Steering Group Meeting Minutes
10.00 am 16/12/20

Attended	**Paul Clarke** Middlesbrough Borough Council; **Graham Clingan** Stockton Borough Council; **Chris Francis** RSPB; **Jeremy Garside** Tees Valley Wildlife Trust; **Eddie Halstead** Environment Agency; **Ben Lamb** Tees Rivers Trust; **Rachel Murtagh** TVNP; **Phil Roxby** INCA; **Andy Whitehead** Natural England; **Rebecca Wren** Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council; **Graeme Hull** Environment Agency **Sarah Scarr** Hartlepool Borough Council; **Glyn Smith** Public Health England; **Judy Power** Tees Rivers Trust
Apologies	**David Hand** Darlington Borough Council
Chair	**Timothy Crawshaw** Chair TVNP
Secretariat	**Louise Richards** TVNP

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
SG/01.04.20	Minutes of the last meeting 16-12-20 accepted Introduced Judy Power the River Leven Officer to the Steering group	
SG/02.04.20	**Managers' Report** – An update on work & progress since last meeting. Report attached Rachel Murtagh gave an update on the report to the Steering group. Key points: - Festival UK 2022 - Engagement plan - Conference - Governance - Stakeholder engagement - Communication - Have been working on green social prescribing with Middlesbrough and Stockton MIND Update from Timothy Crawshaw on the Tees Innovation Hub. Trying to identify the need and business case and then draw down funding such as section 106 and green bond funding for strategic projects across Tees Valley. Hoping to work with TVCA on this. Seeking £85,000 to £100,000 from the NLHF. Opportunities for councils to tie into this to gain experience and for schemes such as pension schemes to get involved in this. Not looking to rule out any financing opportunities could get involved with ecosystem services such as carbon credits. Would like to be a place that people come to because we can deliver. TVCA area is the area being looked at - wanting to build an investment scheme around that governance structure. NWG have been working on something similar for the area they cover so would be good to work together. INCA interested in this work as the current system of carbon credits isn't as open as would be liked. DEFRA Eco-metric being developed to take over current metric which this could sit alongside of.	

SG/03.04.20	**Update from TVNP Working Groups:**	**LR & RM** to work on a project's portfolio and map
	Governance (Rachel Murtagh)	
	▪ Added this working group since the last steering group as it became clear that some of the finer detail needed to be kept an eye on.	**CD & GH** to make contacts about a funding catalogue.
	Natural Assets (Jeremy Garside)	**LR** to send draft program to the steering group
	▪ Mostly consisted of a presentation from Jean Joy who is working with ERIC on updating the phase 1 habitat maps which have not been updated since the 1980's.	
	▪ ERIC digitised the existing paper map so this can then be used in GIS. Jean is now using these GIS layers to link in with NE satellite habitat mapping along with some ground truthing of these.	
	▪ Did have a good planning session that will take the group forward.	
	Engagement (Paul Clarke)	
	▪ Focused on the engagement plan to look at all partners that we want to engage with, current level of engagement but also engagement going forward.	
	▪ Breaking this down into manageable chunks and priorities. Looking at bringing smaller partner groups onto engagement group	
	Strategic Projects (Graeme Hull)	
	▪ Want more bigger better-connected nature, many projects involved in this and looking at funding.	
	▪ Talk about current strategic projects and funding, aware that NLHF has opened again, green recovery fund 2, Climate action fund 2.	
	▪ Projects included Brightwater, Living Leven, Tees tidelands.	
	▪ Group thought that a one-page summary of each of these projects would be useful to have a portfolio of past and ongoing projects	
	▪ Could also have a map of the site-specific projects.	
	▪ Also sharing funding catalogue of funding opportunities regionally.	
	Conference (Louise Richards)	
	▪ Update on the technology we'll be using this time - Freshstart Events	
	▪ Update on the theme of "What does nature do for us" and finishing with what can you do for nature	
	▪ Can link into COP 26 and the conversations around this.	
SG/04.04.20	**TVNP & EDI** Had to do a lot of information gathering around EDI and we're aware that the environment sector is the second least representative sector in the UK. Would be good to have some EDI training for the steering group. We need to at least be representative of our membership which we currently are not. It would be good to target those who represent the groups who are not currently represented. We need to look at EDI protected characteristics of steering group in a separate session to address this. If we're inviting different groups, are we inviting them on to us as we are or do we need to change to accommodate them. This could be quite daunting. Is there some halfway house to have members more involved without adding too many people to the steering group? Would be good to link in Engagement Group. A lot of these groups are volunteers so working hours won't work for them.	**LR** to send out anonymous SG survey

SG/05.04.20	**SG as Ambassadors Workshop** – Louise ▪ Who are we & why are we here - presentation ▪ What top 3 things are we calling for? Breakout into small groups	
SG/06.04.20	**AOB**	
Date, time & location of next meeting: 10am 17th June via Zoom unless stated otherwise.		