



KNP Management Working Group (MWG) - Terms of Reference

Overview of Kent Nature Partnership

KNP is a coordinating strategic body, standing up for nature in the county.

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.

Kent Nature Partnership (KNP) was awarded Local Nature Partnership (LNP) status by the government in 2012 to drive positive change in the local natural environment. KNP is hosted by Kent County Council (KCC) and is structured around an executive level Board, a Management Working Group (MWG) and subgroups established as needed.

In 2018, the Government published the 25 Year Environment Plan (25YEP), a cross departmental plan setting out what the government will do to improve the environment within a generation. From 2021, an Environment Act will provide the legislative backbone for the plan.

Since 2018, KNP has been working closely on areas described in the 25YEP and Environment Bill such as Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery Network. In addition, the KNP’s Kent Biodiversity Strategy, published in 2020, closely aligns to the 25YEP and runs across a 25-year time span. At a time of ecological crisis, the Kent Biodiversity Strategy aims to help steer the collaborative work of conservationists, government, business and individuals to work in partnership so that the county’s natural landscape can be restored and threatened species can be saved.

Purpose of the Management Working Group

To provide technical and sectoral input into the KNP’s work: -

- To act as a steering group for the operational management of the KNP.
- To identify the need for new work programmes or projects in line with KNP priorities.
- To recommend these work programmes or projects to the KNP Board utilising a project management approach.
- To establish subgroups (task and finish groups) as appropriate to deliver work programmes or projects.
- To act collectively act as the responsible manager for any actions to be taken forward by the KNP.

- To provide oversight and scrutiny of the Kent Biodiversity Strategy, to ensure the delivery of its objectives. To ensure monitoring of the Strategy is conducted effectively.
- Coordinating with the wider Kent Environment Strategy including providing input into monitoring.
- To ensure that the Partnership retains an integral role in the delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan and Environment Bill local deliverables.
- To make recommendations to the KNP Board on position statements and consultations.
- To provide an independent body of local stakeholders that reviews the Local Wildlife Site network and makes recommendations to the Kent and Medway LPAs against established LWS selection criteria.

Membership of the Management Working Group

The MWG is supported by the KNP Coordinator and Chaired by the KNP Secretariat, subject to MWG approval. The group's Chair also sits on the KNP Board, providing the link between the two and is responsible for the preparation of the KNP Board papers, with input from the MWG. The minutes of the MWG and Board will be shared between each group.

The MWG comprises Officer representation from the following

- Countryside Management Partnerships
- Defra family
- Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
- Kent's district and unitary authorities
- Southern Water
- Public health (KCC)
- RSPB
- University of Kent
- Kent County Council (as Partnership host and coordinator)

MWG members may nominate at any time additional members; appointment of the nominee will be decided by the MWG based on 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 additional individuals working on task and finish groups. This arrangement must be agreed in advance with the MWG Chair.

Management Working Group Members' roles

Management Working Group (MWG) members are asked to:

- Represent their sector and engage with others to ensure their sectors views are represented.
- To undertake communications on behalf of KNP as needed
- 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 two meetings per annum (and where needed additional online meetings).
- When unable to attend, members are requested to nominate a deputy from their sector.

December 2020