

1. Our Partnership

1.1 Our History

1.1.1 National Context

The Natural Environment White Paper launched by the Government in June 2011, and the Lawton Review that informed it, recognised that despite much effort biodiversity in our country has continued to decline. The White Paper identified that a move away from a site and species-specific action to landscape-scale work is needed and partnership working is the best way to achieve this. 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.

The Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) is one of 47 local nature partnerships (LNPs) across England designated by the Secretary of State. The government's ambition for LNPs is that each area finds its own way to make the LNP role real and meaningful locally. Within the framework of the overall LNP role, it is for each LNP to decide what their priorities are, and how they work, in the way that best suits the needs and challenges of their local area.

This approach translates to funding LNP's too. Despite being launched by central government and on-going lobbying there has never been any government funding for Local Nature Partnerships.

1.1.2 Local Context

The TVNP was officially recognised in 2012. It had a two-year hiatus from 2014 and then relaunched in April 2016. The hiatus was due to effort diverted to develop a major initiative conceived by the TVNP to support and strengthen community management of natural greenspaces (now delivered through Tees Valley Wild Green Spaces programme), and public spending reviews that brought a temporary stop to funding.

TVNP 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.

As one of the smallest LNP's by area it has several organisations that share the same or similar boundaries. This has led to a history of good working relationships between the organisations. We were keen from the re-launch that we wanted to include and give a strategic home to all the smaller interest groups in our area who share our vision for the Tees Valleys Natural Environment. This is unprecedented nationally. We would like to build on this inclusive approach with the help of this lottery funded proposal.

1.1.3 Our Funding history

Following the re-launch, we secured an initial 3-year funding commitment from the five Tees Valley local authorities and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust of £5,300 each to March 2019. In October 2018

these organisations extended this for another year to March 2020 but have clearly indicated funding beyond this is uncertain because of the current shaky financial climate.

Our small unitary local authorities have been disproportionality hit by austerity. They service some of the most deprived communities in England yielding smaller council income with high budget demands. Since passing through round one of the grant application process we have been in discussion with the local authorities about the progress of the bid. They have confirmed (13/03/19) 'all 5 local authorities are happy to support the approach regarding the Tees Valley Nature Partnership and contribute along the lines of your (TVNP Manager) email'. Their contribution is dependent on securing the National Lottery Community Funding.

	Year 1 (secured)	Year 2	Year 3	Total
Local authority	£27,165 (43%)	£18,600 (30%)	£16,255 (27%)	£62,020
(x5)	£5,433 each	£3,720 each	£3,251 each	£12,404

Figure 1: Proposed local authority contribution

To date all the funding has been used to employ a full time TVNP Manager. There has been a very small budget for the annual conference and no project funding to deliver any outputs. Whilst this has enabled the partnership to get going, we are under threat of not being able to continue without further financial support and we certainly are unable to develop, grow and involve more stakeholders. To date, additional funding has been secured via grants. Conference 2017 - Esh Group; conference 2018 – Interreg; TVNP Review 2018 – Heritage Lottery Fund.

1.2 Partners Ambitions, Roles and Responsibilities



Figure 2: Tees Valley Nature Partnership has 40 member organisations large and small

1.2.1 Ambitions

As part of the 2018 partnership review process partners identified their ambitions for the partnership. This has been translated into our 3-year business plan that accompanies this submission.

The TVNP's vision is:

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

1.2.2 Roles & responsibilities

This section is divided into: A- Partner Organisation Representatives; B - Paid Partnership Support Staff and C - The Host Organisation

To aid the delivery of the partnership's ambitions we have organised ourselves into a 3-tier structure to help inform and guide the delivery (figure 3). TVNP Steering group – meet quarterly. Natural Assets Working Group – meet quarterly. Task and Finish Groups – e-mail/conference call/meet across the course of each project.

A Partner Organisation Representatives

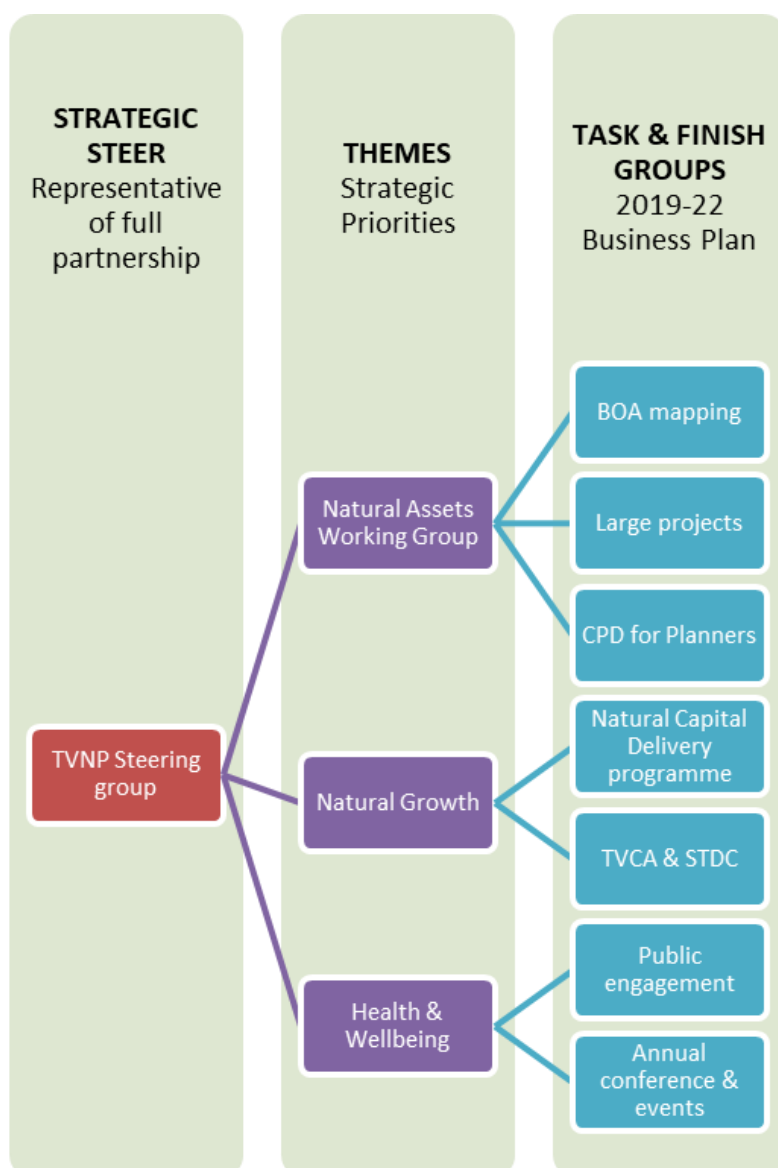


Figure 3: The partnership is organised into a three tier structure.

BOA – Biodiversity Opportunity Area

CPD – Continual professional development

TVCA – Tees Valley Combined Authority

STDC – South Tees Development Corporation

Chair 2018/19: TIMOTHY CRAWSHAW, Independent	Host organisation: JEREMY GARSIDE, Chief Executive, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust	Defra agencies: ANDY WHITEHEAD, Team Leader Sustainable Development Natural England
Defra agencies: GRAEME HULL, Tees Catchment Coordinator, Environment Agency	Economy with environment: LINDA TUTTIETT, Head of Culture and Tourism, Tees Valley Combined Authority	Major natural heritage funder: IVOR CROWTHER, Head of National Lottery Heritage Fund North
Business community: DR ROBERT WOODS, Director INCA - Industry & Nature Conservation Association	Wildlife/environmental NGO: BEN LAMB, Manager, Tees Rivers Trust	Health and wellbeing sector: MICHELLE MANCINI, Health and Wellbeing Support Manager, Public Health England
Countryside access, recreation & tourism sector: MICHAEL GRAHAM, Director of Park Services North York Moors National Park Authority	Education Sector: GARRY WEEKS, Head of Science, Teesside University	Hartlepool Borough Council: SARAH SCARR, Heritage & Countryside Manager
Middlesbrough Borough Council: PAUL CLARKE, Head of Planning	Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council: GRAHAM CLINGAN, Greenspace Strategy & Partnership Manager	Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council: KEVIN WILSON, Natural Heritage Manager

Figure 4: Our current Steering Group make up. As part of the next phase we will look to reorganising this based on the outcomes of the engagement work we do.

It became clear from the 2018 review process that all the people who take an active role in the partnership (predominantly the steering group and Natural Assets Working Group) are keen and see the added value of working together in partnership. However, the time they can commit is restricted because of their commitments in their 'day jobs'. Many are prepared to be part of task and finish groups but the setup, running and delivery that comes out of these groups is reliant on the partnership manager.

With our greater ambitions we need greater capacity to deliver these. Part of our bid includes an additional member of staff primarily who will be able to support the manager in the operation and delivery of progress of the partnership as part of their duties.

B - Paid Partnership Support Staff

NATURE PARTNERSHIP MANAGER	NATURE PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT OFFICER (PROPOSED)
<p>Purpose of the role: To work with partners to deliver strategic and practical nature conservation objectives across the Tees Valley for the benefit of the areas' people, nature and economy.</p>	<p>Purpose of the role: To support the partnership in engaging with greater numbers and more diverse stakeholders.</p>
<p>Principal duties and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key point of contact & co-ordination for the partnership, developing and supporting strong relationships. • Responsible for partnership communication processes – communication strategy. • Advocate the role and act as an ambassador for the natural environment and the nature partnership. • Responsible for development of partnerships strategic objectives, identifying new opportunities with existing and potential partners. • Develop and oversee the delivery of initiatives identified by the partnership (business plan) • Develop the partnership members through training and events programme. • Communicate with national bodies relevant to LNPs (e.g. Defra Local Delivery Team) including other LNPs. • Co-ordinate Tees Valley responses to relevant national government consultations. • Promote best environment sector practice. • Responsible for the partnership wider engagement programme including line management of the Nature Partnership Engagement Officer. • Manage the financial sustainability of the partnership including identification of new support to advance the partnerships objectives and activities. 	<p>Principal duties and responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote and publicise the partnership through delivery of the engagement plan. • Administer partnership social media, website and any other promotional platforms identified in marketing strategy. • Scope and research engagement activity across the Tees Valley. • Set up and administer Youth Panel for Nature. • Set up and promote Tees Valley Citizens for Nature Panel. • Administer TVNP Steering Group, working group and task and finish group meetings. • Support the delivery of initiatives identified by the partnership (business plan) • Recruit community champions for small grants programme decisions board. • Support administration of small grants scheme. • Gather feedback and monitoring information.

Figure 5: Principal duties and responsibilities of paid partnership staff

C - Role of the Accountable Body

Tees Valley Nature Partnership is hosted by Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. Tees Valley Wildlife Trust is a registered charity that works to create a better future for wildlife and people.

The Trust is a “Charitable Company” or “Incorporated Charity” because it is both a Registered Charity and a Company Limited by Guarantee. Charity Number (Registered with the Charity Commission in England) – 511068. Company Number (Registered with Companies House) – 01528307. Date of Incorporation – 14/11/1980.

The Wildlife Trust is probably the best placed organisation to host the partnership. It has in-house expertise, it is grass roots and non-political. It is also good for the Trust too as could help to raise profile and bolster a smallish local charity.

A Memorandum of Agreement between the Tees Valley local authorities (as funders) and the Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (as accountable body) was drawn up for the period of April 2016 to March 2019. If we were to be successful with National Lottery Community Funding, we would update and amend these in line with the 2019 – 2022 project funding period.

Within the MOU the accountable body undertakes to carry out the following.

- I. Employ, manage and provide office facilities for the coordinating officer and any other staff of the TVNP
- II. Ensuring that all resources are spent according to agreed TVNP plans and priorities
- III. Maintain effective systems of auditing and monitoring spend and evaluation of the effectiveness of the TVNP
- IV. Report to the Directors of Place at least annually and at any other time required.
- V. Make an annual financial contribution of £5,300.

1.3 Delivery of our Project

1.3.1 Building on our strengths

Since 2016 the partnership has done well with the limited resources available to it. Much of this has been through networking, relationship building and raising our profile at a strategic level. Having made a great start, we are keen to maintain and grow this interest.

The interest is also coming back from sectors such as economic regeneration, public health and planning (to name a few) as there is an increasing steer from government that nature and the environment need to be considered in all strategic decision making and planning.

In the past in-house specialists (note the current TVNP manager has had these roles in the past) would assist organisations with addressing these issues. However, with government funding cut backs there are very few of these people left. In a sense a void (vacuum) has been created which the partnership could help fill if resourced adequately.

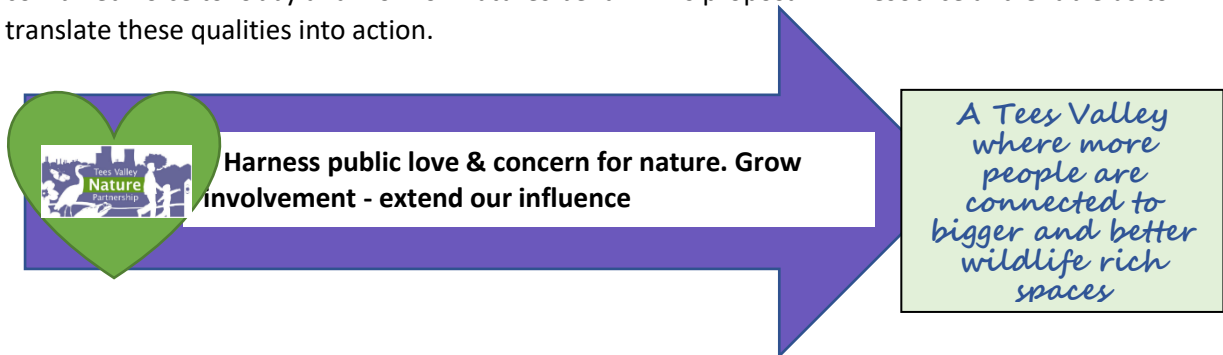
This is a new way and exciting way of working. As an independent partnership representing a wide range of interests, we are better able to reflect a more balanced perspective.

1.3.2 Benefits of delivering in partnership

Nature is considered to be the global commons i.e. it doesn't belong to any one organisation or interest. We collectively generate the impact on nature, draw on the benefits and so therefore need to collectively respond to the needs of the environment.

*The future of nature is under threat and we must work together;
Governments, conservationists, businesses and individuals, to help it.
~Sir David Attenborough*

Each organisation is a piece of the jigsaw reflecting a part of the picture seen through the lens of their particular interest and at different scales e.g. The Rivers Trust will focus on the water environment across through the whole Tees catchment, the Cleveland Beekeeper's will see the need for wildflowers for our pollinators. The whole is greater than the sum of the parts. As a partnership we can pool understanding, expertise, data, knowledge, support from members and use our combined voice to lobby and work on nature's behalf. This proposal will resource and enable us to translate these qualities into action.



Our project is about reaching out to more people to help build a more resilient partnership. To make this model work we need more resources. We chose the National Lottery Community Fund as we are bringing people together, building strong relationships in and across communities to improve the places and spaces that matter to our communities. We could not do this without NLCF support.

2. What is the Funding For?

2.1 Our Proposal

Title: Tees Valley Nature Partnership

Location: Across all five boroughs of the Tees Valley (Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton). Further detail is given in figure 5.

Since our re-launch in 2016 we have re-built the partnership and forged links with new partners notably our local interest groups, the Tees Valley Combined Authority and Public Health. The existing resource covers one member of staff (who undertakes all the supporting activity with responsibilities ranging from admin to business planning). The post funding is only assured until March 2020 (see funding section above). If we are to deliver the ambitions identified in our business plan and connect to more people, we need more resources. These are primarily linked to our extended engagement ambitions, (see the bulleted list below).



Figure 6: Our proposal builds on the last 3 years of work

- Staff; 2 full time; with potentially 3 student interns over 3 summers.
- Training and events (we facilitate for partners and stakeholders)
- Marketing and promotion expertise and resources including art and culture
- Budget for commissioning specialist pieces of work e.g. Natural Capital Account, (which will give us the base-line data on what nature we have, and the associated costs and benefits)
- Leadership & volunteer expenses e.g. mentoring scheme
- Management tools e.g. data; admin; training (for staff and members); research
- Small grant fund (we propose to use the local authority contribution for this)
- Campaign expenses to raise our profile
- Environmental awards (either sponsor category in existing local awards schemes and/or set up a new Tees Valley wide scheme – see <http://www.countydurhampartnership.co.uk/envawards> as an example)

Opportunities and threats are presenting themselves and the Nature Sector galvanised through the partnership needs to have the capacity to meet these to speak for nature itself and champion the great benefits it can bring to human communities.

2.2 Where & When

Across the whole Tees Valley. There will be more focused work such as specific communities we may identify; Teesside University; conference and workshop locations. However, the area of influence is our natural assets – nature across the whole of the Tees Valley.

Project start: September 2019 – with a potential launch at the Festival of Thrift the ‘UK’s national celebration of sustainable living 14th – 15th September.

Project ‘end’: September 2022 – 3 years duration.

3. National Lottery Community Fund Fit

3.1 Bring People Together and Build Strong Relationships in and Across Communities

- **Activity 5.3: Design a programme to engage and involve greater numbers of people in the work of the partnership. TVNP Business Plan 2019-2022**

The TVNP brings people together from across geographical communities (5 local authority areas), communities of interest from bird clubs to bat groups and different sectors all united in their love and concern for nature. We have found through our work so far, even when the will is there to work together different sectors and communities have differing cultures and communicate with different terminology. In order to build stronger relationships across these communities and reach out to new ones such as young people and the business community, we need to make a special effort. To do this we propose to employ a new Nature Partnership Engagement Officer who in turn will also assist the role of the Nature Partnership Manager to be more effective (see figure 3)

3.2 Improve Places and Spaces That Matter to People

The TVNP's vision is:

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

Improving the places and spaces that matter to people is at our very core.

There has been a succession of community engagement by other programmes. For example most recently Public Health South Tees and MIMA (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) have undertaken outreach in focussed areas (the wards of highest deprivation). This work has already identified local concerns and a desire for better green spaces e.g. Micro areas of green land that they could develop for their community.

3.3 Addressing Issues Early - Enabling People to Fulfil Their Potential

Our environmental issues have been growing over decades if not more. However, we can help to enable people to fulfil their potential through building their capacity to help nature directly and influence the bigger plans and decisions concerning our environment in the Tees Valley.

4. Aims of Our Proposal

The partnership have identified through the business planning process three over-arching aims under three themes:

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS Protecting & Enhancing the Natural Environment. Our aim: Support policies and projects that ensure the protection and enhancement of the Tees Valley's natural environment.

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH Nature & Economy Working Together. Our aim: Embed a natural capital approach across the Tees Valley.

THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING Reconnecting People and Nature. Our aim: Help more people realise the health benefits of engaging with the natural environment.

We are a partnership and by our very nature are people led. Our partners have identified that in order to achieve our vision, meet the above aims and thus deliver the business plan we need to become more effective and engage more people. The three further aims have been identified as outlined below.

AIM -What	WHY - Desired Outcome	HOW we will evaluate/measure
Raise the profile of TVNP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More residents, schools, organisations and business are involved with our partner organisations and TVNP. Nature is celebrated and valued. Local pride and involvement in nature is increased. TVNP is the go-to hub on nature & the environment in the Tees Valley. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Membership numbers of TVNP & partner organisations Use of social media e.g. number of website hits, 'tweets' and 'likes' Number of enquires to TVNP Use of feedback map
Build the capacity of local people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groups are more confident and better able to work for nature and add their voice. Community leaders are supported, enabled and confident to engage with local decision makers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendance at training events Take up of community grants Membership of Citizens Panel for Nature
Build capacity of the partnership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Well-resourced Use our unified voice to better effect to influence and champion the environment of the Tees Valley to local decision makers and regional and national bodies. Exemplar Local Nature Partnership facilitating communication and action working bottom up and top down. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure longer-term funding More informed resources for the partnership to use (e.g. evidence and data) Known to key decision makers Communication strategy metrics

Figure 7: How our aims meet our desired outcomes

4.1 Impact on Individuals

Who - beneficiaries	What – desired outcome
Steering Group Members	Professional development – share skills
New Staff	New job opportunity in the sector. Training, professional development
Existing Staff	Training, news skills experience, professional development. Develop leadership skills
Student Intern	Valuable experience, skills and training
Local group leaders	Mentoring, leadership development E.g. small grants panel
Wider local group members	Training, better informed, increased participation
Youth participants	Youth Panel, personal development, professional experience
Community participants	Better informed, means to channel local concerns and aspirations for nature, may lead to more community action.

Figure 8: Who will experience the impact of our project

4.2 Impact on Communities

Who- beneficiaries	How – desired outcome
Local groups	Better resourced (small grant scheme), higher local profile, more members, better informed
Local wildlife	More spaces for them of better quality
Local settlements	Better quality green spaces to enjoy
Stakeholder groups – set out in figure 11	More connected and joined to the local environmental movement.

Figure 9: Who will experience impact of our project and how

5. The Beneficiaries (Who and How Many People Will Benefit)

We all ultimately benefit from a healthy natural environment. From daily passive exposure which improves our mental-emotional and physical well-being to feeling empowered to act on behalf of nature. There is a large body of evidence (nationally and local e.g the Wildlife Trusts 'Life Skills' project) that shows how nature can make a positive contribution to our health across the whole of our lives.

In terms of our project there are people who will be 'passive beneficiaries' i.e. those people who aren't even aware of the project and the partnership but will benefit from the outcomes and 'direct beneficiaries' people who will have contact with the partnership and its proposed activities. Outline numbers year on year will be included in the Engagement Plan and adapted to respond as the project develops.

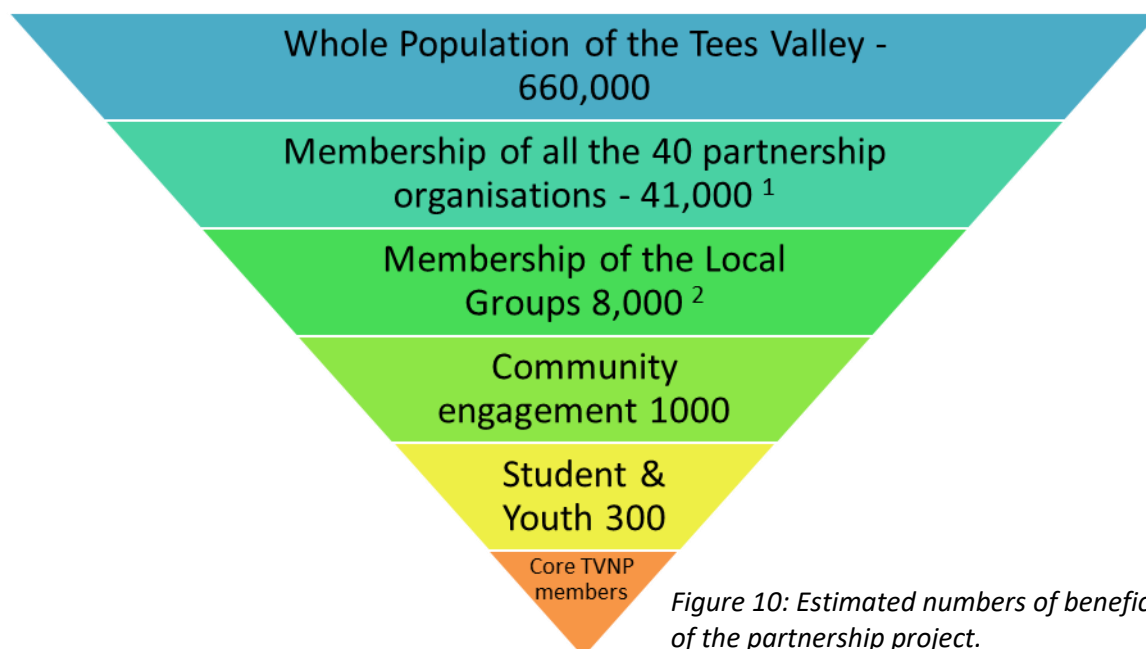


Figure 10: Estimated numbers of beneficiaries of the partnership project.

6. Community Involvement

6.1 People Led

A lot of development and design has taken place since 2016 to get us to this point. 2018 saw our partnership review which resulted in our business plan and sets out our ambitions and priorities.

The business plan has a three-year timescale and has set us off. However, as we expand and involve more stakeholders, planning a continual process as we receive more and more feedback. The widened engagement will help shape the next 3 years and inform our annual report.

We plan to maintain the feedback through the course of the project (existing mechanisms, improved and new mechanisms)

6.1.1 Development, Design & Delivery of Project

The development and design of the next three year (the project period) has come out of the work of the partnership since 2016 – see figure 6 above. Part of the main thrust of delivery of the business plan is wider engagement. We have started to examine who and how to engage. Since January 2019 this has taken the form of:

- Questionnaire to local groups to assess how they would like to benefit from the next 3 years
- 1:1 interviews with key local decision makers including leaders of the local authorities
- 1:1 interviews with programme managers involved in community engagement (see 6.3 below) e.g. MIMA (Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art) Director; Festival of Thrift Director, Tees Valley Combined Authority Head of Culture and Tourism; ‘You’ve Got This’ programme Director; Manager, Tees Valley Wild Green Places
- Numerous additional conversations with a broad section of exiting partners
- Focused session with the whole steering group to identify further stakeholders and engagement ideas. See figure 11 below.

The design and delivery of the project will evolve throughout the project period as we use feedback from our engagement to inform the process as it develops. See section 7 below.

STAKEHOLDER grp	WHO	Est. #'s people	ENGAGEMENT IDEAS – how/where	WHAT – ideas for techniques
STEERING GROUP	Representatives from 16 of the 40 organisations.	• 16	Quarterly meetings; ad-hoc e-mails; own page on website	Face to face;
WORKING GROUPS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Assets • 9 Task & Finish Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 • 16 	Own page on website	
NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 Local to Tees Valley¹ • 7 Wider area with TV remit² 	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • INCA member organisations (40) 	Work through existing channels of communication for
PARTNERSHIP ORGANISATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Defra agencies • 6 Local Government • Public Health England 	•	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff resident to TV • Staff resident to TV • Social prescribing? • Customers in TV/Water Rangers? 	Visioning & linking to others

¹ INCA; Middlesbrough Environment City; Teesmouth Field Centre; Clervaux Trust; Tees Valley Rural Action; Teesside University; Tees Valley Wildlife Trust;

² Canal & River Trust; Campaign to Protect Rural England; ERIC NE; Groundwork NE & Cumbria; RSPB; Tees Rivers Trust; Woodland Trust

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northumbrian Water 			
Programmes & partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing³ Planned Ones we are not aware of now! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tbc Tbc tbc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> River Tees Re-discovered legacy Creative People & Places; 	Adopt contacts lists? GDPR?
LOCAL GROUPS (current TVNP members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 local interest groups⁴ TV Wild Green Places (x groups) Stockton Environment Forum (27 relevant groups) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visit groups at their meetings Work through their programme Attend Forum <p>Ask how we reach their wider membership</p> <p>Community Champion – identify mentor; Social media</p>	Social media; Conference ‘spottery’ of enhancement ambitions; linking to local PH services i.e. Health & Well-being services; A
LOCAL GROUPS (non-members)	Harness existing networks; link to VONEN (voluntary organisations north east network)			
YOUNG PEOPLE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10% of the Teesside Uni students from NE England North East Health & Well-being Uni network; Youth Groups; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,300 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> TU ‘Green Team’ TU wider student population TU Open Days for local schools; Social Media Northumbrian Water SUDs for schools (& education programme) ‘The Big Conversation’ outreach to schools 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annual conference, task with setting up a youth panel Cross discipline/faculty work design based on feedback from students Work with their programme.
BUSINESSES (non-members)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> INCA members Tees Estuary Partnership – CSR LEP Federation of Small Businesses NE England Chamber of commerce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 40 orgs 	Link to Capability North East GENEE programme (Greening the Economy of North East England)	

³ River Tees Re-Discovered Landscape Partnership; Tees Valley Local Access Forum; You’ve Got This (Sport England local delivery pilot)

⁴ Cleveland Bat Group; Cleveland Beekeepers Asc; Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Soc.; Cleveland Naturalist Field Club.; Darlington & Teesdale Naturalist Field Club; EPICH; Durham County Badger Group; North East Fungus Study Group; Teesmouth Bird Club; Tees Valley RIGS Group;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TVNP members e.g. Teesoutdoors 			
LOCAL MEMBERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward members of 5 Local authorities • Local Tees Valley MP's 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total 8? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each local authority to nominate 2 members as partnership liaison. • Engage parish & town councils 	
WIDER PUBLIC (community outreach)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festival of Thrift • Partners public events & outreach • Housing Associations (e.g. Beyond Housing; Thirteen Group) • The wider wider public! 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35,000 • Tbc • Tbc • tbc 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tailored event & launch • TVCA 'Big Conversation' (for City of Culture bid – link); 'Flo' Northumbrian Waters Community Van & Water Rangers; Env Agency Flood Community Engagement Officer Tees; 'Water Hub' support; CaBA events programme; Tees Tidy; • Community Hubs (e.g. international community); • on-site engagement (country parks, green spaces etc); on-line; APP; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.theworldcafe.com. • Face to face 'conversation' • Face to face 'conversation' – promote/link to our on-line interactive map (e.g. story map) • participatory appraisal, participative consultation, and planning and evaluation tools. Campaign – iconic species. CITIZENS PANEL FOR NATURE

Figure 11: Informed by feedback from 13-03-19 Steering Group

6.2 Strengths Based

Refer to 1.3.1 above.

6.2.1 Within the Existing Partnership

Passion, commitment, specialist knowledge and dedication of local groups in their area of interest.

Specialist professional knowledge includes: Planning (spatial), Ecology, Environmental Science, Public Health, Culture and Tourism, Recreation as well as **local expertise** in wildlife from bats to bees and beyond.

Generous Leadership. The challenge is not the lack of expertise, but the time people have available to join this up to the partnership activity. Part of our initial proposal is a mentoring scheme that will enable the spread of skills and capabilities across organisations.

Whilst recognising we have a wealth of knowledge there are still some gaps such as natural capital accounting. These have been identified in the business plan.

6.2.2 Beyond the Existing Partnership

Looking to national 'best practice' e.g. Greater Manchester 'Urban Pioneer' in natural capital work. Work with the Catchment Partnership and their national network. TVNP is linked up to a national LNP (local Nature Partnership) network. We are already developing a working relationship with the North East England Nature Partnership hosted by Capability North East and their 'Greening the Economy of North East England' programme with businesses.

6.3 Connected

6.3.1 Connecting with relevant organisations (how the project compliments them)

There are many synergies emerging in our area now. TVNP is being increasingly called upon to become involved in significant programmes (see below).

The National Lottery Community Funding is critical to enabling TVNP to build our capacity to meet these opportunities and realise our vision of connecting more people with wildlife rich spaces.

Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) 'Big Conversation': In the run up and in preparation for the Tees Valley City of Culture 2025 bid the Tees Valley Combined Authority are embarking on an exciting programme of 'open engagement' across the area. Rather than consult on a range of pre-determined ideas 'The Big Conversation' is designed as a journey of meaningful creative and cultural encounters which starts with engaging people around the stimulus of a series of open questions: who are you? What do you care about? What do you hope for? What are you proud of? Etc. Individual stories of 'self' will help to form a collective 'story of us'. The intention of this process is to develop a strong, community-led narrative for the City of Culture bid and to inform wider cultural / cross-sector activity in the region.

Following a pilot which commissioned nine artists to test different approaches to brokering these conversations, the TVCA has designed a 3-phase programme:

Phase 1: September 2019 to around February 2020 – *People*

Phase 2: (date tbc) - *People & Places*

Phase 3: date – December 2020 *Creativity & Culture*

TVCA & TVNP are keen to work together to make the most of our shared aim of engaging a wider range and diversity of people across the Tees Valley. In Phase 1 we envisage following a line of enquiry concerned with nature, green space and people's relationship to the Tees Valley landscape, through pilots with a view to informing the wider approach taken in phase 2.

Like our planned process theirs is iterative rather than linear which will allow us to work our timescales around each other to maximise the potential of this opportunity and make optimum use of our resources. We need to be able to meaningfully engage as a partnership. Our plan as TVNP is to build our capacity and resources concurrently with this engagement programme. This works at two levels: building the resource base such as the information and data on nature and the environment across the Tees Valley and building the mechanism to receive and ultimately respond to the engagement outcomes that relate to nature and the environment.

Already there is a strong mental health and wellbeing theme coming through in the findings of The Big Conversation pilots; connecting with nature and green space can play a vital role in addressing.

2 Major programmes which are running concurrently which TVNP have been invited to help govern:

Sport England Local Delivery Pilot <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/local-delivery-pilots-community-of-learning/> 'You've Got This' – for South Tees. This is a programme to enable greater physical activity focusing in on 4 of the most deprived wards – geographical communities and 4 groups of health. Activity outdoors engaging with the environment and nature is a key element of their programme, as such TVNP has been invited to sit on their partnership board.

Arts Council Creative People and Places (CPP) <http://creativepeopleplaces.org.uk/> bid submitted 21/03/19

Borderlands is a major programme (£2,939,628) of creative growth, focused on the wards of North Ormesby, Grangetown, Brambles and Thorntree and Southbank in Middlesbrough and Redcar. Working with strong community hubs and creative organisations, both amateur and professional, the programme will be citizen led, work at large and small scales and aim to deliver over 200,000 new opportunities for creative engagement over four years. It will increase local taking part levels by a significant rate and embed culture as a part of the Tees Valley approach to health, wellbeing, education and employability.

From their initial pilot with communities, 'people refer to ambition to environmental improvement (in their own words) ... the top three concerns were: new community events; to achieve more greenery and to support residents with drug and alcohol problems.

Their ten-year driving theme is Environment. The communities here want culture, want to shape their environment and want to change the future of the area'. The programme 'builds on the urgent issues around the environment which represents a new artistic approach for the region and marks out a distinct approach for the CPP programme nationally.' They plan to 'work with our communities to improve the environment through art' to 'impact larger issues of health, wellbeing and life-patterns'. To reflect the driving theme the TVNP Manager has been invited to sit on the core consortium (strategic board) along with CEO's & Directors of a diverse range of organisations.

The Sport England and Arts Council programmes are focussed on the four most deprived wards in the Tees Valley. The learning from this focussed work has already and will continue to, inform the wider programmes 'The Big Conversation' and TVNP engagement activities.

Festival of Thrift

The first Festival took place in 2013 at Lingfield Point in Darlington, making a big impact regionally and nationally, with 27,000 visitors, 17,000 more than expected. They have won a multitude of awards since starting out, including Best Event Teesside (in 2015 and 2017), Gold as North East Tourism Event of the Year and the Observer Ethical Awards for Arts and Culture, recognising the fact that artists are embedded in the programme as agents for social change.

The festival organisers are keen to maintain a presence and activity year-round and embed the festival ethos across the communities of the Tees Valley. As such in 2019 they joined the TVNP. Both parties are excited with the collaboration and the opportunity to link festival goers with the work of TVNP.

Other initiatives:

Tees Valley Combined Authority – Local Industrial Strategy, Cultural work – Enjoy Tees Valley etc

South Tees Development Corporation – 10 Core Principles: 8. Deliver redevelopment in a way that reduces pollution, contributes to habitat protection and long-term sustainability, and that encourages bio-diversity

River Tees Re-discovered - Landscape Partnership Legacy

Public Health – Tees Valley Air Quality Strategy

6.3.2 Using our relationships to develop project idea

Align with existing and emerging programmes as laid out above as well as identifying new areas such as youth engagement through work with Teesside University.

7. Learning, Sharing & Networking

7.1 Tracking, Measuring Evaluating the Impacts

Evaluation will be built in from the outset. As the process gets underway, we will adapt and respond to feedback from the engagement work. The overall project will be informed by using the 'Prince 2' Project Management approach where the project is broken down into stages. Smaller project board that reports to the Steering Group (4 meetings a year) will be established to direct the project.

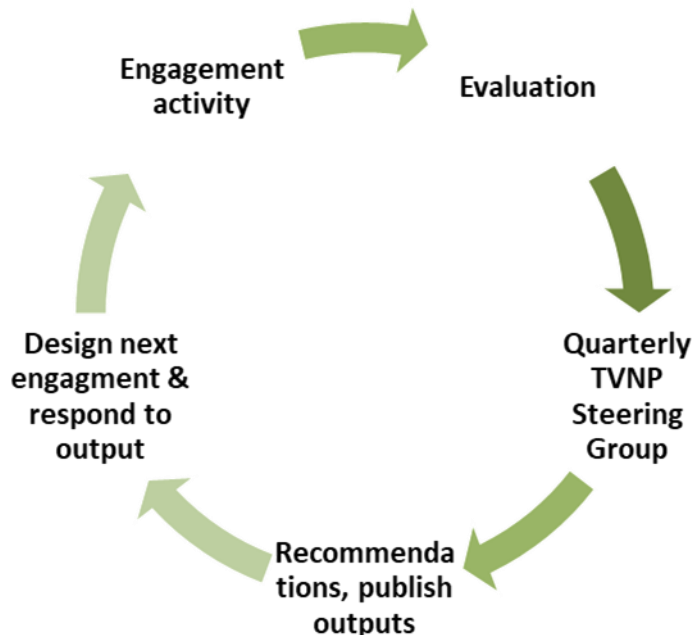


Figure 12: Feedback mechanism for engagement work

7.2 Learning & Responding

Year 1: Focus on development, building resources and evidence Year 2 consolidation Year 3.

7.3 Sharing Our Findings

In the business plan we have committed to an annual report which will be circulated widely and targeted at decision makers in the Tees Valley.

As part of our marketing commission and engagement strategy we set up mechanisms to share our findings and celebrate our success through various means (platforms etc.)

Annual Tees Nature conference; National LNP network; celebration event at Festival of Thrift.

8. Equalities

8.1 Our Shared Approach

Tees Valley Wildlife Trust policy. Adopt a shared policy across the partnership perhaps based on the model of one of the partner organisations.

9. Environment

TVNP policy. Look to encourage partner organisations to work with Capability North East and their GENEE (Greening the Economy of North East England) Programme to sign up to their environmental auditing and management scheme.

10. Sustainability of TVNP

10.1 Beyond the Funding Period

We have proposed an element of 'income for management' to test longer term income generation so we are not fully reliant on local authority contributions in the longer term.

10.2 Our Long-Term Legacy

We all take benefits from nature yet to date the burden of funding the protection, maintenance and enhancement has fallen on the public and third sector. In the medium to long term we want to ease this burden through a natural capital investment approach.

'Natural capital can be defined as the world's stocks of natural assets which include geology, soil, air, water and all living things. It is from this natural capital that humans derive a wide range of services, often called ecosystem services, which make human life possible. The most obvious ecosystem services include the food we eat, the water we drink and the plant materials we use for fuel, building materials and medicines. There are also many less visible ecosystem services such as the climate regulation and natural flood defences provided by forests, the billions of tonnes of carbon stored by peatlands, or the pollination of crops by insects. Even less visible are cultural ecosystem services such as the inspiration we take from wildlife and the natural environment.'

To transition from a publicly funded to a blended (public and private) funded solutions we need leadership, public support, inspiration and resources. We want to take this journey with the many people across the Tees Valley who share our love and concern for nature.

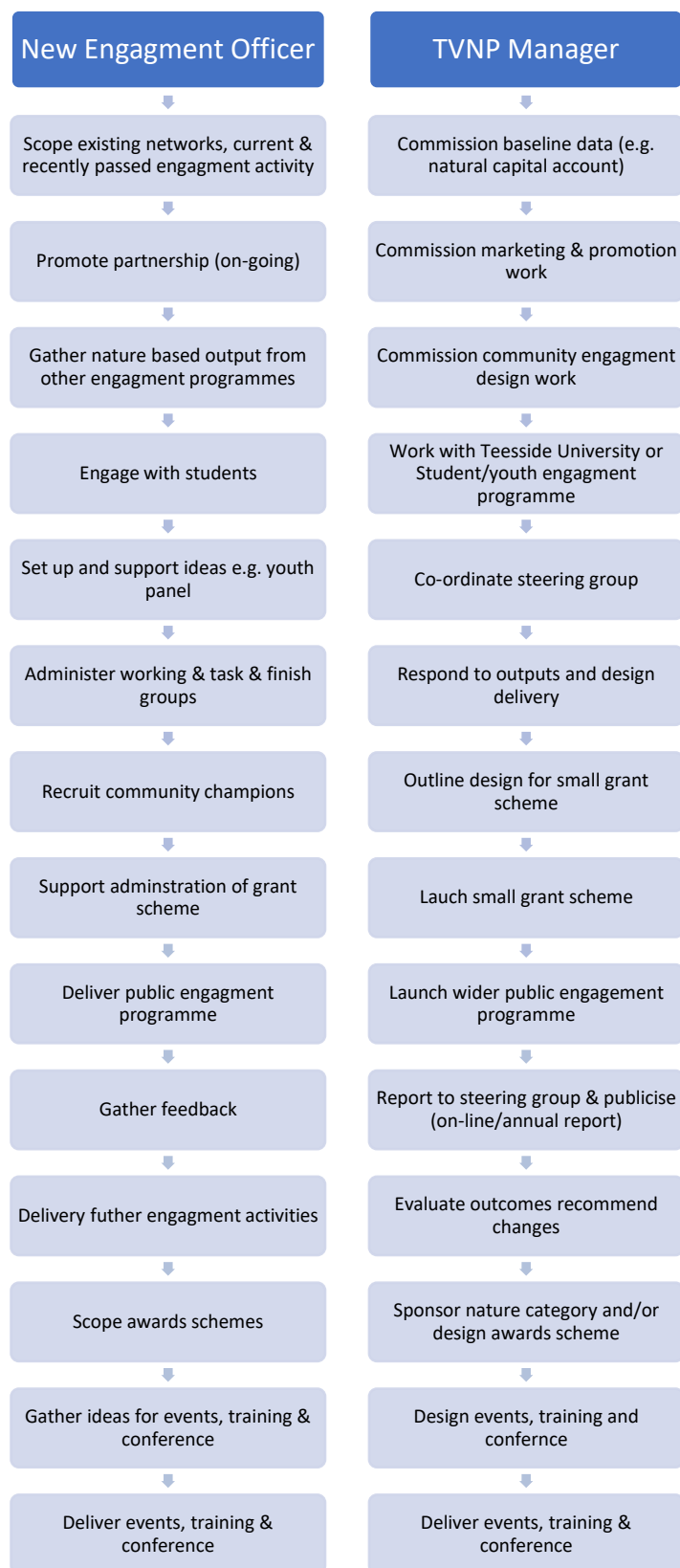
Appendices

Appendix 1: Who is involved in delivering the TVNP Business Plan

DELIVERING THE BUSINESS PLAN 2019-2022	
THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS. Protecting & Improving the Natural Environment	
Activity	Group Responsible
Activity 1.1: Deliver our Local Sites process ensuring it is robust, clear and fully supported by the planning authorities.	Natural Assets Working Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham Megson (Chair); Hartlepool Borough Council Jeremy Garside, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust Mike Leahey, INCA Martin Allen, Freelance Ecologist Simon Blenkinsop, Middlesbrough Borough Council Dave Askey, Stockton Borough Council Fiona Hurworth, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Activity 1.2: Plan a series of CPD workshops for local planners on environmental policy changes.	Task & Finish Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Clarke, Middlesbrough Borough Council Eddie Halstead, Environment Agency Paul Taylor, Stockton Borough Council Timothy Crawshaw, TVNP Chair
Activity 1.3: Establish a 'Large projects sub group' for cross sector support on key strategic projects. TVNP to be facilitators/administrators.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graeme Hull, Environment Agency tbc Linda Tuttiett, TVCA tbc
Activity 2.1: Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps.	Task & Finish Group (link to Natural Capital grp): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham Megson, Hartlepool Borough Council Ian Bond, INCA TBC Teesside University
Activity 2.2: Develop and adopt a system of local biodiversity metrics to assess the value of current assets, set targets and measure future progress	Natural Assets Working Group:
THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH Nature and Economy Working Together	
Activity	Group Responsible
Activity 3.1: Design and drive a Natural Capital approach for the Tees Valley. & Activity 3.2: Commission a natural capital account with the Tees Valley Combined	Task & Finish Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andy Whitehead, Natural England Eddie Halstead, Environment Agency Timothy Crawshaw, TVNP Chair Robert Woods, INCA

Authority (TVCA) to establish a sound evidence base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input from Natural Assets Group
Activity 4.2: Work with STDC to ensure an integrated approach to biodiversity and the environment is adopted across the whole site.	TVNP Steering Group: Robert Woods, INCA; Andy Whitehead, Natural England & Eddie Halstead, Environment Agency responsible for feeding into the steering group.
THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING Reconnecting People and Nature	
Activity	Group Responsible
Activity 5.2: Build the capacity of our local groups so they are better able to work for nature with a more effective local voice.	Task & Finish Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Clarke, Middlesbrough Borough Council Graham Clingan, Stockton Borough Council Garry Weeks, Teesside University Ben Lamb, Tees Rivers Trust
Activity 6.2: Develop a model that encourages more appreciation and engagement of nature in our open spaces as part of the Sport England sponsored 'You've Got This' (South Tees Local Delivery Pilot).	Task & Finish Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michelle Mancini, Public Health England Michael Graham, NYMNPA?? Paul Clarke, Middlesbrough BC?? Jeremy Garside, TVWT??
THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT Ensuring the Partnerships Future Success	
Activity	Group Responsible
Action 7.1: Explore alternative income streams for the partnership such as new approaches to fundraising, trading or other income generating activities	Task & Finish Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linda Tuttiett, TVCA tbc Timothy Crawshaw, TVNP Chair tbc Sarah Scarr, Hartlepool Borough Council tbc
Activity 8.3: Deliver the annual 'Tees Nature Conference' with Your Tees Catchment Partnership.	Task & Finish Group: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timothy Crawshaw, TVNP Chair Graham Clingan, Stockton Borough Council Graeme Hull, Environment Agency Ben Lamb, Tees Rivers Trust Additional input for 2019: Ambroise Baker Teesside University; Elinor Morgan, MIMA

Appendix 2: Summary of the activity planned for year 1 into year 2



Appendix 3: Activity Plan – SEE TVNP BUSINESS PLAN ‘Appendix 1: Summary of Activities’

<https://teesvalleynaturepartnership.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/TVNP-Business-Plan-2019-2022.pdf>

Appendix 4 Engagement Plan

Estimated Date	How – Task, activity, service	Who	How many	Details
Completed October 2018	TVNP Resilient Heritage Review	Steering Group, partnership organisations and wider member contacts (around 450 people)	450+	
Feb-March 2019	Questionnaire	Local Interest Groups	150 approx.	Gather ideas for the ‘building the capacity of local groups’ part of the lottery bid
Feb-March 2019	1:1 interviews	Local Authority Council Leaders etc	5	Ideas, feedback on best way to engage local councillors,
June 28 th & 19th June 2020 June 2021 June 2022	Tees Nature Conference	Wide range of people from the partner organisations and outside influencers	120	
August/September 2019	Advertise and appoint full time Tees Valley Nature Partnership Engagement Officer.		1	Appoint In time for launch at Festival of Thrift
Summer 2019	Festival of Thrift on-line channels and out-reach	Members of the public	10% of bookers approx. 3000	Open questions about action for nature in the Tees Valley & Citizens panel for nature
Summer 2019	Refine Activity and Engagement Plans.	TVNP Manger		Informed by Big Conversation time table and Creative People & Places outcome of bid

Summer 2019	Draw up student engagement plan	Cross faculty with Teesside University Partners for delivery in next academic year		Initial ideas: Work with their Green Team; Set up a Youth Panel; schools & colleges liaison events; 'volunteers' fayre with TVNP partners'; youth conference;
14 -15 th September	Official launch - workshop and stand	Members of the public	250-300 approx..	Annual free festival with average footfall of 35-40,000 people.
Autumn 2019	Put out to tender for Marketing consultant. Build our resource also provide training for partnership members for their organisations/groups			Refresh website; get us onto social media platforms. Identify new 'marketing opportunity and resources needed. Feed into engagement plan
	Scope existing networks, current & recently passed engagement activity			A patchwork of engagement work will have been undertaken especially in those wards with highest levels of multiple deprivation.
	Gather nature-based output from other engagement programmes			
	Commission engagement plan			Informed by scoping exercise and work with other programmes
	Youth engagement plan devised with Teesside University	Teesside University Students		
	Set up social media			
	Publicise Citizens Panel for Nature			On-going recruitment until we have reached critical number (e.g. 500 – 1,000 tbc)

Feb 2020	Big Conversation Phase 1 feedback			
	Local Group Training on a variety of issues identified			
Feb 2020	Big Conversation design for Phase 2			
	Design small grant scheme commission on-line application process (to lessen admin burden)			
	Small grant community decision panel training & meeting			
	Sponsored environment category within existing local non-environment awards schemes.			Scope new awards scheme
	Local Group Mentoring			
	Deliver tailored engagement activity			
September 2020	Festival of Thrift celebrate year 1 – help to inform coming year			
September 2021	Festival of Thrift celebrate year 2 – help to inform coming year			
September 2022	Festival of Thrift celebrate year 3 – help to inform ongoing activity & partnership			



Tees Valley Nature Partnership 2019

	Launch photo competition. With photography students to help build our image resource; issues; assets and people engaging with nature. and engage young people			
	Interactive feedback map scope and commission			