

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF PLANNING

SUBJECT: PEMBROKESHIRE NATURE PARTNERSHIP TERMS OF REFERENCE

Purpose of Report:

To adopt the refreshed Terms of Reference for the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership of which PCNPA is a key player.

Background

Recent policy and guidance relating to the sustainable management of natural resources (such as the State of Natural Resources Report and the Nature Recovery Action Plan) represent a shift away from specific Biodiversity Action Plans and towards a more holistic, multi partner approach to 'nature recovery'. (Appendix one).

Whilst delivery on the ground will continue to be through strong local partnerships, the governance structures for the delivery of conservation action in Wales are currently under review. The Wales Biodiversity Partnership (WBP) is funded by Welsh Government and hosted by Natural Resources Wales.

The WBP facilitates 'join up' between national and local objectives and promotes dialogue between national and local stakeholders to deliver good outcomes for nature. Whilst the review is ongoing, it is expected that the existing pan-Wales and Local Biodiversity Partnerships will continue with their role in delivering nature recovery to reinforce national ambitions in addition to delivering local priorities. To aid consistency with the national plan, these local partnerships will be refreshed and re-branded as 'Nature Partnerships' – broadening their remit and aligning with national priorities.

This refresh and re-brand of the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership (PBP) as Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership (PNP) is part of this wider process and positions the Partnership within the new framework without losing the networks and close working relationships that PBP has built up over the last 18 years.

This is an opportunity to review the membership and scrutiny of the local delivery partnership to ensure participation from as broad a stakeholder base as possible. The terms of reference for this approach are at Appendix 2.

Policy considerations

Welsh Government has enacted new and enhanced legislation relating to the conservation of nature over the last two years. Namely, the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) and the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015) - which lists

seven well-being goals including the 'Resilient Wales' Goal¹. Both the resilience goal and the five ways of working the Act lists to achieve it sit comfortably within the partnership model outlined in these Terms of Reference.

Delivery of nature conservation and sustainable development aims through the Public Services Board is expected to be through strong local partnerships.

Financial considerations

PCNPA has made a long standing financial and officer commitment to providing a budget for conservation work through the Partnership and this was approved for this 2017/8 year too. The work supports the PCNPA own conservation objectives.

- PCC continues to be the host and employing organisation and also administers the funding.
- The Partnership is funded 40% by the WG Single Revenue ESD Grant (current financial year grant is £16k).
- This funding provides for one part time post (0.6 FTE at Grade 8, £9k grant), plus Biodiversity Projects (partnership steering group lead, £7k grant).
- PCC funds the remainder via existing budgets (£7,632). Further match funding is provided towards the part-time post by PCNPA in cash (currently £6,240 for the 2016/2017 financial year).
- In kind contributions from PCC and other partners are also provided, e.g. officer time, other resources (£10.5k).

Risk considerations

PCC is the host organisation and carries the legal risks associated with employing staff. Further risks include withdrawal of key partners leaving the Partnership untenable and necessitating the identification of other ways of delivering on conservation aims.

Equality considerations

Equality issues are adequately covered in the ToR.

Conclusion

The new ToR do not open PCNPA to significant financial or reputational risk and will facilitate continued delivery of statutory and non-statutory nature conservation and natural resource management aims across a broad stakeholder base.

Recommendation

To adopt the Terms of Reference

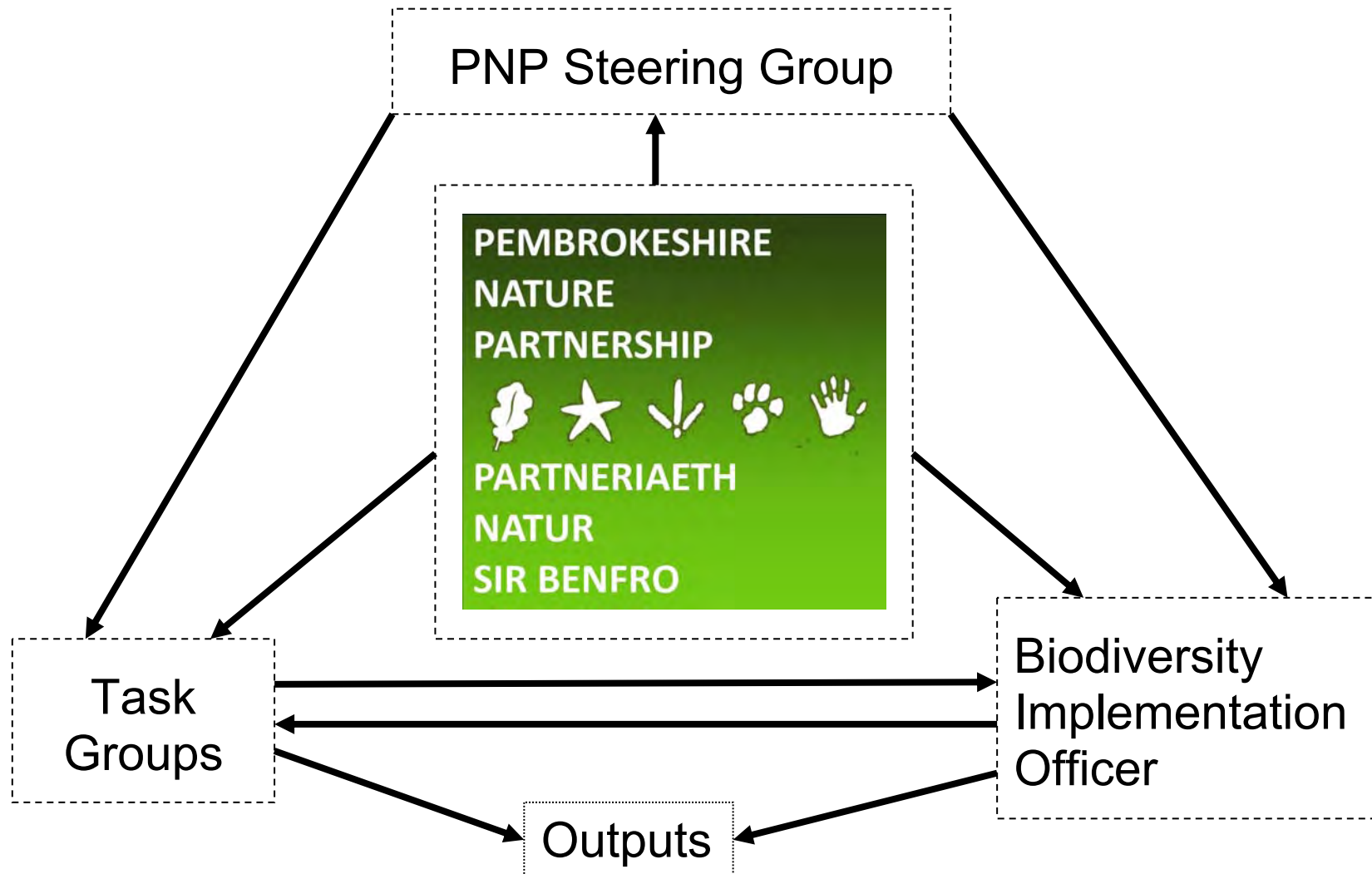
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¹ A Resilient Wales. A nation which maintains and enhances a biodiverse natural Environment with healthy functioning ecosystem that support social, economic and ecological resilience and the capacity to adapt to change (for example climate change).

Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership (PNP) Terms of Reference

Appendix 1: Management Structure



Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership: Terms of Reference



The Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership will:

Co-ordinate, promote and record existing and new actions to conserve, promote and enhance nature in the County of Pembrokeshire, including the Pembrokeshire Coast National Park, the inshore waters and seabed around the Pembrokeshire coast to 12 miles offshore, taking account of local and national priorities and keeping the terms of reference set out below. Appendices one and two respectively clarify the structure of the Partnership and provide working guidance.

Definition:

For the purposes of the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership, 'nature' shall mean all living organisms and the ecological complexes (including non-living elements and processes) of which they are part. It includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems; the resilience of ecosystems; the services they provide to society and the way in which humans interact with nature.

Terms of Reference:

1. The Partnership is a successor to the Pembrokeshire Biodiversity Partnership (PBP) and takes on its assets as set out in the PBP Terms of Reference (Appendix 2: working guidance, paragraph 6e).
2. The membership of the Partnership will comprise Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales and other key organisational partnersⁱ with responsibility for the conservation and enhancement of nature in Pembrokeshire. Membership will also be open to individualsⁱⁱ as a forum for collaboration and involvement to aid the effective delivery of nature recovery actions in Pembrokeshire.
3. One of the Partners will act as host organisationⁱⁱⁱ and will take responsibility for employment of any staff and administration of any core funds on behalf of the Partnership.
4. The Partners will exercise their functions so as to secure compliance with the requirements of all relevant legislation and policy e.g. UN Convention on Biological Diversity (1992), Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) as amended, Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015), Environment (Wales) Act (2016), Nature Recovery Action Plan Wales and Pollinator Action Plan Wales.
5. The Partnership will have no authority over any of the functions, duties or responsibilities of the member organisations.
6. The Partnership will publish, review and implement local plans for the conservation and enhancement of nature in Pembrokeshire. These plans may be focussed on

species, habitats, or places as appropriate and will reflect local priorities and aspiration in the context of national and strategic policy drivers.

7. Each partner is jointly and equally empowered to establish and implement actions to deliver the aims of these plans in partnership with the others.
8. Routine matters such as sign off of new or revised plans, funding matters and direction of the work of any person employed will be delegated to a Steering group drawn from the key organisational members to include Pembrokeshire County Council, Pembrokeshire Coast National Park Authority, Natural Resources Wales and at least one non-governmental organisation.
9. The Partnership will ensure that there is wide participation in developing and implementing the work of the Pembrokeshire Nature Partnership by employing an officer to:
 - i Review and develop the local plans, drawing on relevant knowledge and skills within the Partnership and ensuring consultation with the full Partnership before publication of new or revised plans.
 - ii Support and encourage new and existing action groups to take forward the implementation of actions identified in the plans.
 - iii Disseminate relevant information to partners and the public as appropriate.
 - iv Raise awareness of nature conservation related issues through a programme of events, website, newsletter and social media.
10. The Steering Group will meet as deemed necessary as the need arises, which will in any case not be less than once a year.
11. There will be an opportunity for the full Partnership to meet as deemed appropriate by the Steering Group (usually once a year as resources permit).

ⁱ Key partners include organisations with a statutory duty under Section 6 of the Environment (Wales) Act (2016) to maintain and enhance biodiversity and promote the resilience of ecosystems; those listed in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act (2015); and those whose core purposes include an element of nature conservation work. These organisations will have their logo displayed on membership listings and will be entitled to vote on matters not delegated to the Steering Group, provided they sign up to and keep these Terms of Reference.

ⁱⁱ Individuals with skills, time or expertise which they are willing to share in order to promote and enhance nature in Pembrokeshire will be welcome to contribute to the work of the Partnership. They may attend full Partnership meetings, or join task and finish groups as appropriate. They will not be expected to sign up to these Terms of Reference.

ⁱⁱⁱ Pembrokeshire County Council is currently the host organisation.