

THE FUTURE FOR NATURE 2019-2022



GLNP



THE PARTNERSHIP

Formed of over 30 organisations from public, private and third sector bodies, the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) works to provide a collective voice for nature when it comes to strategic decision making for the benefit of the environment, people and the economy within the county and districts of Gloucestershire.

The Partnership came into being in response to the Government's 2011 Natural Environment White Paper, along with 47 other Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) in England. The common purpose of England's family of LNPs 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 (HWBs).

We work together with our diverse membership to coordinate activities across the county, pool resources and share ideas - as well as with other LNPs, neighbouring and beyond - to influence change and drive positive decision-making relating to the local and national environment.



OUR NEXT THREE YEARS

The 3-Year Strategy for the GLNP is designed to provide a top-level set of priorities for the group to promote and, with its constituent partners, to take action to deliver in order to conserve and enhance the county's biodiversity, whilst supporting the growth and health of its people and economy.

Our core themes are based around people, place and process - creating space to **thrive**, space to **grow** and space to **lead**.





THE FUTURE OF OUR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

In Gloucestershire and across the UK our natural environment is declining at an unprecedented rate. The country is now one of the most nature depleted places on the planet. We've reached a point where our natural world is in critical condition and it needs all the help it can get to put it into recovery. This impacts not only our wildlife, but also threatens our health, our wellbeing and our economy.

The next three years for the GLNP is crucial. We need to ensure we get the best we can from our departure from the European Union in terms of environmental law and protections. We need to provide our Partners with the support they need to adapt to change and collaborate wherever possible to achieve bigger, better outcomes for nature. And, we need to secure recognition across the county of the fundamental link our economy and our health has to the natural environment.

The publishing of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan (25 YEP) in July 2018 set out a framework for a new game-changing approach to managing and improving the environment. All with the aspiration of leaving it in a better state than we found it and doing so within a single generation.

DEFRA is looking toward LNPs to help support and deliver what is needed locally to make this plan a reality and drive genuine positive change in the natural environment across England.

Whilst we have outlined strategic direction for the GLNP, the future will inevitably bring its trials and tribulations and will require us to embrace flexibility and durability to effectively champion the natural environment and its value to social and economic outcomes.



OUR MISSION: Championing the essential role of Gloucestershire's natural environment in sustaining a vibrant, healthy, prosperous economy and society.



BACKGROUND

A strategic review of the Partnership was undertaken in 2017 investigating the ability of the GLNP Board in achieving its ambitions, identifying its core priorities and understanding its current public profile and availability of resources.

The review provided greater understanding of how the Partnership is performing and actions in which to function better along with recommendations on ways to realise their Vision.

OUR VISION: A healthy and valued natural environment, sustaining the economy and well-being of Gloucestershire.

As well as giving clarity and purpose to the work of the Partnership, another considerable factor raised by the review was the need for dedicated resource to help the GLNP achieve its full potential.

From the outset, The GLNP has been supported by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT), providing the secretariat at an estimated cost of c£15,000 a year, mostly time-related and met by GWT unaided.



The Partnership also relied heavily on support from other partners, including one-off funding opportunities, accommodation provision for meetings and the commitment of substantial amounts of staff time to the work of the GLNP.

Funding was subsequently raised from several partners to support this aspiration of hiring dedicated support and in June 2018 a Partnership Manager was employed on a three-year contract. This Strategy subsequently supports their future work plan.



OUR CORE STRATEGIC THEMES

Our core strategic themes are all centred around people, place and process - creating space to **thrive**, space to **grow** and space to **lead**.

These themes each have their own aspirations and objectives and will be delivered through an annual work plan that is co-created with Partners and achieved through collaboration.

01 Space to **THRIVE**



Research has proven our innate need for access to nature and the outdoors for the benefit of our health and wellbeing. We seek to raise nature's profile in order for people to thrive.

02 Space to **GROW**



The environment underpins our society and economy. We aspire to protect, increase and enhance nature - not only for wildlife, but also for the benefit of business and communities.

03 Space to **LEAD**



Nature provides solutions to many of the issues we face in society today. As the GLNP, we will build a strong voice for nature through a resilient and effective Partnership.



SPACE TO THRIVE


Space to THRIVE focuses on the elements needed to support a happy, healthy community that is engaged in the clear benefits that nature can provide to improve our quality of life.

01 Champion the growth of 'natural health' services in Gloucestershire.




Develop a joined-up approach to nature prescribing, design and wellbeing across the County, working closely with Public Health and the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (GCCG).

02 Boost engagement in and support for nature as a foundation for society and economy



Explore the potential for a more joined-up approach to 'Natural Thinking' – learning and engagement – through and for nature across delivery bodies within the County. Including people's benefit from nature via digital exposure such as TV, radio, social media and webcams.

03 Influence and increase people's access to nature throughout Gloucestershire.




Increase benefit from and access to high-quality green space and diversify the range of people seeking to do so, particularly those affected by health inequalities who would benefit the most.



SPACE TO GROW


Space to GROW focuses on the the drivers behind nature's recovery, the importance of effective policy and planning, along with the value that nature can provide to local and national prosperity and productivity.

01 Deliver a Nature Recovery Network across the County.



Drive forward a spatial recovery network for nature that underpins decision-making, identifies opportunities for nature's enhancement and contributes to delivery of the 25 YEP.

02 Influence key strategic policies and planning within the County and the UK.



Influence local and national policy where relevant, including the Local Industrial Strategy, Local Plans, Vision 2050, Health & Wellbeing Strategy, Integrated Care System plans, Air Quality, Net Gain, 25 YEP and the Environment Bill.

03 Develop and endorse nature-based tools to influence decision-making and identify environmental opportunities.



Influence delivery of nature-based solutions (NBS), including green and blue infrastructure, through tools/avenues such as Building with Nature, NFM, ELMS, ERDF/UK Shared Prosperity Fund and our strategic environmental mapping tool.



SPACE TO LEAD

Space to LEAD has its sole focus on the management and effectiveness of the Partnership itself, ensuring it has a strong voice that is resilient and well acknowledged and supports its member organisations to collaborate for the greater good of nature's recovery.

01 Promoting a 'Green Vision for Gloucestershire', developing a strong voice for nature across the County.




Produce a 'Green Vision for Gloucestershire', expanding on our Vision 2050 response, advocating nature solutions to many of the issues we are dealing with in today's society.

02 Building a resilient and effective support service for all partners of the GLNP.



Create a communications plan that grows the partnership, boosts member engagement and encourages collaboration – utilising both digital and direct communications, working groups, the Board and the Partnership sessions.

03 Maximising the effectiveness of the partnership across the LNP network.



Keep abreast of developments across the LNP network, contributing and collaborating where relevant, particularly our neighbours and those in the South West Partnership.



SCOPE FOR INCLUSION

The GLNP is required to take a systematic approach to programming, identifying key partners, securing resources, initiating activities and monitoring performance. Therefore, five core principles have been identified and will be applied when determining the best topics for which to deploy effort within the annual work plan:

- The work would not happen without the GLNP.
- The work adds value because it is not being, or could not be, done by someone else.
- The work plays to the strengths of the GLNP as a partnership and increases collective output.
- The work should be exemplary, having potential application beyond the scope of the project itself.
- The work should lead to a net gain for the natural environment.

We plan to move forward on several interlinked projects that will result in:

- A greatly enhanced network of places, rich in wildlife and providing a wide range of services to our communities and economy;
- A better understanding of the value of nature to the people and economy of the County;
- More people engaging with and enjoying the benefits of nature; and
- A suite of tools that will help decision-makers, planners and others make informed judgments on the benefits of nature-based solutions.





FLEXIBILITY, REACH AND NATIONAL APPROACH

The GLNP will play a full role in the time-limited opportunities offered by the development of significant plans and strategies developed in the County as well as those presented in the future e.g. the Gloucestershire 2050 Vision, the Local Industrial Strategy, the Health & Wellbeing Strategy, as well as those linked to DEFRA's 25 Year Environment Plan e.g. Biodiversity Net Gain and 2019 Year of Green Action (YoGA). It is also important to note that many of the opportunities above align and overlap in many ways and one project may well deliver many elements of the outcomes we seek to achieve for the county; they are likely to not be projects in silo.

The Gloucestershire LNP sits within a countrywide partnership of LNPs. As an essential part of our strategy we will be keeping abreast of developments across the network, sharing best practice and ideas whenever appropriate. This also strengthens our voice nationally, with LNPs being seen as the key body to help support local delivery of the 25 Year Environment Plan.

To this end, we will seek and grasp opportunities offered by future pilot programmes funded by the Department that sit well with our core work programme and ambitions.



January 2019

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