



## **Management Working Group (MWG) - 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 Management Working Group (MWG)**

To provide the technical and sectoral advice required to realise the strategic vision of the Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) and act as sector representatives, gaining input to the Partnership's work from all relevant partners. To deliver a programme of work as agreed by the KNP board.

Further to this the Management Working Group will:

- Act as a steering group for the operational management of the KNP.
- Act collectively as the responsible manager for any actions to be taken forward by the KNP; establishing project teams (task and finish groups) as appropriate and monitoring progress against the KNP action plan.
- Review progress against the KNP's strategic priorities and objectives, including delivery of the Strategic Management Plan and action plan, reporting to the KNP Board via the MWG Chair with recommendations for work.
- Assist in fulfilling KNP roles in respect of strategic planning matters.
- Advise, and make recommendations to, the KNP Board on position statements, Local Wildlife Sites, project support, utilising a project management approach.
- Attend the annual joint meeting between MWG and Board.

- Ensure that the Partnership is adequately resourced to conduct its functions.
- Oversee and support the annual work of the Partnership's Coordinator.

### **Membership of the KNP Management Working Group**

The Management Working Group will be chaired by the Partnership's host organisation, subject to annual MWG approval. The Group's Chair will also sit on the KNP Board, providing the link between the two and be responsible for the preparation of the KNP Board papers, with input from the MWG.

The Management Working Group will comprise Officer representation from the following

- Countryside Management Partnerships
- Defra family
- High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
- Medway Council
- National Farmers Union
- Public health (KCC)
- RSPB
- Shepway District Council
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
- University of Kent
- Partnership Coordinator

The MWG will be supported by the Partnership Coordinator.

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

The MWG will make one place available at each meeting to any member of the wider Partnership who wishes to attend the meeting or to individuals working on task and finish groups. This arrangement has to be agreed in advance with the MWG Chair.

### **KNP Management Working Group Members' roles**

Management Working Group (MWG) members are asked to:

- Represent their sector rather than affiliation and engage with other members of that sector to ensure all views are represented.
- Assist the Partnership in delivering the strategic direction set by the KNP Board.
- Assist the MWG Chair in preparation of papers and information for the KNP Board.
- Attend four meetings per annum; when unable to attend, members are requested to nominate a deputy from their sector.

The MWG will meet approximately six weeks prior to any scheduled meeting of the Partnership Board; extra-ordinary meetings will be convened if required. The minutes of the MWG and Board will be shared between each group.

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