

TEES VALLEY

NATURE PARTNERSHIP

Tees Valley Nature Partnership (TVNP) Governance Board

Terms of Reference (2026–2028)

1. Purpose

The TVNP Governance Board provides strategic leadership, oversight and accountability for the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. It ensures that TVNP delivers its vision for a nature-rich, resilient and prosperous Tees Valley, integrating environmental recovery with economic growth, community wellbeing and industry collaboration.

The Board oversees:

- TVNP's strategic direction and business plan
- Regional nature recovery priorities
- Alignment with the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- Industry engagement and development of a Finance Model
- Governance, risk, performance and financial oversight
- Partnership-wide communication and cross-sector collaboration

2. Responsibilities

2.1 Strategic Leadership

- Set TVNP's strategic priorities, aims and long-term direction.
- Champion nature recovery as an enabler of economic, social and environmental benefit.
- Ensure TVNP remains responsive to emerging opportunities, investment pathways and policy shifts.

2.2 Oversight of Programmes & Delivery

- Ensure high-quality delivery of strategic projects & LNRS commitments.
- Review progress of core workstreams: Natural Assets, Nature, Health & Wellbeing, Strategic Projects & Investment, and NEWTs.
- Approve the annual delivery plan and monitor performance indicators.

2.3 Governance, Assurance & Risk

- Maintain strong governance, transparency and accountability.
- Oversee financial stewardship, budgeting and use of resources.
- Ensure compliance with all legal, contractual and funding requirements.

2.4 Cross-Sector Engagement

- Strengthen relationships across industry, local authorities, Natural England, EA, health partners, academia, landowners, VCSE, and community stakeholders.
- Promote collaborative working and avoid duplication across regional programmes.
- Support a culture of partnership, shared learning and innovation.

2.5 Finance & Investment

- Provide strategic oversight of a Tees Valley Green Finance Model.
- Approve investable project pipelines and ensure robust monitoring & verification.
- Support industry engagement, investor confidence and cross-sector participation.

2.6 Communications & Advocacy

- Act as ambassadors for TVNP.
- Champion nature recovery in local, regional and national forums.
- Support the visibility of TVNP's work, website platform and public-facing outputs

3. Membership

The Governance Board will be comprised of a balanced group of senior individuals drawn from across the public, private, statutory, academic and land management sectors, reflecting the breadth of expertise required to support the Tees Valley Nature Partnership. Members will be appointed for their strategic experience and ability to provide effective oversight, challenge and leadership, including experience in areas such as government and regulation, environmental delivery, industry and investment, academia, land management and public health. Board composition will be kept under regular review to ensure it remains appropriate, credible and effective, and to provide the skills and insight needed to guide the Partnership's work. The TVNP Chair will sit on the Board.

Chair

- Appointed every three years
- Responsible for leading meetings and ensuring effective governance

Observers / Guests

The Board may invite subject specialists, project leads or representatives for specific agenda items.

4. Expectations of Members

Board members are expected to:

- Attend at least 75% of meetings
- Come prepared, with authority to represent their organisation
- Act in the collective interest of the Partnership
- Champion TVNP's work within their sector
- Support the development of investment-ready nature recovery projects
- Uphold confidentiality, professionalism and shared responsibility

5. Meetings

- 3 meetings per year
- Additional meetings may be convened for key decisions or milestones
- To be held in person with hybrid attendance available
- Secretariat provided by the TVNP Manager

Quorum

A minimum of 50% of Board members, including the Chair or Vice-Chair.

6. Decision-Making

- Decisions will be made by consensus where possible.
- Where consensus cannot be reached, the Chair may call a simple majority vote.
- In urgent cases, decisions may be taken electronically between meetings.

7. Reporting & Accountability

The Board:

- Receives annual report from the TVNP Manager
- Receives updates and recommendations from each Strategic Group
- Provides accountability to funders (e.g., Natural England, LA partners, investors)
- Oversees annual external reporting and the “State of Nature in the Tees Valley” review

8. Review

These Terms of Reference will be reviewed:

- Annually, or
- When significant policy, funding or structural changes occur
- As part of the Spring 2026 relaunch and every three years thereafter