



## Chairs Annual Report 2016/17

### 1. Purpose of Report

To brief the Tees Valley Nature Partnership Steering Group on the progress of the Partnership.

### 2. Background by way of a reminder...

#### 2.1 Context and Broad Role of the Partnership

The Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) is a cross sector Tees Valley wide partnership that has been formed to take a strategic overview of the natural environment and look for ways to manage, enhance and promote it that will produce outcomes that integrate the needs of nature, people and the economy.

The TVNP has been formed as a response to the Natural Environment White Paper (NEWP) (2011) in which the government invited new and existing partnerships to come together to form Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs). Building on a strong foundation of the Tees Valley Biodiversity Partnership the TVNP received government recognition as the LNP for the Tees Valley in July 2012 and is now one of 47 across England.

#### 2.2 The Purpose of the TVNP

- To be an effective unified voice to champion the Tees Valley's environment.
- To provide a strategic framework for local environmental delivery.
- To influence local plans, strategies and policies to integrate the delivery of environmental benefits and services alongside economic and social benefits.
- To work to coordinate and strengthen local action to secure a functioning, sustainable and resilient bio-diverse natural environment.

#### 2.3 Vision and Key Themes

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

**Theme 1: Natural Assets** – Protecting and Improving the Natural Environment.

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

**Theme 2: Natural Growth** – Growing A Sustainable Economy.

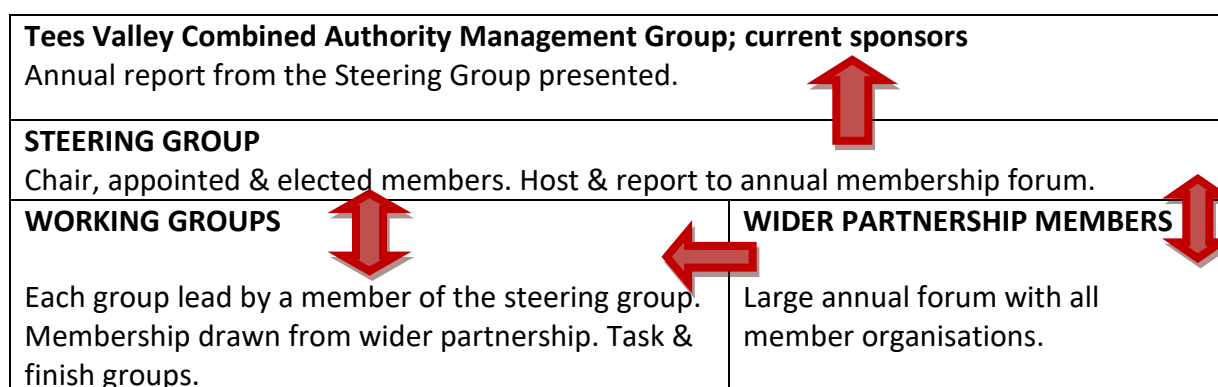
Our ambition: To create a quality resilient natural environment that supports sustainable economic growth & investment in the Tees Valley.

**Theme 3 Natural Health & Wellbeing** – Reconnecting People and Nature.

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

**2.4 Governance of The Partnership**

The TVNP is governed by a steering group supported by working groups. The Tees Valley Wildlife Trust (TVWT) acts as the accountable body of the Partnership. The Steering Group has member representation in line with government recommendations and which reflect the three key themes.



**Figure 1: Conceptual Structure of the Partnership**

**3. Key Achievements in the last year**

- New Steering Group and Chair appointed, first meeting held 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2016.
- New [members of the partnership](#). Now have 37 groups and organisations inclusive of small local groups such as Cleveland Hedgehog Preservation Society and Teesmouth Field Centre.
- In line with the emerging local plans across the 5 local authorities Planning and Nature Working Group developed and published [Local Plan Assessment for Nature & Biodiversity](#).
- New Natural Assets Working Group, formerly the Local Sites Partnership has recommended 3 new Local Wildlife Sites. Their expert remit could include providing advice and expertise on the value of the natural environment for policy development and planning guidance and informing future large-scale funding bids for both the environment and cross sector. This is to be confirmed.
- Phase 1 - [Natural Network & Opportunity Maps](#) – published and promoted for use in the emerging local plans.
- Phase 2 - [Central Farmland Biodiversity Opportunity Area](#) pilot published. Work on East Cleveland and Middlesbrough Beck Valleys underway, due for publication end 2017.

- [LEED \(Local Environment & Economic Development\) Toolkit Workshop](#) held at the Combined Authority May 2016. Building on this the more comprehensive Level 2 stage is being considered for commission.
- [Our Tees: Your Nature Partnerships Conference](#). Joint conference with Your Tees Catchment Partnership. 88 people attended the event at Preston Park with representation from a wide range of groups who demonstrated their role in the regional picture. With presentations from experts in our key priority areas the Conference became a learning and networking opportunity with a participatory focus. Thanks go to Rachel Murtagh, Ben Lamb and Graham Clingan for their efforts in bringing the strands together and making this a successful event. Learning points have been noted for next year where the format could form the basis for either another more general Conference or focussed on a specific theme.
- A partnership involvement event with 30 key stakeholders in June 2016 to develop the [TVNP Development Plan 2016](#). This needs serious rationalising to make it a useable and accountable document.
- Quarterly [Newsletters](#)
- HLF Resilient Heritage bid submitted 7/9/17 to commission an independent review of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP). This will inform our partners so they are better able to decide and be accountable for the action and practical next steps needed to ensure the future sustainability of the Partnership. The review will consider the need for our partnership, what we can offer and what we can achieve.
- Support for Tees Valley potential Landscape Partnerships. Yorkshire Cliffs (supporting letter sent with round 1 application). Tees Estuary, Project Enquiry Form submitted.
- Exploration of opportunities to work with neighbouring LNP's on cross-border projects and thematic links.
- **Added value.** The partnership is demonstrating smart use of human resources across the Tees Valley, sharing knowledge, expertise and best practice. This has been demonstrated for example in the opportunity mapping and planning guidance work. Also, forged strong working links with neighbouring LNP's.
- **Growing resource** for all strategic documents, guidance and best practice in the Tees Valley concerned with the natural environment. Room for development here!

#### 4. *Future Work and Proposals*

- Support LEED Level 2 (Combined Authority to resource)
- Support round 1 bid for Tees Estuary LP Combined Authority to resource? TVNP to manage? - decisions need to be taken on these matters.
- Build programme of Health and Wellbeing events to raise awareness, network and initiate projects.
- Organise & host annual TVNP/YTCP conference
- Secure Resilient Heritage Funding, commission and manage consultant in review of partnership
- Enact whatever review comes out with, for example:
  - TVNP communications strategy?
  - Produce a workable creative & realistic partnership plan?
  - Do more/support smaller partner organisations?
  - Develop a more sustainable business model
  - Actions to secure a more resilient future for the Partnership

## *5. Financial Considerations*

The current funding commitment is assured until April 2019. Each of the five Tees Valley local authorities and Tees Valley Wildlife Trust makes an annual contribution of £5,300. Future funding will be considered as part of the Resilient Heritage project.

## *6. Recommendations*

It is recommended that the Steering Group accept the above report, consider the future work plan leading to a formal Work Plan for 2017/18 and suggest amendments or further inclusions.

Background Papers

[Local Plan Assessment for Nature & Biodiversity](#)

[Natural Networks and Opportunity Maps](#)

[Partnership Terms of Reference](#)

[Tees Valley Nature Partnership](#) (website)

[TVNP Development Plan 2016](#)

Timothy Crawshaw,

Chair TVNP 2016/17