented by Sport England alongside the already established work of Middlesbrough Environment City in the areas of local food and community development.
- 2.33 The case for investment in the Tees Valley nature is not as yet fully realised. Through the emerging Natural Capital Investment Plan the Partnership will begin to articulate the opportunity for
- 2.34 Key activities include:

- **Activity 9.1:** Work with health partners to develop practical solutions to increase use of outdoor natural spaces i.e. through consideration of a social prescribing model and opportunities to increase access to the natural environment among communities with limited opportunity and greatest levels of health need.
- **Activity 9.2:** Develop a model that encourages more appreciation and engagement of nature in our open spaces as part of the Sport England sponsored 'South Tees Local Delivery Pilot.



Photo credit: Tees Valley Wildlife Trust

In just 12 weeks, volunteers taking part in Tees Valley Wildlife Trust 'Life Skills' programme had a 10.5% increase in well-being, with the biggest increases in people's self-esteem and general happiness.

3. Partnership Status, Governance and Management

Introduction

3.1 The TVNP role and operating principles are:

- Advocacy and leadership: TVNP provides a strong, collective leadership to promote the interests of Tees Valley's environment with confidence, vision, passion and ambition, reflecting the fact that our natural assets underpin the Tees Valley's current and future success.
- Strategic Overview: TVNP works at a strategic level in policy and planning matters.
- Added Value: TVNP adds value to and support, rather than replicates, the work of existing partners and partnerships, providing an inclusive vision to which all can work towards.
- Evidence Based: TVNP is led by good science and evidence and where there are gaps in the evidential base will seek to fill them or encourage others to do so.
- Sustainable Development: TVNP promotes the integration of social, economic and environmental goals and works with partners to develop 'win-win' solutions to achieve this.

3.2 In 2017 TVNP undertook a self-assessment of its operations using the Resilient Heritage Strength Checker tool. The findings identified a need to focus on a number of key priorities, including:

- generating greater financial stability in the short-term,
- there was an over-reliance on a small number of people,
- governance of the partnership, particularly in terms of partners taking on roles i.e. to deliver more for less,
- lack of clarity about the TVNP offer to partners who need to be fully informed.

3.3 The above issues have been considered and have informed the main activities to be delivered between 2018 and 2022, as detailed in this business plan. The TVNP Manager has lead responsibility for Objectives 10-14 and associated activities.

'Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success'

~Henry Ford

THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Ensuring the partnerships future success

Lead: TVNP Manager

Our aim: A strong and functioning local nature partnership for the Tees Valley

Objective 10: Future Sustainability of TVNP

3.4 TVNP needs to ensure it is financially resilient. The 2018 LNP survey by Defra Local Delivery Team recognised 'Funding is a significant barrier to development'.

3.5 Key activities include:

- **Activity 10.1:** Establish and maintain positive relationships with DEFRA and other relevant government departments and influencing bodies to stress the need for external funding.
- **Activity 10.2:** Explore alternative income streams for the partnership such as new approaches to fundraising, trading or other income generating activities.

Objective 11: Active Partner Engagement and Ownership

3.6 It is important in planning a way forward to consider whether the partnership can deliver future expectations. The success of the TVNP is entirely reliant upon the commitment of partners, particularly Steering Group members but also wider members. If the ambition is to do more – and it is – then clearer roles and responsibilities are needed to ensure greater ownership and accountability.

3.7 Every partnership and associated projects need effective direction, management, control and communication. Establishing an effective partnership management team structure and approach for communication are essential elements of success. This does not necessarily mean a greater work load for partners but smarter working with clear expectations and defined roles.

3.8 To ensure most effective use of people's time whilst also supporting the effort of the TVNP Manager it is considered most appropriate to set up task and finish groups that help deliver specific projects within the business plan. To follow the lead of other successful LNPs each theme and group needs a steering group member to take the lead and be accountable for progressing the actions.

3.9 Key activities include:

- **Activity 11.1:** Ensure that Steering Group members commit to a more active role in relation to the priorities set in this business plan. Link responsibilities to outcomes in the business plan.
- **Activity 11.2:** Continue to operate the Natural Assets Working Group as the biodiversity 'expert group'.
- **Activity 11.3:** Set up other working groups to assist delivery of the business plan.

Objective 12: Measuring and Monitoring Activity and Performance

- 3.10 It is important that TVNP has a clear plan for communicating activity, ideas and performance. This will serve to engage more partners and ensure that good work is articulated to wider partners, including potential funders. This must be done within the context of a changing policy environment post Brexit.
- 3.11 A performance management plan will clearly prescribe how success will be managed, measured and monitored.
- 3.12 Key activities include:

- **Activity 12.1:** Develop a performance management system to measure progress and added value generated by TVNP.
- **Activity 12.2:** Develop a communication strategy to ensure that TVNP activity is shared with relevant audiences on a regular and frequent basis.
- **Activity 12.3:** Produce an annual report of progress and impact and disseminate this to relevant partners.
- **Activity 12.4:** Respond to changing local and national policy shifts.

Objective 13: Capacity Building

- 3.13 To ensure future sustainability and success of the partnership it is critical to retain and improve, the skills, knowledge and resources needed. An exercise was undertaken as part of business plan preparation to gather information from Steering Group members as to specific training requirements. This section of the business plan outlines the skills development needs and the training plan for partners involved on the Steering Group.
- 3.14 Key activities include:

- **Activity 13.1:** Steering Group to access training to better understand the terminology and culture of public health.
- **Activity 13.2:** Steering Group to access training to better understand the role, remit and potential for working with Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and Local Enterprise



Teesmouth is the only known estuary in Europe where seals have re-colonised as a direct result of environmental improvements.

Appendix 1: Summary of Activities

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS	<i>Objective 1: Backing the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan</i>
	<i>Objective 2: Major Projects</i>
	<i>Objective 3: Tees Valley Evidence Base</i>
	<i>Objective 4: Maintaining Links and Increasing Networks</i>
THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH	<i>Objective 5: Natural Capital Approach</i>
	<i>Objective 6: Promoting Our Natural Assets</i>
	<i>Objective 7: Supporting South Tees Development Corporation</i>
THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH & WELLBEING	<i>Objective 8: Engagement</i>
	<i>Objective 9: Improving Health & Wellbeing</i>
THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT	<i>Objective 10: Future Sustainability of TVNP</i>
	<i>Objective 11: Active Partner Engagement and Ownership</i>
	<i>Objective 12: Measuring & Monitoring Activity & Performance</i>
	<i>Objective 13: Capacity Building</i>

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS. Protecting & improving the natural environment				
Objective	Activity	Time	Who	Cost
Objective 1: Backing the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan	Activity 1.1: Ensure our Local Sites process is robust, clear and fully supported by the planning authorities.	On-going	Natural Assets Working Grp	Core budget
	Activity 1.2: Plan a series of CPD workshops for local planners on environmental policy changes. Ensure that local planning authorities are informed of new obligations relating to nature.	Jan 18'- April '19	Task & Finish group.	Estimate £200
	Activity 1.3: Engage with national fora e.g. Natural Capital Investment Forum, LNPs, Defra Local Delivery Team etc to understand innovative practice from elsewhere in particular regard to biodiversity offsetting and natural capital planning.	On-going	TVNP Manager	Core budget
Objective 2: Major Projects	Activity 2.1: Establish a 'Large projects sub group' for cross sector support on key strategic projects. TVNP to be facilitators/administrators.	Feb '19 onwards	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 2.2: Publish 6-monthly report summarising project activity being undertaken by partner organisations which contributes to TVNP objectives.	Biannually	TVNP Manager	Core budget

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS. Protecting & improving the natural environment				
Objective	Activity	Time	Who	Cost
Objective 3: Tees Valley Evidence Base	Activity 3.1: Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps, developed in conjunction with other strategic plans and linked to Your Tees Catchment Partnership 'story map'.	Jan 19' – Dec '19	Task & Finish Group	Estimate £10,000
	Activity 3.2: Develop and adopt a system of local biodiversity metrics to assess the value of current assets, set targets and measure future progress.	Jan 19' – June '19	Natural Assets Working Grp.	Core budget
	Activity 3.3: Explore the potential of a natural environment strategic data hub for the Tees Valley. Agree a protocol for ensuring this data is up to date, accessible and open.	Feb '19 – August '19	TVNP Manager	Estimate £1.5K/yr
Objective 4: Maintaining Links and Increasing Networks	Activity 4.1: Align the TVNP, YTCP and TEP objectives plans and communication strategies to ensure continuity of delivery, mutual support and to present a clearer picture of our separate and our shared aims and activities.	Jan '19 – July '19	TVNP Manager	Core budget

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH Achieving genuine sustainable development				
Objective	Activity	Time	Who	Costs
Objective 5: Natural Capital	Activity 5.1: Design and drive a Natural Capital approach for the Tees Valley.	Ongoing	Task & Finish Group	Estimate £20-30K
	Activity 5.2: Seek academic partners to work on promoting research into the most effective ways of embedding and implementing a natural capital approach.	Ongoing	TVNP Chair	Core budget
Objective 6: Promoting our Natural Assets	Activity 6.1: Run level 2 and 3 of the Local Environment & Economic Development (LEED) Toolkit with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to review the existing evidence base and inform the emerging Local Industrial Strategy.	Feb '19 – Sept '19	Task & Finish Group	Estimate £20K
	Activity 6.2: TVNP act as a facilitator for developing ideas and options to ensure a coordinated response to national and strategic Tees Valley consultation exercises.	Ongoing	TVNP Manager	Core budget

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH Achieving genuine sustainable development				
Objective	Activity	Time	Who	Costs
Objective 6: Promoting our Natural Assets contd.	Activity 6.3: Work with TVCA on the Mayors River Tees Project to develop an exemplar of local sustainable development.	2019	Natural Growth Lead	Core budget
	Activity 6.4: Establish and maintain links with local Members of Parliament and key locally elected members.	Ongoing	TVNP Chair	Core budget
Objective 7: Supporting South Tees Devp. Corp.	Activity 7.1: TVNP act as a conduit for wider members to understand delivery and be a mechanism to inform delivery of the masterplan.	Ongoing	TVNP Chair	Core budget

THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING Reconnecting people and nature				
Objective	Activity	Time	Who	Costs
Objective 8: Engagement	Activity 8.1: Ensure all 32 partner organisations are engaged with the partnership and ascertain any assistance TVNP could provide.	Feb '19 – May '19	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 8.2: Deliver the annual 'Tees Nature Conference' with Your Tees Catchment Partnership.	Annually	Task & Finish Group	Estimate £2k/yr
	Activity 8.3: Promote the 2019 Year of Green Action locally.	2019	Task & Finish Group	Core budget
Objective 9: Improving Health & Wellbeing	Activity 9.1: Work with health partners to develop practical solutions to increase use of outdoor natural spaces e.g. through consideration of a social prescribing model.	Ongoing	Natural Health Lead	Core budget
	Activity 9.2: Develop a model that encourages more appreciation and engagement of nature in our open spaces as part of the Sport England sponsored 'South Tees Local Delivery Pilot'.	2019/20	TVNP Chair	Core budget

THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT. Ensuring the partnerships future success				
Objective	Activity	Time	Who	Costs
Objective 10: Future Sustainability of TVNP	Action 10.1: Establish and maintain positive relationships with DEFRA and other influencing bodies to stress the need for external funding.	Ongoing	TVNP Chair	Core budget
	Action 10.2: Explore alternative income streams for the partnership such as new approaches to fundraising, trading or other income generating activities.	Nov '18 – April '20	Task & Finish Group	Estimate £25k
Objective 11: Active Partner Engagement and Ownership	Activity 11.1: Ensure that Steering Group members commit to a more active role to the priorities set in this business plan.	Dec '18 - ongoing	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 11.2: Continue to operate the Natural Assets Working Group as the biodiversity 'expert group'.	Ongoing	TVNP Manager	Core budget
Objective 12: Measuring and Monitoring Activity and Performance	Activity 12.1: Develop a performance management system to measure progress and added value generated by TVNP.	Dec '18	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 12.2: Develop a communication strategy.	Dec '18 – Feb '19	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 12.3: Produce an annual report of progress and impact and disseminate this to relevant partners.	Annually	TVNP Manager	Estimate £250/yr
	Activity 12.4: Respond to changing local and national policy shifts.	Ongoing	TVNP Manager	Core budget
Objective 13: Capacity Building	Action 13.1: Steering Group to access training to better understand the terminology and culture of public health.	2019/20	Natural H & WB lead	TBC
	Action 13.2: Steering Group to access training to better understand the role, remit and potential for working with TVCA and LEP.	2019/20	Natural Growth Lead	TBC