

**Surrey Nature Partnership
Executive Board
Terms of Reference (updated 2022)**

Surrey Nature Partnership is one of 48 Local Nature Partnerships mandated by Government in 2012 to provide a strategic, co-ordinating role for all those with an interest in the natural environment in Surrey.

Our vision is to see a healthy natural environment supporting economic and social benefits throughout

The Surrey Nature Partnership (SyNP) will **hard wire** recognition of the value of the natural environment into all decision making, resulting in better informed decisions for Surrey. It will increase recognition of the value of our **natural capital and associated ecosystems as critical assets for Surrey, as important as its financial and social capital**, and promote the need for thoughtful, sustainable management of these assets

Our aim is to:

- be a strategic, co-ordinating Partnership that provides 'One Voice' for the natural environment in Surrey,
- deliver our vision for Surrey, in collaboration with a wide range of partners,
- facilitate collaboration between those partners around one vision for Surrey's nature and develop a strategic approach for nature recovery within the county and across the boundaries,
- engage with a wide range of sectors, particularly those with economic, social and health dimensions,
- develop and support innovative approaches for embedding the essential value of a healthy natural environment within all decision making, fulfill our statutory role in strategic planning matters under the 'Duty to Cooperate',
- promote the UN sustainable development goals.

To achieve our aim, we will:

- develop a new way of working which puts the aims of the Partnership first to ensure we deliver our vision,
- facilitate the work of, and work through, partners,
- communicate our messages clearly to all audiences, and
- use sound science and a robust evidence base to underpin our work,
- support the development of Strategic plans for the recovery and enhancement of nature across the County, including the Surrey Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS),
- assist with monitoring and reporting on the progress of implementing those strategies and engage the Board in evaluating the success of those strategies and their implementation.

Surrey has a rich heritage of wildlife, valued by both residents and visitors. It is a popular place to live and work and it is an economic powerhouse that supports the national economy. It is in

managing the potential tension between maintaining a growing economy whilst ensuring Surrey's vital natural capital and associated benefits (ecosystem services) can thrive, that the SyNP has a crucial role to play. LNPs were set up by central government to work in close liaison with Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) and will continue to work closely with economic partnerships covering Surrey.

SyNP will be 'one voice' for Surrey. We aim to bring together people who can make a positive contribution across different sectors and achieve outcomes with the maximum benefits. There are numerous challenges facing Surrey over the short, medium and long term which would benefit from an overarching approach to prevent duplication and overlap but more importantly ensure that the best and most innovative solutions are achieved.

The Governance Structure

Appendix 1 shows the Governance Structure comprising an Executive Board and Task Groups as required.

This will bring together key people to ensure we work towards our vision and that the true costs and benefits of the environment are taken into proper account.

The Executive Board will drive the process.

The Executive Board

A maximum of 12 senior, influential individuals reflecting the breadth of the partnership's existing and potential membership.

Its brief will be:

- to set out the vision, aims, and strategic objectives for the partnership,
- to act as a governing board and agree the governance arrangements,
- to ensure an effective and externally credible governance structure for the partnership and recommend new candidates for membership,
- to keep under review the terms of reference for the governing board and working groups,
- to review the existing work plan and agree a five- year work plan with annual detailed work plans to recommend how the agreed work plan will be delivered (and how to address the challenge of building effective relationships with the business community and supporting groups such as the LEPS.)
- to gain funding for the partnership recognizing that Government funding is not being offered to deliver the aims of the Partnership,
- to review any relevant Government publications and assess their implications for the Partnership,
- to participate in the SE LNP Cluster and the national LNP network, and
- to publish an annual report on activity by 31st May each year.

The Board will meet, as required, and will, wherever appropriate, use electronic communications or telephone conferences to conduct its business.

The Board will be chaired by an elected chairman from the Board Members or an independent chairman.

The Board Members will serve an initial term of three years and may serve three consecutive terms. (9 years)

The role of chairman will be held for three years and then be subject to re-election. Only two terms of three years can be served before stepping down. (6 Years)

New Members to the Board will be recommended by the Director in consultation with the Chairman and taken to the Board for approval.

Working Groups

The standing working groups are:

- Funding and Economy Working Group
- Health and wellbeing working Group
- Biodiversity Working Group
- Planning for Nature Working Group
- Communications Working Group
- Local Sites Partnership

Any other Working Groups can be set up by the Board as necessary.

These working Groups will be chaired by people appointed by the Board (but not necessarily members of the Board) and will report annually to the Board in the Spring to allow their work to be included in the Annual report.

The chairmen of the Groups and will attend the Spring meeting of the Board to report on their work over the previous year and discuss the work for the next year and may attend all meetings of the Board.

The Strategy and work of the working groups will be agreed each year between the groups and the Board.

<https://surreynaturepartnership.org.uk/>

Addendum 30.01.2026

1. Increase maximum number of board members from 12 to 16
2. Extension to board terms can be increased by 1 term by approval of the board