



Briefing note for the Combined Authority Management Group Future Funding of TVNP July 2019

1. Purpose of Report

To brief the Tees Valley Combined Authority Management Group on the future of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership and secure written confirmation of three-year match funding.

1.1 Context and Broad Role of the Partnership

The Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) one of 47 in England is a cross sector Tees Valley wide partnership officially recognised by the secretary of state in 2012. It takes a strategic overview of the natural environment and identifies ways to manage, enhance and promote it that will produce outcomes that integrate the needs of nature, people and the economy.

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) have national recognition through the UK government's [25 Year Environment Plan](#) and the NPPF ([National Planning Policy Framework](#)) and it is fully anticipated this recognition will be carried through in the UK [Environment Bill](#) due to be published in the autumn of 2019.

2. Funding

2.2 Current Funding

LNPs have the authority to respond to their local context whilst linking up to the national picture. Despite the national support there has never been any central government funding to support LNPs leaving it to local partners to secure.

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. These current funders made an initial three-year commitment with a one-year extension to 31stMarch 2020.

In 2018 aware of the precarious state of the funding situation TVNP commissioned a review of the partnership with the support of a Heritage Lottery Fund (now National Lottery Heritage Fund) grant. This ultimately resulted in a three [Business Plan 2019-2022](#) and a one-year funding extension by the current funders to 31stMarch 2020 to enable TVNP to secure a longer term future.

2.3 Future Funding

It was clear from the business planning process and the resulting plan that much of the success and potential in the Tees Valley is in the people. In light of the growing national concerns about the environment particularly around plastic and climate change and local concerns around development and green space we saw an opportunity to reach out to our communities to ‘harness public love and concern for nature. Grow involvement – extend our influence’.

Discussions with the [National Lottery Community Fund](#) (formerly the Big Lottery) started and a [funding proposal](#) was submitted in January 2019 with a [full application](#) in April 2019. Much of the work and evidence for this application came from the year of review in 2018 and the TVNP business plan. The application also demonstrated the close links with other existing programmes (South Tees Sport England local delivery pilot) and proposed Tees Valley City of Culture bid and ‘The Big Conversation’ and the Creative People and Places Arts Council bid led by MIMA (which has got through to the next round).

2.4 Grant Offer

TVNP were awarded a grant of **£280,758** from the National Lottery Community Fund in May 2019 and a grand announcement was made at the [Tees Nature Conference](#) on the 28th June.

TVNP were keen to maintain a small contribution from the Tees Valley local authorities as it gives us a degree of flexibility that the NLCF are unable to stretch too in particular setting up a small local community/group environment grant award scheme.

The local authority combined contribution towards the project is **£47,621** over the three years giving a total project cost of **£328,379**.

The Terms and Conditions of the grant state:

‘This grant offer is also subject to the following additional conditions that must be satisfied before you use any of the grant:

- *You will provide us with written confirmation that the [matched/additional] funding detailed in your application is in place and ready for you to use for this project delivery...’*

An amended Memorandum of Agreement is attached with this report. **We request that each Director sign this** so it may be returned to the NLCF in time for TVNP to draw down the funding in September 2019.

	yr1	yr2	yr3	Total
LA contribution to TVNP towards NLCF 'project'	12,766	18,600	16,255	47,621
LA contribution to TVNP April – September 2019*	14,399			
Local Authority ea.	5,433	3,720	3,245	12,398
Total Due from local authorities	27,165	18,600	16,255	62,020
TVWT	5,300			
NLCF Contribution	93,586	93,586	93,586	280,758
Total Project value	126,051	112,186	109,841	348,078

*Please note to cover TVNP April 2019 – September 2019 when the lottery project begins there is additional collective local authority contribution of £14,399.

3. Steering Group Representation

The Steering Group has member representation in line with government recommendations and reflect TVNPs three key themes of Natural Assets, Natural Growth and Natural Health & Wellbeing. Since 2016 each local authority has been given a seat.

We are grateful for the contributions of the committed members of the group. The support in time, expertise and the ability given to them to feedback into their respective local authorities is critical to the success that TVNP is building.

Local Authority	Current Representative
Darlington Borough Council	David Hand, Head of Planning Policy, Economic Strategy and Environment (new member)
Hartlepool Borough Council	Sarah Scarr, Heritage and Countryside Manger
Middlesbrough Borough Council	Paul Clarke, Head of Planning
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	Rebecca Wren, Planning Strategy Manager (new member)
Stockton Borough Council	Graham Clingan, Greenspace Strategy & Partnership Manager

The [full TVNP membership](#) can be viewed on the website. In addition, we have Clare Deasy, WFD Catchment Coordinator from Northumbrian Water; Eddie Halstead, Tees Programme Manager from the Environment Agency and Lucy Chapman, Partnership Manager - River Tees Rediscovered/Groundwork.

END