

Liverpool City Region Local Nature Partnership



A range of partners across Liverpool City Region are working together to put forward a submission to Government to form a Local Nature Partnership.

What is a Local Nature Partnership?

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) were introduced in Defra's Natural Environment White Paper *The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature*, published in 2011, recognising that partnership working is essential to deliver strategic ambitions

for the natural environment at a local level. The White Paper defines LNPs as *'self-sustaining strategic partnerships of a broad range of local organisations, businesses and people. They will help their local areas 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'*.

An LNP is defined in the recently published National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) as *'a body, designated by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, established for the purpose of protecting and improving the natural environment in an area and the benefits derived from it'*.

The Liverpool City Region LNP

Working definitions for the role and remit of the Liverpool City Region LNP have been developed by its Transitional Steering Group as follows.

Role & Remit

The role of the Liverpool City Region LNP will be to *'manage and value the natural environment to achieve environmental, economic and social benefits'* and should be defined through the opportunities it faces, the added value it can bring and the services it can provide. We see these as falling into three main areas:

- Promoting and valuing the natural environment
- Consolidating and coordinating existing groups
- Developing, maintaining and using a robust evidence base.

The geographical remit of the LCR LNP is proposed to be at the level of the city region covering Liverpool, Knowsley, Halton, Sefton, St Helens and Wirral. The LCR LNP will also have strong links with the Cheshire, Lancashire and Manchester LNPs as nature does not adhere to administrative boundaries.

The technical scope of the LNP should go 'beyond nature' and encompass all

environmental matters. The low carbon economy is covered by the City Region's Low Carbon Economy Committee, and the LNP will explore joint working with this committee.

The LNP should include all natural areas, environments and landscapes including the marine and coastal environment, rivers and estuaries, inland watercourses (canals and park lakes), grasslands and heaths, woodlands, agricultural land, urban parks, green spaces and public realm.

Aim and objectives

The aim of the Liverpool City Region LNP will be to:

"value and maximise opportunities from the City Region's natural environmental assets and services to ensure that the quality of the environment is a key criterion in all strategic decision-making and that the quality of the City-Region's natural assets attracts and engages investors, businesses, visitors and residents'.

The aim will be achieved through the following objectives:

- Identify, manage and enhance key strategic environmental assets
- Ensure the natural environment is valued as a key contributor to sustainable economic growth
- Ensure the natural environment is taken into account and valued in all development, investment and strategic decision-making
- Economic, environmental and social improvements at the local level (e.g. access, GP referral, biodiversity increase, enhancement of endangered habitats and species, employment opportunities).

Why should I get involved?

This is your opportunity to highlight the value of the City Region's natural assets and become involved in setting the priorities for your LNP.

If you have any comments on the working definitions, wish to attend a forthcoming event or are able to offer any support to the LNP, please complete this short survey using the following web address.

<http://www.keysurvey.co.uk/survey/429732/1bdb/>

Where can I found out more?

You can find out more information on the progress of the LCR LNP and how to be involved from Christine Bennett at the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.

[\(christine.bennett@eas.sefton.gov.uk\)](mailto:christine.bennett@eas.sefton.gov.uk).

