



Board - Terms of Reference

Overview of Local Nature Partnerships

In 2011, the Government published the Natural Environment White Paper “The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature”. One of the actions in delivering an institutional framework for the recovery of nature was to establish Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) to strengthen local action.

The purpose of an LNP is to enable local engagement and raise awareness about the services and benefits of a healthy natural environment. The intention is that such Partnerships would break away from the traditional approach of delivering biodiversity conservation and also focus on obtaining socio-economic benefits through conservation and good management of biodiversity.

LNP’s should help their local area to manage the natural environment as a system and to embed its value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. The National Planning Policy Framework requires local planning authorities to work collaboratively with LNPs on strategic planning priorities and environmental matters. An amendment of the Local Planning Regulations requires bodies bound by the Biodiversity Duty to also have regard to the views of LNPs on strategic matters. By having a strong strategic element, it is anticipated that LNPs will complement Local Enterprise Partnerships and the formation of strong links between the two has been encouraged.

LNP’s should endeavour not to duplicate work already underway, but should share and signpost good practice, link groups and actions for more efficient delivery and stimulate the formation of groups to address any gaps in the environmental agenda.

Kent Nature Partnership Vision

The KNP has a vision for the Garden of England to have a healthy natural environment that is rich in wildlife, is enjoyed and valued by all and underpins our long-term economic, social and personal wellbeing.

Kent Nature Partnership Mission

To enable a diverse range of organisations to work in partnership and to make best use of their available resources in order to achieve significant gains for Kent's biodiversity.

The Partnership will achieve this by:

- Setting the strategic direction and policies to conserve and enhance Kent's natural environment, whilst influencing change and maximising the social wellbeing and economic benefits that can be gained from it.
- Facilitating collaboration, and join up partner agendas and actions, in order to make best use of available resources and direct action to priority areas and achieve greater benefits for the natural environment.
- Enabling partners to work together across sectors and support natural environment priorities to create resilient ecological networks and protect and improve the natural environment so that social and economic benefits are maximised.
- Providing integrated advice and clearly communicate the value of the natural environment to the economy and society.
- Promoting and encouraging best practice across the county and advocating more vibrant and healthy communities.
- Interpreting the England Biodiversity strategy at the local level.

Purpose of the Kent Nature Partnership Board

To provide political and strategic direction for the Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) and act as a champion and advocate, gaining support for the Partnership's work and engagement across all sectors.

The Board will:

- Approve a strategic direction for KNP and review progress against the KNP Strategic Management Plan and Action Plan.
- Act as the accountable and approving executive for actions to be taken forward by the Management Working Group, utilising a project management approach.
- Agree the KNP's position on a range of issues.
- Provide final approval Local Wildlife Sites recommendations.
- Provide final approval for KNP letters of support.
- Attend the annual joint meeting between Board and Management Working Group.

Membership of the KNP Board

The Board is chaired by Caroline Jessel. The interim vice-Chair is Matthew Balfour, KCC Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways, Transport and Waste.

The Board will comprise Executives from the following:

- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty Unit
- Country Land & Business Association
- Complete Land Management
- Defra family
- Canterbury City Council (District/Borough/City representative)
- Medway Council
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Kent Public Health
- Minerals Producers Association
- Kent Nature Partnership - Management Working Group Chair

The Board will have officer support from Kent County Council.

The Board is quorate when one of the Chair or Vice-Chair is present plus three other members. Where members are not able to attend in person, every effort will be made to enable members to join the meeting via teleconference.

Board Members may nominate at any time additional members; appointment of the nominee will be decided by the Board on the basis of the contribution they will bring to the Board and the Partnership.

An observer position can be made available at each meeting, for purposes of transparency. Requests for attendance in this capacity must be made to the Chair at least a month prior to the Board meeting.

KNP Board Members' roles

The Board is a non-constituted partnership of people who collectively own the Kent Nature Partnership initiative. Members do not represent their particular organisations but may come with the valuable perspective of any bodies with whom they are linked.

Board Members are asked to:

- Collectively own the Kent Nature Partnership initiative and act as an advocate for its vision and work.
- Not represent the interests of their particular organisation but may come with valuable perspective of anybody or sector with whom they are linked.

- Make a commitment to understand the context of the Partnership's work.
- Oversee and assist in delivery of Strategic Management Plan and Action Plan
- Take opportunities to influence both locally and nationally for the furtherance of the Partnership's aims and the benefit of its sustainability.
- Attend four meetings per annum; when unable to attend, members are requested to nominate a deputy.
- At meetings disclose any matters of interest or conflict on issues that may directly affect the decision making process.

The Board meetings will be preceded by MWG, approximately six weeks beforehand; extraordinary meetings will be convened if required. Minutes of Board and MWG meetings will be shared between both groups.

Completed - August 2017