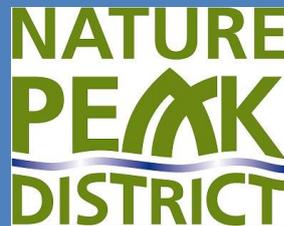


# NATURE PEAK DISTRICT REVIEW

Options for the future of Nature Peak District, with a background of the LNP role as set out by Defra, national reviews to date, how Nature Peak District has functioned within this context, and insights into the current national and local situation.



*A review of the  
Local Nature  
Partnership for the  
Peak District*

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## 1. Options for the future

The following options with regard to the future of Nature Peak District are derived from the background information which has been gathered and presented below by the Secretariat of the Local Nature Partnership (LNP).

### 1.1. Option 1 – Close the LNP

The LNP would no longer exist. Some functions of the LNP would be absorbed by existing Boards and partnerships, most probably where cross-overs already exist (see 2.2.5).

### 1.2. Option 2 – Pause the LNP

There would be a break in the meeting of the LNP Board and other action associated with the LNP, for an agreed period of time. The Peak District National Park Authority, who provides the Secretariat for the LNP, will summarise the work that needs to be done in the 'break' to re-activate the LNP after the agreed period of time.

### 1.3. Option 3 – Continue as existing

The current rate of attendance of LNP Board meetings is low, making it difficult to carry forward actions through consensus. Attendance at Board meetings would have to increase to a majority to regain the functionality of the LNP.

## 2. Local Nature Partnerships Background

### 2.1. The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature<sup>1</sup> *June 2011*

In the executive summary of the Natural Environment White Paper (a response to the report 'Making Space for Nature: A review of England's Wildlife Sites and Ecological Network' by Professor Lawton, 2010), the Government states it will establish Local Nature Partnerships. LNPs will:

- Raise awareness about the services and benefits of a healthy natural environment
- Contribute to the green economy and complement Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs).

A further commitment to establish LNPs 'to strengthen action at the right scale' is stated in sections 2.14 to 2.22:

- 2.16 These (LNP) partnerships will work at a strategic scale to improve the multiple benefits and services we receive from good management of the land
- 2.20 LNPs will influence local decisions and promote an ecosystems approach at a local level.

### 2.2. UK National Ecosystem Assessment<sup>2</sup> *June 2011*

Conclusions of the Assessment emphasised the need for an integrated, landscape-scale approach to managing the natural environment.

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<sup>1</sup> The natural choice: securing the value of nature, HM Government, 2011 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-natural-choice-securing-the-value-of-nature>

<sup>2</sup> UK National Ecosystem Assessment, 2011 <http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/Resources/tabid/82/Default.aspx>

## 2.3. An overview of the Local Nature Partnership role<sup>3</sup>

April 2012

### Ambitions of the LNP role:

- Help the local area to manage the natural environment as a system
- Embed the value of the natural environment in local decisions

The overall purpose of an LNP was set out as:

1. Take a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities in the local natural environment
2. Drive positive change
3. Contribute to achieving the Government's national environmental objectives at a local level
4. Identify ecological networks
5. Local champions to influence decision-making relating to the natural environment, e.g. through Local Authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), Health and Wellbeing Boards

Outputs should be:

- Develop a shared strategic vision and set of priorities for the restoration and enhancement of the local natural environment, integrating social and economic needs
- Build an evidence base of the local natural environment, using shared information from Defra bodies
- Understand and contribute to national policy objectives, using strategic priorities of Defra bodies
- Raise awareness of the value of the natural environment, backed by the best available information and data
- Identify the short- and long-term pressures on the natural environment in the local area
- An overview of the range of activities and partnerships concerned with the sustainable management of the natural environment in the local area
- Co-ordinated action to deliver integrated outcomes for priority issues
- Contribute to Local Planning Regulations and Local Plans (previously through a Duty to Co-operate stated in the National Planning Policy Framework, withdrawn in 2018)

### National Planning Policy Framework (2018):

25. Strategic policy-making authorities should collaborate to identify the relevant strategic matters which they need to address in their plans. They should also engage with their local communities and relevant bodies including... Local Nature Partnerships...

<sup>3</sup> An overview of the Local Nature Partnership role. Defra, 2012  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/192580/local-nature-partnerships-overview120402.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/192580/local-nature-partnerships-overview120402.pdf)

Other suggested outputs are:

- a. Sustainable land use and management:
  - Identify and embed local ecological networks
  - Inform the delivery of 'Biodiversity 2020'
  - Explore opportunities to achieve multiple benefits from good land management, including opportunities for 'payment for ecosystem services'
  - Help maintain the intrinsic character and beauty of the countryside, building on National Character Area (NCA) profiles<sup>4</sup>
  - Work with the National Park Authority, and look for opportunities to work across the boundary
- b. Contribute to green economic growth:
  - Collaborate with the LEPs, providing advice and expertise on the value of the natural environment
  - Engage directly with local businesses
  - Engage with other partnerships to align funding with LNP priorities
- c. Contribute to quality of life and local health and wellbeing:
  - Work closely with Health and Wellbeing Boards raise awareness of the value of public engagement with the natural environment in the prevention and treatment of health problems
  - Influence priorities on 'joint health and wellbeing strategies'
  - Incorporate the value of the natural environment in 'joint strategic needs assessments'
  - Contribute to local delivery of Public Health Outcomes Frameworks.

## 3. Membership

### 3.1. Local Nature Partnership role

The document 'An overview of the Local Nature Partnership role' states that effective Local Nature Partnerships should have:

A broad membership, including:

- Economic
- Health
- Environmental
- Public organisation(s)
- Private organisation(s)
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- Local community
- Local Authorities
- Land management

Effective and accountable governance and leadership:

- Ability to engage and collaborate at a senior level
- Involve local communities
- Engage at the appropriate level to achieve the vision
- Sufficient knowledge and influence to promote the value of the natural environment and the services it provides.

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<sup>4</sup> Dark Peak NCA <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/3684793>  
White Peak NCA <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6364771410509824>  
South West Peak NCA <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/12392045>

Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission should support LNPs, helping them achieve their purpose and outputs. Defra bodies should consider LNP priorities when undertaking strategic planning and making decisions about targeting resources.

LNPs should work with other environmental initiatives and partnerships, for example:

- Catchment partnerships
- Rural and farming networks
- Local Access Forum.

## 3.2. Nature Peak District

### 2.2.1 Purpose of the Board

- To position the LNP as an independent, objective voice for the natural environment
- To provide the strategic direction for the LNP, identify and agree priorities and objectives, and facilitate action
- To monitor progress achieved against the objectives
- To provide guidance and advice on funding to deliver the priorities
- To represent a range of sectors, able to collaborate and take a strategic overview of all sectors
- To integrate new thinking on the value of the natural environment and the services it provides into the work of other organisations and agencies.

### 2.2.2 Role of Board Members

The current constitution states the Board Members should:

- a. Champion the work of the LNP in conjunction with raising the profile of the natural environment
- b. Influence government and business to secure investment in the natural environment
- c. Provide strategic input regarding local planning and development initiatives
- d. Develop an **LNP Ambition** and prioritised work plan
- e. Engage with the local community
- f. Seek funding for **co-ordination** and operation of working groups
- g. Act as a project Board where required
- h. Provide knowledge and skills in multiple sectors
- i. Represent the views of the wider partnership
- j. Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the LNP
- k. Adhere to high standards of ethics and governance in public life
- l. Ensure funding supports the LNP Ambition.

The roles highlighted in red are no longer relevant as they have been achieved.

### 2.2.3 Board membership

As stated in the Constitution, the Board should:

- Comprise of influential, strategic thinkers
- Include a nominated Chair and Vice-Chair, which should be nominated
- Be made up of:
  - PDNPA (1 Member, 1 senior Officer)
  - Statutory Agency (1)
  - Conservation sector (2)
  - Business sector (2)
  - Local community sector (1-2)
  - Health sector (1)
  - Education (1)
  - Land management (1)

## 2.2.4 Representation & Attendance

The Board should meet two to four times per year.

The current representatives are:

Name	Organisation & Role	Representing	Attendance
Suzanne Fletcher	PDNPA, Head of Landscape and Conservation	PDNPA	75%
Penny Anderson	PDNPA, Member	PDNPA	100%
James Marshall	Natural England	Statutory Agency	0%
Jo Smith	Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Chief Executive	Conservation	29%
Jon Stewart	National Trust, General Manager Peak District	Conservation	86%
Neil Moulden	Derbyshire Dales Council for Voluntary Service	Local community	71%
Anne Robinson	Friends of the Peak District	Local community	100%
Ian Little	Derbyshire County Council, Assistant Director of Public Health	Health	0%
Peter Dewhurst	University of Derby, Commercial Director	Education	57%

Rhodri Thomas (PDNPA, Natural Environment & Rural Economy Team Manager) sits in an advisory capacity to the Board.

Sarah Bird (PDNPA, Biodiversity Partnerships Officer) is the current Secretariat & Co-ordinator.

Current sectors without representation are:

- Business
- Land management

The last full Board meeting was 14<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

## 2.2.5 Cross-over working

NPMP Advisory Group:	Jon Stewart
Land Managers Forum:	Suzanne Fletcher
Local Access Forum:	Jon Stewart, Board Member
Business Peak District:	Peter Dewhurst, Board Member
Peak District Partnership <sup>5</sup> :	Peter Dewhurst, Chair & Neil Moulden, Vice-Chair
Derwent Catchment Partnership:	Sarah Bird, Board Member
White Peak Partnership:	Sue Fletcher, Board Member & Jon Stewart, Board Member
South West Peak Partnership:	Penny Anderson, Board Member
Yorkshire & Humber LNP Network:	Sarah Bird, attendee

## 2.2.6 Opportunities for engagement

Marketing Peak District & Derbyshire  
Dove Catchment Partnership  
Don Catchment Partnership  
Peak Park Parish Forum  
Sheffield: The Outdoor City (Managed by Welcome to Sheffield)  
Inspired by the Peak District  
Moors for the Future  
Sheffield Moors Partnership  
Sheffield Lakelands Landscape Partnership

<sup>5</sup> Formerly known as the Derbyshire Dales and High Peak Local Strategic Partnership

## 4. Nature Peak District

### 4.1. Vision

'A thriving and inspiring landscape richer in bio- and geodiversity; where a valued natural and cultural environment, central to decision-making, is managed for wildlife, promotes healthier lives and benefits the local economy.'

When Local Nature Partnerships were forming, it was suggested that the Vision of the Local Nature Partnership should take into account the priorities of other environmental initiatives and partnerships, e.g. catchment partnerships and the Local Access Forum.

The Ambition above is the Vision for Nature Peak District.

### 4.2. Constitution

A constitution was drafted when the LNP was formed in 2012, with a refresh in 2013. The constitution has not been formally voted in or updated since this date.

Outputs of the LNP were decided as the following:

- An enhanced evidence base detailing the natural resources, constraints and opportunities for conservation, restoration and enhancement
- A set of works that are designed and implemented to meet the Board's objectives
- Consistent advice to all sectors – business, health and community, promoting actions that will protect and enhance the Peak District's natural and cultural environment
- A communications strategy
- A funding strategy
- A Geodiversity Action Plan.

The Peak District LNP works within the existing Biodiversity Action Plan area. See appendices for constitution and maps relevant to the LNP area.

The secretariat function will be performed by the Peak District National Park Authority. This is currently fulfilled by the Biodiversity Partnerships Officer, approx. 20% (1/5 days) of the full time role.

### 4.3. Action to date

#### 4.3.1. South West Peak Landscape Partnership

The South West Peak was identified as a priority for the LNP, and the Co-ordinator at the time took this forward to a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund.

#### 4.3.2. Prioritisation meeting, July 2015

The aspirations of the LNP were reviewed according to NCA. Seven priorities were selected for taking forward:

1. WP10 Review realistic opportunities for diversifying the White Peak plateau
2. DP7 Resolve key moorland management issues
3. WP5 Design and access opportunities in quarry restoration
4. WP9 Conserve and enhance features of geodiversity importance and engage people with geodiversity
5. SWP1 Continue to champion the South West Peak Landscape Partnership
6. DP8 Advocate improved accessibility, e.g. sustainable public transport
7. Integrate nature's role in health and wellbeing priorities for local areas.

### 4.3.3. State of Nature report and launch event, November 2016

The State of Nature in the Peak District Report was written by Penny Anderson on behalf of Nature Peak District, published in November 2016. The launch event was very well attended, with 62 attendees excluding LNP Board Members.

## 5. National Action

### 5.1. Formative evaluation of Local Nature Partnerships Phase 1 (Defra)

*October 2014*

The purpose of the evaluation was to assess the extent to which the LNP approach meets the purpose for which it was established. Most LNPs had set up governance and decision-making structures, with strong representation from the environmental and research sectors. Finding resources and engaging with Health and Wellbeing Boards, and economic/ business sectors have been the main challenges.

### 5.2. Formative evaluation of Local Nature Partnerships Phase 2 (Defra)

*February 2015*

At this stage, a successful LNP should have:

- A shared strategic vision and set of priorities
- A broad membership that includes economic, health and environmental interest
- Effective and accountable governance and leadership
- Influence and knowledge about the natural environment and its services
- A good overview of the range of activities and partnerships concerned with the sustainable management of the natural environment

Main areas for improvement identified as:

- Work more closely with LEPs, possibly work to provide information and evidence
- Potentially capable of embracing the diverse connections between health, wellbeing and engagement with nature - could offer a 'brokering' role for local health organisations that want information about and access to the natural environment
- Strengthening ecological networks and reversal of habitat fragmentation through co-ordinating and integrating existing initiatives, a strategic approach to bidding for funding, disseminating best practice and development of decision-support tools.

### 5.3. Environmental Audit Committee on Local Nature Partnerships<sup>6</sup>

*March 2015*

Due to the 'local' nature of LNPs, many are at different stages of development, with varying levels of resourcing. Too little central direction and insufficient guidance from the Natural Environment White Paper (see 1.1) is causing disparity between groups. The way in which LEPs have been asked to assess and make decisions regarding the allocation of money are not aligned with the fundamental priorities of LNPs. It is recognized that engagement with LEPs is harder for those LNPs not based around a core city region.

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<sup>6</sup> Local Nature Partnerships, Environmental Audit Committee Twelfth Report of Session 2014-15, 2015

## 5.4. Webinars & Conference

There have been a series of webinars and a conference since the start of 2018.

- a. 13<sup>th</sup> March 2018 – 25 Year Environment Plan
- b. 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018 – LNP conference organization, NPPF response, using Huddle
- c. 12<sup>th</sup> June 2018 – Conference in London
- d. 6<sup>th</sup> December 2018 – Cancelled

## 6. Other LNPs

### 6.1. Neighbouring LNPs

#### 6.1.1. Pennine Prospects (South Pennines LNP)

Pennine Prospects now acts as to raise the profile and develop a positive image for the South Pennines, based on a strong ethos of partnership working. They work in many different sectors, communicating and working with business, cultural heritage, conservation organisations, catchment partnerships and many more.

The LNP provides the natural environment input and expertise to the overall Pennine Prospects group.

The South Pennines LNP works within the South Pennines NCA boundary. Pennine Prospects is Chaired by Pam Warhurst, previously Board Member of Natural England.

The South Pennines LNP has expressed an interest in working closer with Nature Peak District. They already work closely with Moors for the Future.

#### 6.1.2. Nature Greater Manchester (Greater Manchester LNP)

The Greater Manchester LNP is a Natural Capital Group, working towards a natural capital approach. The Group functions as part of the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and provides advice on strategic natural environment issues.

The Group has produced a significant amount of evidence to inform strategic policies , helping to understand opportunities for protection and enhancement of the natural environment.

The Group is Chaired by Anne Selby, Chief Executive of Lancashire Wildlife Trust.

#### 6.1.3. Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire LNP

In 2015 the LNP undertook a Natural Capital Baseline Assessment, following the approach recommended by the UK Natural Capital Committee. The LNP has been active in providing responses to Local Plan and other planning consultations.

The LNP is based with and shares co-ordination with the D2N2 LEP.

The LNP is Chaired by Tim Farr, a rivers and catchment specialist who also Chairs the River Idle Management Partnership. Jo Smith of Derbyshire Wildlife Trust is a Board Member. Andrew Critchlow, NFU Derbyshire advisor and representative is also a Board Member; there is cross-over here as Andrew also sits on the Land Managers Forum and is part of the White Peak Partnership.

#### 6.1.4. South Yorkshire LNP

The South Yorkshire LNP is Chaired by Liz Ballard, Chief Executive of Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust.

The LNP does not have a website.

### 6.1.5. Cheshire LNP

No longer active.

### 6.1.6. Staffordshire LNP

On behalf of the LNP, Staffordshire County Council, in partnership with Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire Wildlife Trust has produced an Ecosystem Assessment for the geographical area of Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. The main aim of the Assessment was to provide an evidence base to encourage and facilitate discussions and partnerships between organisations and departments.

The LNP does not have a website.

## 6.2. LNPs covering National Parks

### 6.2.1. North Yorkshire & York LNP

These are two LNPs working in partnership, with one Secretariat. The LNP covers the North York Moors National Park and Howardian Hills AONB, but also a much wider area.

The LNP has produced a strategy document<sup>7</sup>.

In 2017 North Yorkshire & York LNP submitted a joint bid with the neighbouring Hull & East Yorkshire LNP to Defra to address how all active partnerships in these areas can communicate better, maximise activity, reduce competition for funding and other resources, and work closer with the LEP. The bid was successful and a workshop was held, the report from which was presented to the LEP Board. The LNP hopes to use the Assessment as an engagement tool with the LEP, and health and wellbeing sector.

### 6.2.2. Northern Upland Chain

The Northern Upland Chain encompasses Northumberland National Park, North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB), Yorkshire Dales National Park, Nidderdale AONB and the Forest of Bowland AONB.

The Board is very conservation and countryside-led. Amanda Anderson, who represents the Moorland Association on the Peak District Bird of Prey Initiative, sits on the Northern Upland Chain LNP Board.

The LNP has undertaken a habitat mapping exercise, mapping eight key habitats over the entire LNP area. This data was then used to create a map of habitat networks, which is free to use and available through the LNP. It has been used to identify areas for potential restoration. There is continuous update and refinement of the map.

Current projects of the LNP are curlew conservation, high nature value farming, farmer training, and hay meadows. They also host the Northern Hill Farming panel.

### 6.2.3. Sussex

The Sussex LNP includes some of the South Downs National Park, and functions through several sub-groups;

- Sussex marine and coastal forum
- Biodiversity
- Ecosystem services
- Planning
- Health and wellbeing

The website has not been active since 2014.

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<sup>7</sup><http://www.nypartnerships.org.uk/sites/default/files/Partnership%20files/Environment/NYCC%20Local%20nature%20partnership%20strategy.pdf>

#### 6.2.4. Hampshire & Isle of Wight LNP

The LNP incorporates the rest of the South Downs National Park not covered by Sussex LNP and the New Forest National Park, as well as the Isle of Wight AONB and parts of other AONBs.

The steering group meets regularly but informally, with representation from the local Wildlife Trust, County Council, Natural England, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, National Parks and AONBs.

#### 6.2.5. Natural Devon

The Devon LNP incorporates Dartmoor National Park, part of Exmoor National Park, and two AONBs.

The LNP has a Prospectus<sup>8</sup> that runs 2014-19 and is very active. The Chair is a GP, but also founded Plastic Free North Devon. The Board has representatives from a wide variety of sectors; academic, NGO/ conservation, NFU/ landowners, Health & Wellbeing Board, community, Defra, schools/ learning, National Parks, business, Local Authority, and arts and culture. The LNP has a forum with over 1000 members, representing many organisations that work within the LNP area.

The priorities for the LNP are:

- Naturally healthy
- Green connections (several local Green Infrastructure Partnerships)
- Outdoor learning
- Farming with nature
- Wood for good
- Resilient wetlands
- Sustainable seas.

#### 6.2.6. Naturally Somerset

The Somerset LNP incorporates the Exmoor National Park, but the National Park Authority does not sit on the Steering Group. The LNP produced a Prospectus in 2014<sup>9</sup>.

## 7. Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs)

### 7.1. Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire LEP (D2N2)

Most of the Nature Peak District area is covered by the D2N2 LEP, although the LNP area is a small part of the LEP area.

The current overarching target of the LEP is to support the creation of 55,000 new jobs in the area by 2023. However, D2N2 is in the process of reviewing its Strategic Economic Plan<sup>10</sup>, with several events in November offering opportunity to input.

The LEP is Chaired by Elizabeth Fagan, Non-Executive Chair of Boots.

### 7.2. Sheffield City Region

The Sheffield City Region comprises the LEP, Mayoral Combined Authority and Executive Team. The LEP is responsible for the Strategic Economic Plan for the Region.

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<sup>8</sup> Natural Devon Prospectus

<https://www.naturaldevon.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Final-DLNP-prospectus-jan20141.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> Naturally Somerset Prospectus

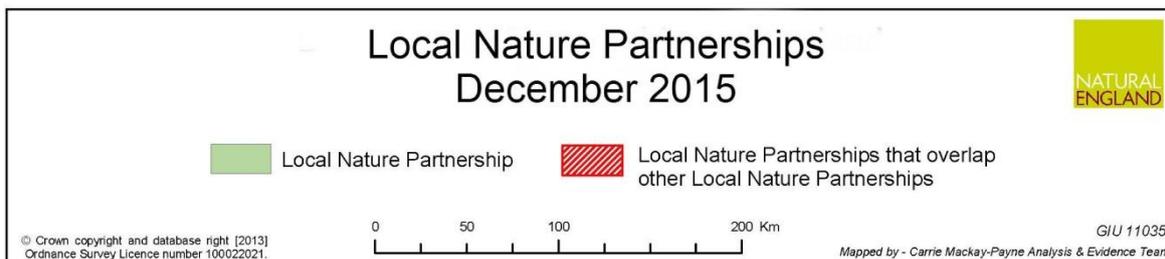
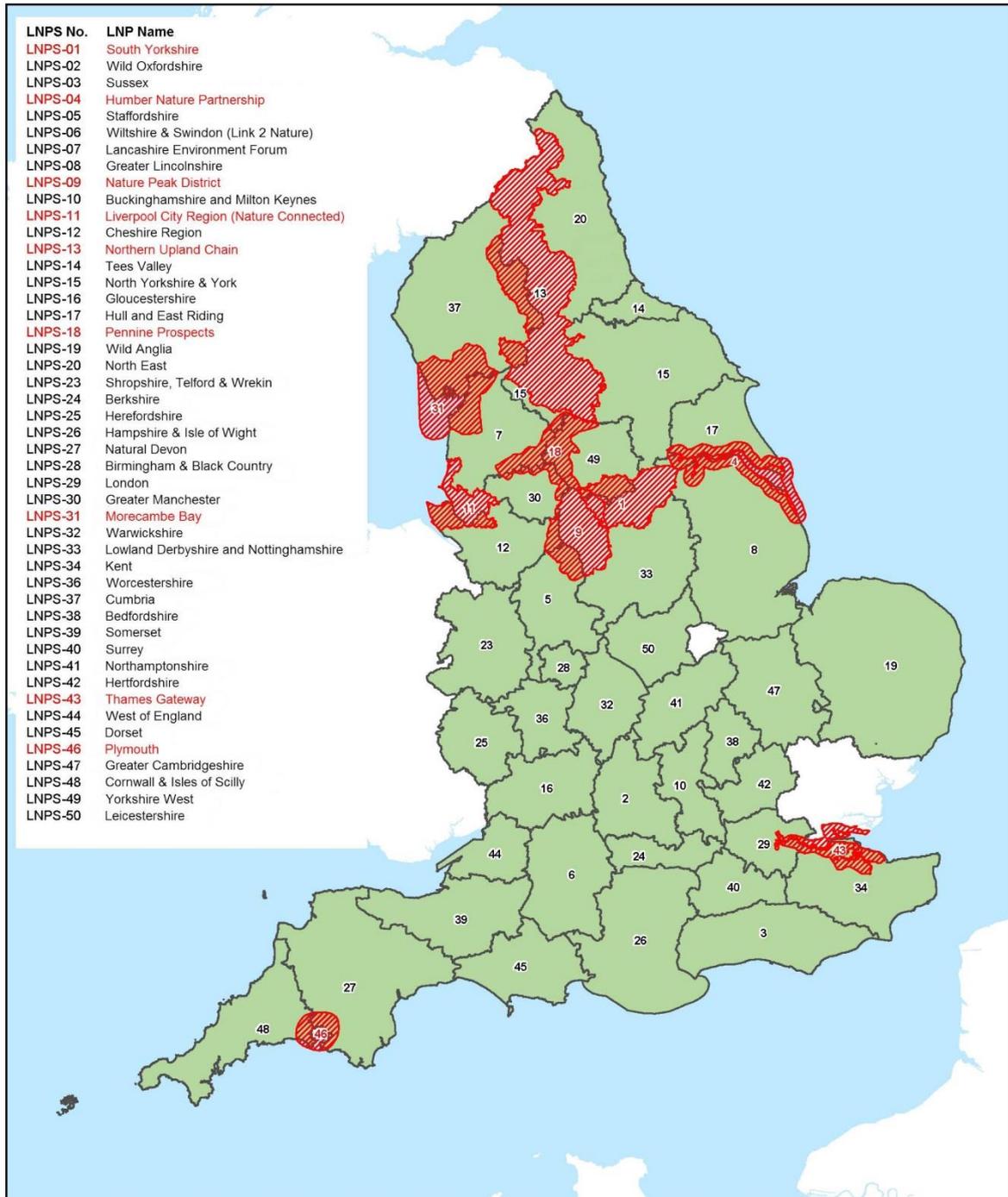
<http://slnp.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Naturally-Somerset-Prospectus-Low-Resv31.pdf>

<sup>10</sup> D2N2 Strategic Economic Plan Draft Consultation

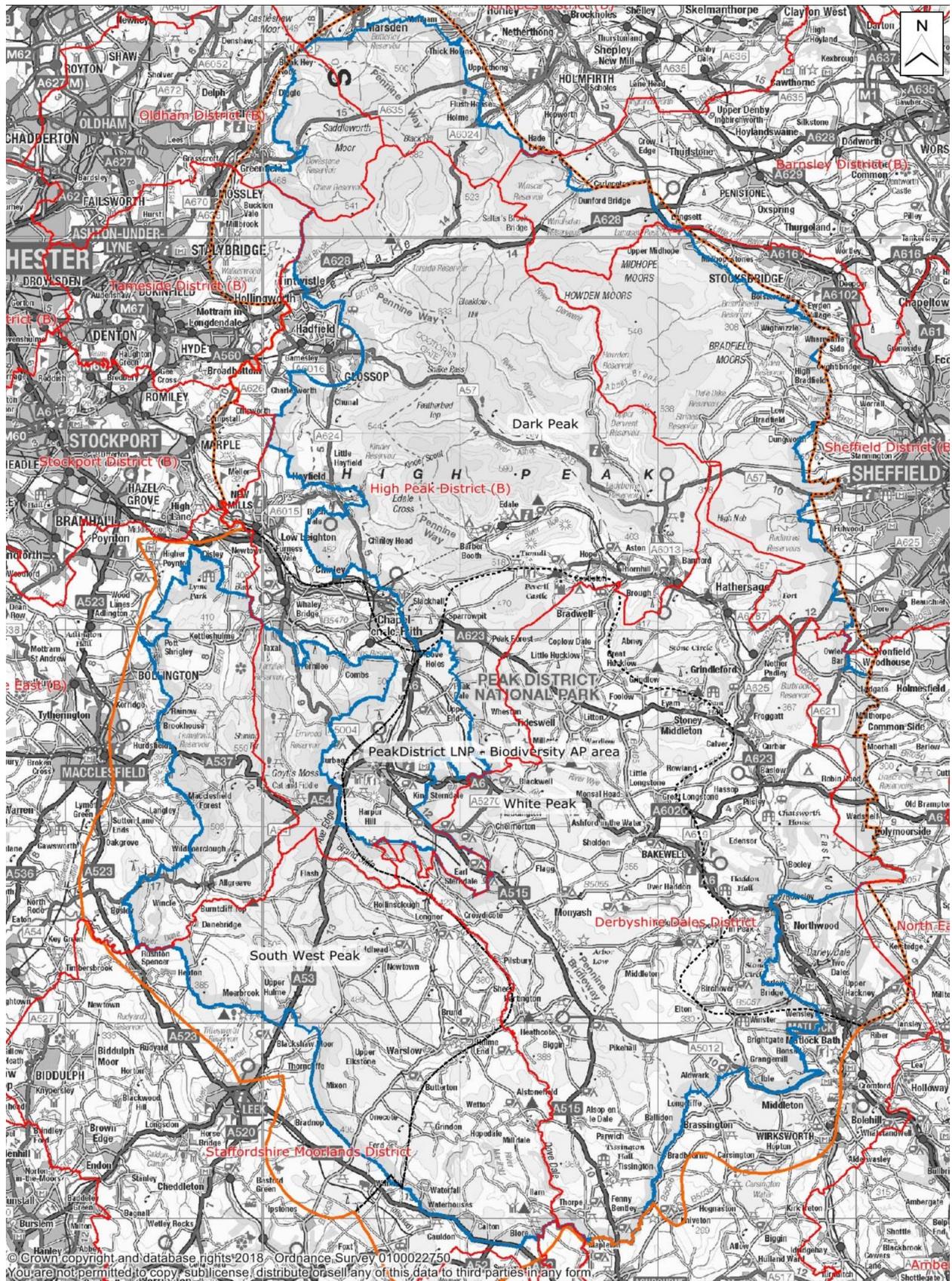
[http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/FINAL\\_-\\_CONSULTATION\\_draft\\_D2N2\\_SEP.pdf](http://www.d2n2lep.org/write/FINAL_-_CONSULTATION_draft_D2N2_SEP.pdf)

# Appendices

## Appendix one – Local Nature Partnerships England map



# Appendix two – Nature Peak District working area map



Drawn by: Bird Sarah  
 Date: 05 November 2018  
 Drawing No:  
 Scale: 1:180000 at A3

Title: LNP area with district council overlay



## Appendix three – Nature Peak District Constitution (2013)

### **Constitution for the Peak District Local Nature Partnership** **Refresh - December 2013**

1. Background
2. LNP Purpose
3. LNP Ambition
4. LNP Objectives
5. LNP Terms of Reference

#### **1. Background**

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) are a key Natural Environment White Paper commitment. In June 2011, Defra announced its intention that approximately 50 LNPs should form in England, and provided a capacity building fund for partnerships to help develop their LNPs. The Peak District National Park Authority led a bid for some of this fund and was successful in receiving funding for the period December 2011 – June 2012. The capacity building work led to the Authority submitting a successful application for Government recognition as one of 48 LNPs in June 2012.

A primary aim will be to position the LNP as an independent, objective voice for the natural environment that can act as a link between local and central government, business, health and the community for the benefit of the Peak District. The main focus for the Board will be to provide strategic leadership, coordinating partners to deliver projects and activity that will meet the purpose, ambition, and objectives set out below.

#### **2. LNP Purpose**

The overall purpose of a LNP (as described by Defra) is to:

- Drive positive change in the local natural environment, taking a strategic view of the challenges and opportunities involved and identifying ways to manage it as a system for the benefit of nature, people and the economy.
- Contribute to achieving the Government's national environmental objectives locally, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities.
- Become local champions influencing decision-making relating to the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes; in particular, through working closely with local authorities, Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and Health and Wellbeing Boards.

#### **Duty to Co-operate**

The Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 established a system of local development planning in England. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 make provision for the operation of that system. The Localism Act (2011) amends the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) to introduce a 'Duty to Co-operate' (Section 33A). Section 33A of the Act imposes a duty on local planning authorities, county councils and prescribed persons to co-operate with each other and with persons prescribed under section 33A(9) in relation to the planning of certain categories of sustainable development or use of land. Each person bound by this duty must also have regard to the activities of persons prescribed under section 33A(9), so far as they are relevant to activities specified in section 33A(3). These Regulations amend the Principal Regulations so that such prescribed persons include each local nature partnership. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) refers to this Duty.

### **3. LNP Ambition**

The Ambition of the Peak District LNP is to help deliver:

“A thriving and inspiring landscape richer in bio- and geo-diversity; where a valued natural and cultural environment, central to decision making, is managed for wildlife, promotes healthier lives and benefits the local economy”

### **4. LNP Objectives**

#### **Outcomes**

- Championing the natural environment.
- Influencing decision makers.
- Enabling communities.
- Identifying priorities for ecological enhancement and conservation, initiating work to meet the objectives, coordinating/facilitating activity especially at a landscape scale (more, bigger, better, joined up).
- Adding value to the effectiveness of existing partnerships/projects.
- Identifying gaps in delivery and progressing work to cover them.

#### **Outputs**

- An enhanced evidence base detailing the natural resources, constraints and opportunities for conservation, restoration and enhancement.
- A set of works that are designed and implemented to meet the Board’s objectives.
- Consistent advice to all sectors – business, health and community, promoting actions that will protect and enhance the Peak District’s natural and cultural environment.
- A communications strategy.
- A funding strategy.
- A Geodiversity Action Plan.

### **5. LNP Terms of Reference**

#### **5.1 Geographical remit**

The Peak District is one of the most popular, accessible and well known upland areas in England. The Peak District LNP is based on the three National Character Areas – Dark Peak, White Peak and South West Peak which define the Peak District, with the Peak District National Park at its core.

#### **5.2 Structure of the Partnership**

The LNP will have a simple structure comprising:

**Board** – strategic cross-sectoral representatives.

**Working/Task & Finish Groups** – to support the prioritisation of work, delivery of programmes and initiatives.

**Wider Partnership** – a larger partnership from whom the working groups will be drawn.

**Secretariat (including coordinator)** – to provide a coordination and administrative function.

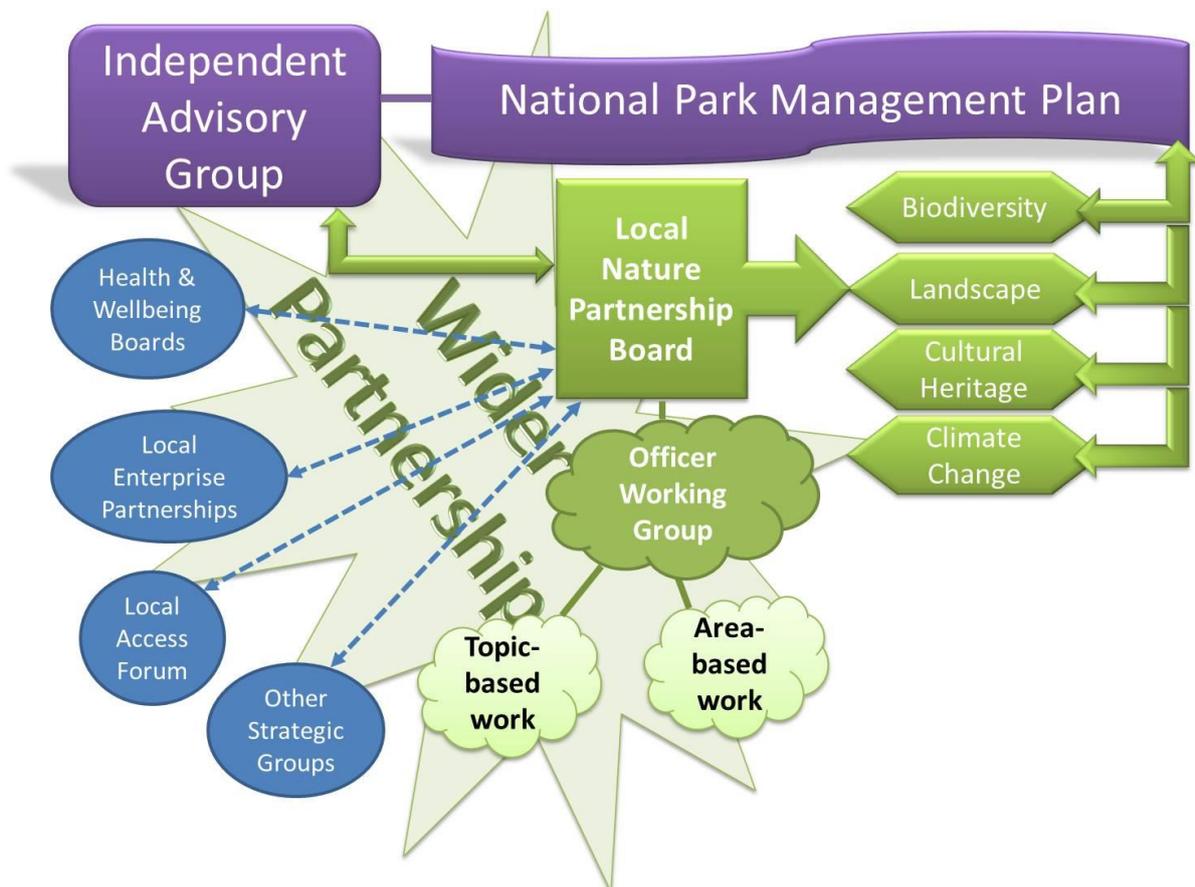


Figure 2. Representation of the working LNP structure

### ***The LNP Board***

Comprising 10 - 12 members, chosen to represent cross-sector interests.

### ***Working Groups***

Drawn primarily from the wider Partnership, these groups will convene to a) advise the Board on specialist issues, or b) develop and deliver programmes or initiatives as agreed by the Board.

### ***Wider Partnership***

Initial membership of the LNP will comprise those individuals and organisations who attended the capacity building sessions or otherwise expressed an interest in being involved. Future membership of the Partnership will also be open to any individual, organisation, or community group who is interested in furthering the LNPs work.

### ***Secretariat***

This function will be performed by the National Park Authority (which will be the accountable body - where appropriate).

## **5.3 LNP Board**

### **i. Purpose of the LNP Board**

To position the LNP as an independent, objective voice for the natural environment that can act as an ambassador to local and central government, businesses, health, the cultural and environmental sectors, and communities, for the benefit of the Peak District.

To provide the strategic direction for the LNP, identifying and agreeing priorities, facilitating action and delivery through the LNP coordinator and LNP working groups (supported by the secretariat). It will agree short, medium and long-term priorities and objectives for the LNP.

To monitor progress achieved against the agreed objectives. It will also provide guidance and advice on securing funding to deliver agreed priorities.

To be representative of a range of sectors, able to collectively take a strategic overview of all sectors and to recognise the ways in which biodiversity and ecosystem services affect these.

To integrate new thinking on the value of the natural environment and the services it provides into the work of other organisations and agencies.

## **ii. Operation**

The Board will comprise influential strategic thinkers. Their role will be to agree the Ambition and Objectives of the LNP and ensure that this Ambition is communicated to wider decision makers across a range of sectors.

The LNP will be steered by a small, agile, but representative Board. It is expected that the Board will meet at least two to three times per year to set strategic direction and monitor progress. Board members should not be restricted to their individual views but those of the wider sector that they represent.

The Board will be accountable to all partners at an annual Partnership meeting; all major decisions such as agreeing the work plan for the next year will be approved, and working groups will be given the opportunity to update the wider Partnership on the progression of the delivery projects.

## **iii. Representation on the LNP Board**

It is proposed that the Board comprises 10 – 12 members, including a Chair and Vice-Chair, with each member agreeing to represent a sectoral interest not a single organisation. To ensure that this is achieved, Board members should be at a senior level within their organisation and have sufficient experience to represent multiple interests.

Of the Board members one person will be nominated as a Chairperson. The Chair on behalf of the Board will represent the Peak District LNP at national network meetings and events. The Chair will also provide guidance on behalf of the Board to the coordinator, secretariat and working groups where appropriate.

A Vice-Chair will be appointed and stand in for the Chair when the Chair is unable to attend meetings or undertake other planned activities.

The membership of the Board should be as follows:  
National Park Authority – 1 Member level, 1 senior officer level  
Statutory Agency – 1 representative  
Conservation sector – 2 representatives at senior level  
Business sector – 2 representatives  
Local community sector – 1 - 2 representatives  
Health sector – 1 representative  
Education – 1 representative  
Land management – 1 representative

## **iv. Time Commitment**

For the position of a Board Member, it is anticipated that the individual will voluntarily contribute a minimum of two - four days per year in the fulfilment of this role. This may vary during the initial start-up period of the LNP. It is expected that the LNP Board will meet at least three times a year.

The LNP will host an annual Partnership meeting; Board members will be expected to attend these Partnership meetings in addition to the Board meetings, to improve information flow

between the strategic and delivery components of the LNP, and also encourage engagement from a wide range of stakeholders.

**v. Term of appointment**

Board members will be required to serve initially for one year on the Interim Board, and may be re-elected to serve for additional terms on the full Board subject to approval from the LNP Board and Partnership. Future Board members will be nominated by the wider Partnership.

**vi. Collective Role of Board members**

- Champion the work of the LNP, its objectives, outcomes and results to relevant partners, organisations, networks and business organisations, raising the profile of the natural environment across sectors.
- Actively seek to promote the interests of the LNP at key opportunities to influence government and business, with the broad aim of securing investment in the natural environment and recommending policy where necessary.
- Provide strategic input to the Board on key decisions regarding local planning and development initiatives, contributing clear and informed views of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats facing the natural environment on a local level.
- Contribute to the development of an appropriate LNP Ambition and prioritised work plan to enhance the natural environment of the LNP area, helping to establish short, medium and long term objectives.
- Actively promote the interests of the LNP amongst communities and to encourage community engagement.
- Actively seek funding to support coordination of the LNP, and the operation of working groups that address the key priorities outlined in the LNP work plan; providing a lead for specific working groups or providing direct support to a LNP focussed project.
- Act as project Board for partnership projects where required; approve overall objectives; delegate responsibility for project implementation to necessary steering/working groups; receive project progress reports; unblock barriers to project progression; sign-off project funding submissions.
- Provide knowledge and skills in one or more sector, being fully accountable for the wider interests of that sector being represented, show a broad understanding of the issues that need to be prioritised.
- Ensure the views from the wider Partnership are represented and taken into account during key decision making to deliver integrated benefits.
- Monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the LNP to ensure the LNP provides added benefit to the natural environment.
- Adhere at all times to high standards of ethics and governance in public life.
- To ensure that the direction of any funding supports the principal aim to secure and enhance the natural environment of the Peak District.

### **vii. Board Members Experience and Attributes**

Board Members must be able to individually demonstrate the following :

- A clear strategic vision, excellent communication and leadership skills and an understanding of the natural environment and how the environment interacts across sectors.
- An understanding of the Peak District and the environmental concerns of the sector that they represent.
- Be well connected with demonstrable links with other organisations.
- A commitment to serve for a three year period, attending LNP Board meetings and occasionally other local/national events, championing the work of the Local Nature Partnership.
- Willingness to champion a working group and provide support and direction to ensure effective delivery.

### **viii. Position of Chair**

The Chair of the LNP Board will be elected by the Board members and will serve for three years with annual approval from the Board. The Chair should present the wider views of the Partnership.

The Chair must have experience/understand the role of a Chair, be an experienced public speaker with a good awareness of the local, regional and national policies influencing the natural environment. The Chair must have a good local knowledge of the Peak District and its natural environment.

### **ix. Relationship to the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group**

The relationship between the LNP Board and the National Park Management Plan Advisory Group (NPMPAG) is currently being explored.