



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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Cover Photos: Middlesbrough School; Drinkfield, Darlington; Bluebell walk- Tees Valley Wildlife Trust. Teesmouth ©Karl Watts

Foreword from the Chair

I am immensely proud to be the Chair of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. We work together to preserve and enhance the natural environment of the Tees Valley and ensure this makes a positive contribution to the local economy and wellbeing of our communities. Nature is all around us and we are ourselves part of it. Nature, through Ecosystem Services, sustains, protects, provides and self-regulates. The quality of our habitats and biodiversity are 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, academia and the public, private and third sectors.

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 - is to leave our environment in a better state than we found it.

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

Background to this Business Plan

1.6 Development work for this business plan was undertaken in part by ERS Ltd resourced through the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) (now called the [National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)) Resilient Heritage grant. We are grateful to both organisations 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 Dept. Environment Food & Rural Affairs (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.

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



Tees Valley Nature Partnership has a membership of 40 organisations and growing.

Aims and Objectives

Introduction

- 1.9 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, objectives and proposed actions for TVNP for 2019 - 2022.

What does success look like?

- 1.10 We all need to work together to ensure the protection and enhancement of our environment. To enable 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. Lobbying and awareness raising has a place, but 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

- 1.11 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.



- 1.12 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 enthuse new members.

Funding the Partnership

- 1.13 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.
- 1.14 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 7.

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

Objective 1: Protect What We Have

- 1.15 The Tees Valley needs to adapt and respond to a rapidly changing environment. We are experiencing at a local level some of the unprecedented global changes in climate change and huge worldwide loss of biodiversity. The socio-political climate is changing too. The government is responding in part to these changes through its [25 Year Environment Plan](#) (25 YEP), the [Environmental Principals and Governance Bill](#), and the recent changes to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF) including the principal of [environmental net gain](#).
- 1.16 We need to protect what we already have, to do so we need to fully understand what we have now, which means better and more joined up data, more research and a greater understanding of the implications of the changes we face.
- 1.17 Data on natural assets is not standardised 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.
- 1.18 The data and local knowledge held within our local groups needs to be both understood and interpreted so we can appreciate the value of our natural assets. It is then we can communicate what we need to protect.
- 1.19 Key activities include:

- **Activity 1.1:** Deliver our Local Sites process ensuring it 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.
- **Activity 1.3:** Establish a 'Large projects sub group' to enable cross sector support on identifying and promoting/supporting the development of key strategic projects.



Our coast is a haven for visitors and both humans and birds alike. Photo credit Karl Watts.

Objective 2: Enhance What We Can

- 1.20 To achieve our shared vision for bigger and better wildlife rich spaces and to help to leave our environment in a better state than we found it we need to go beyond protection to enhance and create new spaces. As a partnership we are in an ideal position to use our collective voice and expertise to Inform local decision makers and influence local policies, strategies and programs.
- 1.21 One opportunity has arisen from the overhaul in the English planning system within the last few years with the new 'National Planning Policy Framework' (NPPF) published in 2012 and revised in 2018. The NPPF sets out that local planning authorities (LPAs) are bound by the statutory 'duty to cooperate' and should produce, maintain, and update one or more statement(s) of common ground, throughout the plan-making process. Whilst Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are not subject to the requirements of the duty, LPA's must cooperate with them and 'have regard to their activities when they are preparing their local plans...'. Indeed, the National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG) highlights LNP's as potential signatories of statement(s) of common ground. To date the TVNP has responded by creating their [Local Plan Assessment for Nature & Biodiversity](#) which planning authorities can use as evidence of fulfilling their duty to co-operate.
- 1.22 The UK government is looking to continue to improve the planning system in England to protect the environment through biodiversity net gain and the Draft Environment Bill states, 'we will introduce a clear set of statutory environmental principles to guide policymaking' and 'place the flagship 25 Year Environment Plan on a statutory footing'².
- 1.23 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.
- 1.24 Key activities include:
- **Activity 2.1:** Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps.
 - **Activity 2.2:** Develop and adopt a system of local biodiversity metrics informed by national indicators to assess the value of current assets, set targets and measure future progress.



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

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/draft-environment-principles-and-governance-bill-2018/environment-bill-policy-paper>

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



*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 TVNP & Your Tees Catchment Partnership host a Tees Nature conference which attracts over 100 delegates from across a wide range of organisations and sectors.

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH

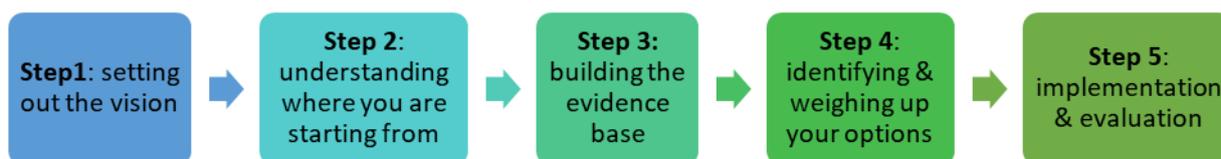
Nature & Economy Working Together

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

Objective 3: Promote Our Natural Assets

- 1.25 Evidence suggests that we are among the most nature-depleted countries in the world³. We have arrived at this point in part by not adequately valuing and considering the services and assets that nature provides us. TVNP has a crucial role to play in promoting our natural assets to our economic sector so we all 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.
- 1.26 The government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#) states their 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'.
- 1.27 TVNP need to champion this approach and work with our economic sector locally and promote natural capital and the value that this could have to a potential partner or investor.
- 1.28 Key activities include:

- **Activity 3.1:** Design and drive a natural capital approach for the Tees Valley. Strategy – Plan and delivery programme.
- **Activity 3.2:** Commission a natural capital account with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to establish a sound evidence base.



Taken from: [The Natural Capital planning, investment and delivery process. Natural Capital Committee - How to do it: a natural capital workbook](#)

'Our natural environment is our most precious inheritance... (we) can become the first generation to leave that environment in a better state than we found it'

~ UK Government, 25 Year Environment Plan

³ 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.

The Tees Valley's Natural Assets

The Tees Valley has a wide diversity of landscapes and wildlife habitats within its relatively small geographical area.

Vibrant urban open spaces



An extensive well-managed green infrastructure permeates urban areas including river corridors, parks and recreation grounds, allotments, churchyards and school grounds, providing attractive places where people can experience wildlife on their doorstep.

An estuary of contrasts



A nationally important port and chemical industry coexists within a mosaic of inter-tidal and wetland habitats, including extensive mudflats, sand dunes, salt marsh, grazing marsh and saline lagoons. These habitats are internationally important for wildfowl and wading birds. Harbour seals also breed at the river mouth.

Surprising brownfield specialists



A product of the area's industrial heritage, where a specialised flora has developed on the weathered blast furnace slag which has been used for reclamation of coastal and estuarine areas. This flora supports grayling and dingy skipper butterflies, and is a habitat for mammals such as brown hare and birds such as grey partridge and skylark.

Coastal splendour



With the Durham Heritage Coast to the north, and Cleveland & North Yorkshire Heritage Coast to the south and east, our coastline's dramatic coastal cliffs, grasslands and sand dunes are valued by visitors and local communities.

Meandering River Tees



Defining the character of the area, the Rivers Tees, Leven and Skerne and their tributaries are important wildlife corridors. Otters are now found throughout the Tees catchment. Middlesbrough's beck valleys are a regional stronghold for water voles.

Rural beauty



In East Cleveland, there are extensive stretches of heather moorland habitat and open rolling farmland with small fields and a dense network of species-rich hedgerows. This landscape is intersected by long steep sided beck valleys clothed in ancient semi-natural woodland with scattered remnants of lowland meadow.

Objective 4: Support Our Mayoral Combined Authority

- 1.29 The [Tees Valley Combined Authority](#) (TVCA) was created in April 2016. It is partnership of the five Tees Valley local authorities working closely with the Local Enterprise Partnership, wider business community and other partners. The TVCA's purpose is to drive economic growth and job creation in the area. It is critical TVNP engages with TVCA to champion the Tees Valley's environment and ensure delivery of environmental benefits and services are integrated with economic and social benefits.
- 1.30 Under the devolution deal with Government, TVCA are taking on responsibilities previously held by Westminster and Whitehall; for transport, infrastructure, skills, business investment, housing and culture and tourism. On the 4th May 2017, the first Tees Valley Mayor who chairs the Combined Authority was elected.
- 1.31 The [South Tees Development Corporation](#) (STDC) is the first Mayoral Development Corporation outside of Greater London and represents the biggest industrial regeneration opportunity in the UK today. *STDC core principal 8 - Deliver redevelopment in a way that reduces pollution, contributes to habitat protection and long-term sustainability and that encourages bio-diversity.*
- 1.32 Individual TVNP members as part of the Tees Estuary Partnership are involved in specific discussions about the site. TVNP as a collective voice offers critical added value with a co-ordinated approach.
- 1.33 Key activities include:

- **Activity 4.1:** Work with TVCA and the Mayor on large strategic projects including the Mayors 'River Tees Initiative' to develop local exemplars of sustainable development.
- **Activity 4.2:** Work with STDC to ensure an integrated approach to biodiversity and the environment is adopted across the whole site.

'Our shared vision for the Tees Estuary is to create an estuary that is an exemplar for nature conservation, with thriving habitats, populations of birds and animals, and which drives sustainable economic growth and business investment in the area. All users of the estuary will have a common understanding of the environmental and socio-economic value of the Tees and the needs of other stakeholders. This promotes integrated planning and sustainable development of the estuary alongside improvement of the habitats and infrastructure'



Tees Estuary
PARTNERSHIP

This promotes integrated planning and sustainable development of the estuary alongside improvement of the habitats and infrastructure'



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

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

Objective 5: Further Involvement and Ownership

1.34 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. We have an opportunity to harness public love & concern for nature, grow involvement in our partnership and extend our strategic influence to protect and enhance the environment of the Tees Valley for all.

1.35 Key activities include:

- **Activity 5.1:** Develop a Health and Wellbeing Manifesto for partners to sign and commit to.
- **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.
- **Activity 5.3:** Design a programme to engage and involve greater numbers of people in the work of the partnership.

Objective 6: Improve Health and Wellbeing

1.36 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 street trees or smelling the flowers. These benefits apply to us as individuals throughout our lives.

1.37 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 Health⁴ 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.

1.38 There are wider health benefits alongside physical and mental health such as increased community cohesion and reduced 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.

*'Evidence link green spaces with decreased health inequalities,
reduced crime, and increased workplace productivity
~Faculty of Public Health*

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/spatial-planning-for-health-evidence-review>

- 1.39 There is unequal access to green space across England and locally here in the Tees Valley. ‘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 Spaces⁵
- 1.40 As partners we need to work together to increase accessibility of green space for everyone; enable people to access these areas in their communities and empower people to be involved in maintaining and protecting their own green space (and feel a sense of ownership of communal green space). It is crucial too we gain an understanding of the barriers to access and work with communities to overcome them.
- 1.41 There is already a wealth of good practice in the Tees Valley in relation to Health and Wellbeing, often in the context of severe deprivation. [Darlington is a Healthy New Towns](#) Demonstrator site; partner organisations deliver engagement programmes such as [River Tees Re-discovered](#), [Tees Valley Wild Green Places](#), [Life Skills – Your Way to Wellbeing](#), [Middlesbrough ‘Men’s Shed’](#) to name just a few of the many projects involving schools, community groups and residents.
- 1.42 The [‘You’ve Got This’ programme in South Tees](#) is a new pilot supported by Sport England which the nature partnership is partnering with. The vision is to place increasing physical activity – more people being more active more often – at the centre of whole system change... addressing stubborn inequalities in their communities to improve quality of life.
- 1.43 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 Public Health England (PHE) and Local Authorities to make this connection to aid turning ‘big picture’ health strategy into increased resident activity on the ground.
- 1.44 Key activities include:
- **Activity 6.1:** Work with health partners to develop practical solutions to increase use of outdoor natural spaces particularly among communities with limited opportunity and greatest levels of health need.
 - **Activity 6.2:** Develop a model that encourages more appreciation and engagement of nature in our open spaces as part of other strategic programmes e.g. 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.

⁵ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-action-on-health-inequalities-evidence-papers>

2. 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 2019 and 2022, as detailed in this business plan. The TVNP Manager has lead responsibility for Objectives 7 and 8 and associated activities.

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

~Sir David Attenborough

THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

Ensuring the Partnerships Future Success

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

Objective 7: Ensure Sustainability of TVNP

- 3.4 TVNP needs to ensure it is financially resilient. The 2018 LNP survey by the Defra Local Delivery Team recognised 'Funding is a significant barrier to development'.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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.
- 3.7 Key activities include:

- **Activity 7.1:** Explore alternative income streams for the partnership such as new approaches to fundraising, trading or other income generating activities.
- **Activity 7.2:** Develop a communication strategy to ensure that TVNP activity is shared with relevant audiences on a regular and frequent basis.
- **Activity 7.3:** Steering Group to access training to better understand the terminology and culture of public health and the role, remit and potential for working with Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) and the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

Objective 8: Secure Partner Engagement and Ownership

- 3.8 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 we need to ensure ownership and accountability.
- 3.9 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.
- 3.10 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.
- 3.11 TVNP has an essential role in acting as a facilitator for developing ideas and options to ensure a coordinated response to national and strategic Tees Valley consultation exercises. TVNP has been a

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key contributor already to collective LNP response's to national consultations including the Environmental Principles and Governance Bill consultation and Net Gain in planning consultation.

3.12 Key activities include:

- **Activity 8.1:** Publish 6-monthly report summarising project activity being undertaken by partner organisations which contributes to TVNP objectives.
- **Activity 8.2:** Set up other working/task & finish groups to assist delivery of the business plan.
- **Activity 8.3:** Deliver the annual 'Tees Nature Conference' with Your Tees Catchment Partnership.

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

~Henry Ford



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.

3.13 There are 83 river catchments across England, most of these areas are following the 'catchment-based approach' through a catchment partnership. TVNP covers the bottom half of the river Tees catchment. Much of the work and many of the partner organisations of the two partnerships over-laps. As such the two partnerships work closely together including hosting a joint annual 'Tees Nature' conference.



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: Protect What We Have</i>
	<i>Objective 2: Enhance What We Can</i>
THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH	<i>Objective 3: Promote Our Natural Assets</i>
	<i>Objective 4: Support Our Mayoral Combined Authority</i>
THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH & WELLBEING	<i>Objective 5: Further Involvement & Ownership</i>
	<i>Objective 6: Improve Health & Wellbeing</i>
THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT	<i>Objective 7: Ensure Sustainability of TVNP</i>
	<i>Objective 8: Secure Partner Engagement & Ownership</i>

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS. Protecting & Improving the Natural Environment				
Objective	Activity	Milestones	Who	Cost
Objective 1: Protect What We Have	Activity 1.1: Deliver our Local Sites process ensuring it is robust, clear and fully supported by the planning authorities.	By 29/03/19 TVNP to confirm to all LPA current process & invite comment/points of clarification. By 30/9/19 agree process with LPAs.	Natural Assets Working Grp	Core budget
	Activity 1.2: Plan a series of CPD workshops for local planners on environmental policy changes.	By 30/6/19 produce an outline of topics to be covered based on consultation with LPAs By 30/9/19 publish a programme of CPD workshops to each LPA By 31/3/20 deliver the programme of CPD workshops	Task & Finish group.	Est. £200
	Activity 1.3: Establish a 'Large projects sub group' for cross sector support on key strategic projects. TVNP to be facilitators/administrators.	By 5/07/19 hold initial meeting of 'Large projects sub group' and draft terms of reference By 11/9/19 produce paper confirming strategic priorities for environmental enhancement in the Tees Valley. By 31/10/19 produce initial list of projects ongoing, projects in development that need support and projects needing to be developed in coming year towards achieving strategic priorities By 18/12/19 ensure appropriate engagement with funders such that relevant bids for Feasibility Design or Construction submitted for 2020/21 funding	TVNP Manager	Core budget

Objective 2: Enhance What We Can	Activity 2.1: Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps.	By 31/07/19 identify programme of Biodiversity Opportunity Area mapping By 27/12/19 produce Biodiversity Opportunity Area mapping By 30/03/19 promote use of Biodiversity Opportunity Area mapping	Task & Finish Group	Est. £10K
	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.	By 12/06/19 produce a paper recommending a system of local biodiversity metrics By 11/09/19 consult on adoption of this with LPAs and developers. By 11/12/19 obtain adoption /MoU/Protocol/Concordat on use of the system	Natural Assets Working Grp.	Core budget

THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH Nature and Economy Working Together				
Objective	Activity	Milestones	Who	Costs
Objective 3: Promote Our Natural Assets	Activity 3.1: Design and drive a Natural Capital approach for the Tees Valley.	By 19/06/19 produce an issues paper for the Steering Group.	Task & Finish Group	Est. £20K
	Activity 3.2: Commission a natural capital account with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to establish a sound evidence base.	By 05/19 advise the emerging Local Industrial Strategy. By 18/09/19 produce brief for a Tees Valley Natural Capital Account By 18/12/09 Commission work By 11/03/19 Publish findings	Task & Finish Group	Est. £30K
Objective 4: Support Our Mayoral Combined Authority	Activity 4.1: Work with TVCA and the Mayor on large strategic projects including the Mayors 'River Tees Initiative' to develop local exemplars of sustainable development. TVNP will provide evidence and specialist advice to underpin major project development and delivery.	By 19/09/19 ascertain pipe-line of strategic projects at TVCA Work with TVCA to engage with project design stage link to 1.4 - large projects sub-group By April 2020 publish & promote Natural Capital Account.	TVNP Chair	Core budget
	Activity 4.2: Work with STDC to ensure an integrated approach to biodiversity and the environment is adopted across the whole site.		TVNP Steering grp.	Core budget

THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING Reconnecting People and Nature				
Objective	Activity	Milestones	Who	Costs
Objective 5: Further Involvement and Ownership	Activity 5.1: Develop a Health and Wellbeing Manifesto for partners to sign and commit to.	By 18/12/19 work with PHE and Public Health South Tees to draft a manifesto. By 11/03/20 consult with wider partnership. By 10/06/20 publish signed manifesto	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	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.	Design into engagement programme	Task & Finish Group	Est. £2k/yr
	Activity 5.3: Design a programme to engage and involve greater numbers of people in the work of the partnership.	Promote the 2019 Year of Green Action locally 31/05/19 Secure funding for engagement programme 28/6/19 Promote at Tees Nature Conference Work with TVCA 'Big Conversation' to Dec 2020 By 18/09/19 design phase 1 of engagement programme	Task & Finish Group	Core budget
Objective 6: Improving Health & Wellbeing	Activity 6.1: Work with health partners to develop practical solutions to increase use of outdoor natural spaces particularly among communities with limited opportunity and greatest levels of health need.	By 18/12/19 write an 'issues report' with public health partners.	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	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).	You've Got This is a 5-year programme. Work with their time-scales.	Task & Finish Group	Core budget

THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT Ensuring the Partnerships Future Success				
Objective	Activity	Milestones	Who	Costs
Objective 7: Ensure Sustainability of TVNP	Action 7.1: Explore alternative income streams for the partnership such as new approaches to fundraising, trading or other income generating activities.	By 09/09/20 commission a consultant to specifically look at this issue. By 09/09/20 produce an issues report for the steering group. By 03/21 publish a 5-year investment programme.	Task & Finish Group	Est. £25k
	Activity 7.2: Develop a communication strategy to ensure that TVNP activity is shared with relevant audiences on a regular and frequent basis.	By 18/12/19 commission a communications/media company as part of the wider promotion of TVNP. By 18/09/19 publish annual report (and sept. each year)	TVNP Manager	Est. £15k
	Action 7.3: Steering Group to access training to better understand the terminology and culture of public health and the role, remit and potential for working with TVCA and LEP.	By 11/12/19 produce a scoping report on training needs and ideas to meet these By 9/12/20 Deliver a series of training sessions	TVNP Manager	TBC
Objective 8: Secure Partner Engagement and Ownership	Activity 8.1: Produce 6-monthly report summarising project activity being undertaken by partner organisations which contributes to TVNP objectives.	By 12/06/09/19 produce first report	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 8.2: Set up other working groups to assist delivery of the business plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ LA Planners CPD workshop ▪ BOA mapping completion ▪ Natural Capital Approach/Natural Capital account ▪ Engagement Programme ▪ Public health ▪ Future TVNP funding ▪ Annual Tees Nature conference 	TVNP Manager	Core budget
	Activity 8.3: Deliver the annual 'Tees Nature Conference' with Your Tees Catchment Partnership.	Delivery June 2019, 2020, 2021 & 2022	Task & Finish Group	£2-5K

