

Terms of Reference: TVNP Engagement Group

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Tees Valley Nature Partnership vision: A Tees Valley where more people are connected to bigger and better wildlife rich spaces

1. Introduction and context:

The Working Groups come under the umbrella of the Tees Valley Nature Partnership which is governed by a steering group. Please refer to our [group page](#) for more information.

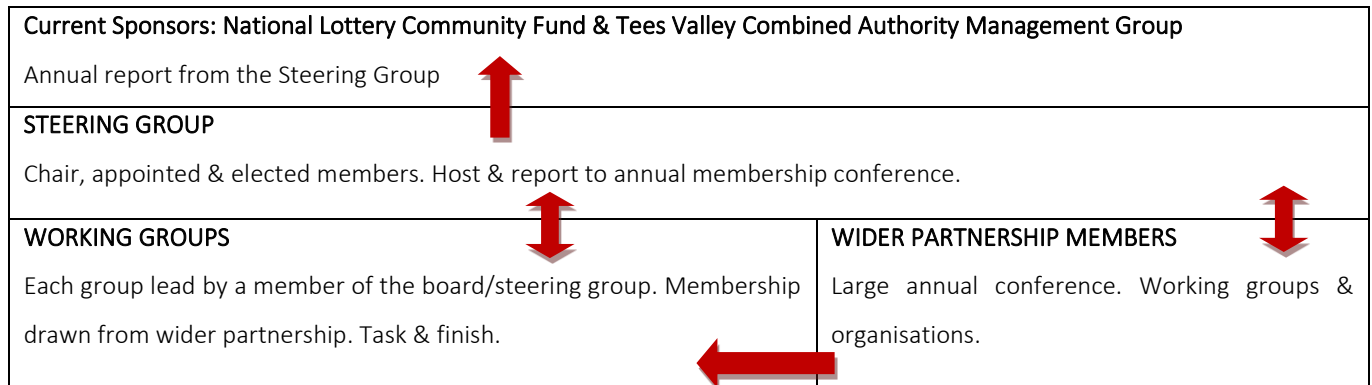


Figure 1: Conceptual Structure of the Partnership

1.1 TVNP steering group

The Steering Group comprises of no more than 18 members, one member from each of the Tees Valley local authorities and then representatives who have multiple interests. Current membership of the steering group is published on the TVNP [website](#). The terms of reference for the Steering Group members are appended [here](#).

1.2 TVNP Working groups

Membership of the working groups is drawn from the full partnership with a minimum of one steering group representative. Each group will be supported by either TVNP Manager or TVNP Officer. Feedback will be given by each Chair at each Steering Group meeting.

Each working group has its own terms of reference that relate to the full partnership terms of reference. The number and remit of these groups adapts to meet the developing needs of the partnership. The 2019-2022 TVNP Business Plan identified the following groups:

THEME 1: NATURAL ASSETS	<i>Natural Assets Working Group</i>
	<i>Environmental Policy CPD Working Group</i>
	<i>BOA Mapping Working Group</i>
THEME 2: NATURAL GROWTH	<i>Natural Capital Working Group</i>
THEME 3: NATURAL HEALTH & WELLBEING	<i>Public Health Working Group</i>
	<i>Engagement Working Group</i>
THEME 4: STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT	<i>Partnership Financing Working Group</i>
	<i>Tees Nature Conference Planning Group</i>
	<i>Large Projects Working Group</i>

Figure 2: 2019-2022 Working Groups

1.3 Processes and Procedures

- Operate in an open, responsive and accountable manner that always adheres to high standards of ethics and governance in public life.
- Provide strategic input into the key decisions of the Steering Group relating to vision, strategic objectives and delivery plans.
- The Engagement Group meets quarterly; March, June, September and December on the second Tuesday of the month at Tees Rivers Trust HQ. Supplemented by email and telephone communication between these dates.
- Monitor, review and evaluate performance. Work within the TVNP Social Learning Framework Contribute to the annual report
- Meetings minutes are taken and, where appropriate, action points identified with the individuals or groups responsible shown. These are posted on the TVNP website.
- A chair is appointed from within the group on an annual basis. Secretariat provided by nature partnership staff within the host organisation.
- These terms of reference are reviewed annually.
- This group and all the other working groups are accountable to the Steering Group, the details of the Steering Groups accountability are in the Steering Group Terms of Reference.

2. Engagement Group

2.1 Background of the Engagement Group

The Engagement group ('the group') was formed as a subgroup of the wider TVNP as part of its Business Plan 2019-2022. The Engagement group has a specific remit to engage with local communities, through our partner groups, to ensure that their views are reflected in the activities and priorities of the Partnership, and that they understand the opportunities offered by the natural environment on their doorstep.

2.2 Remit of the Engagement Group

The Engagement Group remit is to engage with local communities, through our partner organisations, to ensure that their views are reflected in the activities and priorities of the Partnership, and that they understand the opportunities offered by the natural environment on their doorstep.

The group will help ensure that the partnership and its activities are 'people-led'. This is a specific requirement of the National Lottery Community Fund 'Reaching Communities' programme from which TVNP is supported with funding until September 2022. The group will report to the TVNP Steering Group (SG), whilst also steering and supervising the engagement work of TVNP. The group will act as a forum for partners to exchange ideas on current and future engagement methods of TVNP. TVNP has a three-year funding programme with money from a successful National Lottery Community Fund bid. The remit has been translated from the agreements set out both in the National Lottery bid and the 2019 TVNP business plan.

2.2.1 Actions identified in the TVNP Business Plan 2019 -2022 – direct responsibility

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.

2.2.2 Specific actions identified by the members

- Through working with our member groups, involve more residents, schools, organisations and business through our partner organisations and TVNP.
- Through working with our member groups, establish engagement that is **celebrating and valuing nature**.
- **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.
- Facilitate natural environment communication and action, working both ‘bottom up’ and ‘top down’.
- Oversee the creation of a central place for resources available so that people can easily access what they are looking for.
- Steer and oversee the development of a youth panel for nature which will continue after project funding finishes.
- Steer and oversee the development of a small grants programme and recruit people from the community to be on the grants panel.

2.2.3 Outcomes identified in the lottery bid

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

Figure 7: How our aims meet our desired outcomes

2.3 Members of the Engagement Group

The group is currently made up of eight members. These members are two TVNP staff members and six representatives from TVNP member organisations.

- **Chair:** Paul Clarke, Middlesbrough Borough Council
- Ben Lamb, Tees Rivers Trust
- Clare Deasy, Northumbrian Water
- Graham Clingan, Stockton Borough Council
- Lucy Chapman, Groundwork Trust
- Rachel Murtagh, TVNP
- **Secretariat:** Louise Richards, TVNP

We are always open to new members from our member groups. If you would be interested in being part of the TVNP engagement group please email your interest to TVNP@teeswildlife.org.