



TVNP Briefing note/Report Tees Valley Natural Environment Data 5th December 2018

Introduction

As the TVNP entered its second year of operation an independent review was undertaken to ensure future partnership sustainability. The outcome of this is a new three-year Business Plan for 2019 – 2022. The plan has identified:

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

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

- **Activity 3.1:** Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps, developed in conjunction with other strategic plans and linked to Your Tees Catchment Partnership 'story map'.
- **Activity 3.2:** Develop and adopt a system of local biodiversity metrics to assess the value of current assets, set targets and measure future progress.
- **Activity 3.3:** Explore the potential of a natural environment strategic data hub for the Tees Valley. Agree a protocol for ensuring this data is up to date, accessible and open.
- **Activity 12.3:** Produce an annual report of progress and impact and disseminate this to relevant partners.

In addition, the English LNP network have proposed a self-assessment tool to allow for annual reporting on work of the LNPs. The Defra local delivery team have undertaken this work on behalf of the LNPs. The benefits are two-fold; firstly, as an opportunity to gain



further information and increase the visibility of all the valuable work LNPs and secondly to aid sharing examples of best practice and promote joint working.

Nationally LNPs have identified data as one of the key issues effecting local delivery. The government has made a commitment to develop a set of metrics to assess progress towards the goals of the 25-year Environment Plan. Government will then report on progress annually and refresh the plan periodically to make sure that actions continue to target the right improvements and make a real difference.

The National Context

The England Natural Environment Indicators published by Defra 25 October (see appendix 1) will supersede the ENEI publication and this 2018 publication is therefore likely to be the last in the current series. The understanding is these indicators will inform/be integrated into the forthcoming Environment Bill and Biodiversity Strategy that arises from the 25 YEP.

The metrics for the 25 YEP have yet to be published, there is no indication from Defra when this is likely to be.

Local Metrics

There is national debate within the LNP network about meaningful local metrics. The overall consensus seems to be that each area and LNP differ so much local indicators that reflect local priorities are best adopted. Nationally Defra do not want to impose an extra burden on LNPs of gathering and reporting on standardised local indicators.

Tees Valley indicators

What metrics/indicators do we adopt which are locally meaningful and can be gathered on an annual basis for reporting within an annual report. The NAWG are asked to advise the full TVNP steering group on this matter.

END



APPENDIX 1: England Natural Environment Indicators published by Defra 25 October 2018

Indicator	Individual measures	New assessment	New data
1. Species in the wider countryside	Breeding farmland birds Butterflies of the wider countryside on farmland Widespread bats Breeding woodland birds Butterflies of the wider countryside in woodland Breeding wetland birds Wintering water birds Breeding seabirds		
2. Water quality	Proportion of surface water bodies with status classed as good or high		
3. Marine ecosystem integrity	Fish size class ³ Marine litter		
4. Priority species	Relative abundance of priority species Distribution of priority species		
5. Land use	Percentage of woodland in active management		
6. Natural stocks	Sustainable fisheries ⁴ Water abstraction Forest carbon stock Soil carbon concentration (all habitats)		
7. Raw material consumption	Raw material consumption		
8. Value of ecosystem services	Value of UK woodland ecosystem services		
9. Integrating biodiversity and natural environment considerations into business activity	Percentage of large companies that use an environmental management scheme Percentage of companies where the environment is formally considered in the supply chain		

10. Public engagement with the natural environment	Proportion of people visiting the natural environment several times a week or more Number of visits made by children to the natural environment Conservation volunteering		
11. Environmental quality and health	Number of air pollution days classed as moderate or higher – urban Number of air pollution days classed as moderate or higher – rural Number of air pollution days classed as moderate or higher – rural Percentage of the population affected by noise		

Appendix 2: 25 YEP draft metrics

PRESSURES	CONDITION OF ASSETS	BENEFITS	HEADLINES
Invasive sp established	Roadside NO2 compliance	Engagement in the environment	1. Air quality
Distribution of tree pests & diseases	Background rural ozone	Social action for natural environment	2. Water quality & quantity
Nationally significant chemical emissions	Threatened marine features	Health & wellbeing benefits	3. Cherished wildlife
Wildlife chemical exposure	Functioning seafloor habitats	Env attitudes & behaviours	4. Nature affecting our livelihoods
Raw material consumption	Fish/shellfish stocks safe/sust	Flooding & erosion impact	5. Landscapes & waterscapes
Hazardous chemicals preventing re-cycling	Naturalness of waste/wetlands	Drought impacts	6. Enjoyment and care for the environment
Residual waste arising	Woodland area	Flood resistant communities	7. Health & diversity of seas
Waste crime	Priority sp	Farming productivity	8. Resilience to natural hazards
Greenhouse gas emission rates	Health of freshwater fish stocks	Wood harvested	9. Exotic disease and invasive species
Impacts of NOx NH2 on ecosystems	Landscape improved in AE areas?	Sustainable seafood	10. Exposure to harmful chemicals
Air pollution emissions reductions	Fine particulate conc. In air	Income from farming	11. Production and harvesting of natural resources
Pollutions entering waste	Ammonia conc. In air	Volume of timber	12. Resource efficiency
Serious water pollution incidents	Water tests meeting good status	Sustainably sourced overseas products	13. Greenhouse gas emissions
Municipal waste recycled	Condition of bathing water	Overseas capacity for climate change	14. Overseas impacts of domestic consumption
Sea bed under pressure	Water sustained by abstracted?		15. UK contributions to overseas environment improvement
Marine litter	Status of native sp.		
Invasive species in OTs	Condition of protected sites		
Consumer buying choices	Functional sp		
Capacity built against iwt?	Quant. Qual. Connectivity of habitats		
Forest pest risk	Characteristic sp on land		
	Landscape & waterscape character		
	Heritage features of designated sites		
	Green/blue infrastructure		
	Healthy seas		
	Diverse seas		
	Chemical effects on wildlife		
	Soil health		
	Global habitats protected		
	Endemic and threatened sp in UKOTs		
	Extent/cond of priority habitats in UKOTs		
ASSETS: Water; air; mountain, moor & heath; woods; farms; towns & cities; seas			

