

Terms of Reference: TVNP Natural Assets Working Group

Contents:

1. Introduction and Context

1.1 TVNP Steering Group

1.2 TVNP Working Groups

1.3 Processes and Procedures

2. Natural Assets Working Group

2.1 Background of the Working Group

2.2 Remit of the Working Group

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

2.2.2 Actions identified in the TVNP Business Plan 2019 -2022 – significant input

2.3 Members of the Natural Assets Working Group

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.

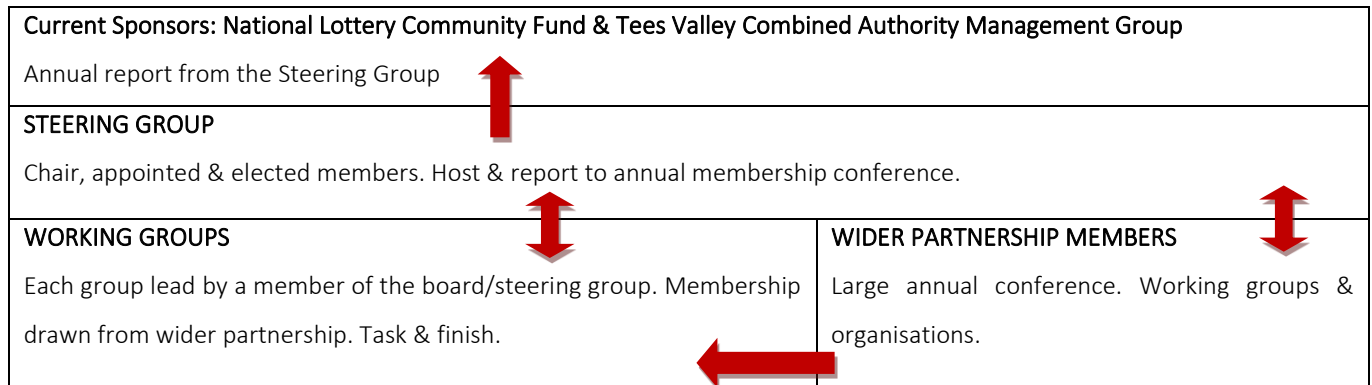


Figure 1: Conceptual Structure of the Partnership

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. Natural Assets Working Group

2.1 Background of the working group

Formerly the Local Sites Partnership for the Tees Valley. The remit was to endorse and adopt local sites (LWS, Local Wildlife Sites and LGS, Local Geological Sites) as proposed by the Tees Valley local authorities and ensure that appropriate mechanisms were in place to monitor their management.

Since then the national context for biodiversity and conservation has changed with the publication of the [Natural Environment White Paper](#) launched by the Government in June 2011. Based on the findings of the Lawton report 2010 – [Making Space for Nature](#). The report argues that we need a step-change in our approach to wildlife conservation, from trying to hang on to what we have, to one of large-scale habitat restoration and recreation, under-pinned by the re-establishment of ecological processes and ecosystem services, for the benefits of both people and wildlife.

The move from focused species, habitat and site protection to a more landscape scale approach underpins a whole new set of methodologies. This has given rise to; LNP's, NIAs (Nature Improvement Areas), policies within the NPPF & NPPG (National Planning Policy Framework and associated guidance), River Catchment Partnerships and the government's 25 Year Environment Plan for example. More recently proposals including Nature Recovery Strategies within the forthcoming Environment Bill.

The government releases an annual report on the proportion of Local Sites where positive conservation management has been or is being implemented more. This is reported annually as part of a suite of indicators from the 5 Tees Valley Borough Councils that contribute to the [Single Data List on local sites in positive conservation management](#)

2.2 Remit of the group:

The group will report to the Tees Valley Nature Partnership Steering Group. Adhere to and inform the [Tees Valley Local Wildlife/Geological Sites Evaluation, Selection & Designation Process 2018](#) and act as the TVNP biodiversity 'expert group' informing the partnership as laid out in the actions below:

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

Activity 1.1: Deliver our Local Sites process ensuring it is robust, clear and fully supported by the planning authorities.

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.

2.2.2 Actions identified in the TVNP Business Plan 2019 -2022 – significant input

Activity 1.3: Establish a 'Large projects subgroup' for cross sector support on key strategic projects. TVNP to be facilitators/administrators.

Activity 2.1: Set out future aspirations for the Tees Valley's natural environment through a series of Biodiversity Opportunity Area maps.

Activity 3.2: Commission a natural capital account with the Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to establish a sound evidence base.

2.3 Members of the Natural Assets Working Group

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

- **Chair:** Jeremy Garside, Tees Valley Wildlife Trust
- Fiona Hurworth, Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
- Dave Askey, Stockton Borough Council
- Martin Allen, independent ecologist
- Mike Leakey, INCA
- 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.