

Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership

DRAFT v7 Principles and Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

1.1. The Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) exists to:

- **Achieve more for people and nature by working together.**
- **Put nature at the heart of local decision-making**, for the benefit of nature recovery, people and the local economy. Be local champions influencing decision-making relating to Gloucestershire's natural environment and its value to the county's long term economic prosperity and the health and well-being of its residents.
- **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.
- **Bring organisations together to share** knowledge, improve practice and policy, and draw together connections and resources, to collaborate on strategic ambitions for nature in Gloucestershire.

In so doing, develop actions, programmes and projects that address the urgent global ecological and climate crises being expressed locally in the County.

1.2. Scope of the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership

Areas of work where Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership aims to work together on strategic ambitions include, but are not limited to,:

- Nature-based mitigation and adaption to climate catastrophe through land management, land use and other changes.
- Nature's recovery, including the establishment of a coherent ecological network in Gloucestershire, based on sound ecological evidence.
- Nature Access and Engagement, removing barriers for people to access and connect with nature.
- Green and blue infrastructure, facilitating best practice and implementation through strategic local planning.
- Nature and health, as a key component of long-term human health and wellbeing.
- The natural environment as a fundamental component of the sustainable economy of Gloucestershire.
- Mechanisms to increase finance for the above.

1.3. Origins

The GLNP is one of 35 Nature Partnerships created as a result of a key commitment in the 2011 Government Natural Environment White Paper *The natural choice: securing the value of nature*. DEFRA's description of LNPs is below:

"The ambition for LNPs is that they will help their local area 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."

They received further endorsement in the 2018, '25 Year Environment Plan', and partnership working is a key component in all updates of Environmental Improvement Plans since.

2. How is the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership organised?

2.1 The LNP is **not a constituted body or a legal entity**. As a partnership it relies upon the influence it can bring to bear on others, on its credibility in its field of expertise and on the goodwill and engagement of the partners. Some Partners contribute financially to a central pool, which enables the employment of a **Partnership Manager** (see below); this resource increases the effectiveness of the whole Partnership immeasurably.

2.2. Membership of Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership is open to **any** organisation, institution, or public body working for the benefit of the natural environment in Gloucestershire at a strategic level, with a commitment to working in partnership.

Organisations (**Partners**) are asked to confirm their membership of the partnership through a simple sign-up declaration. Each organisation can nominate approximately 2 representatives per organisation or department who would like to be in more regular connection and communication with other LNP members, as LNP organisation representatives.

There are a range of ways that people can be involved in the Local Nature Partnership, including as part of the newsletter circulation, as part of a working group or allied network, as an LNP organisation representative or as a member of the Local Nature Partnership board.

We withhold the right to withdraw membership at the discretion of the Local Nature Partnership board.

2.3. Working groups, allied networks, task and finish groups and communities of practice

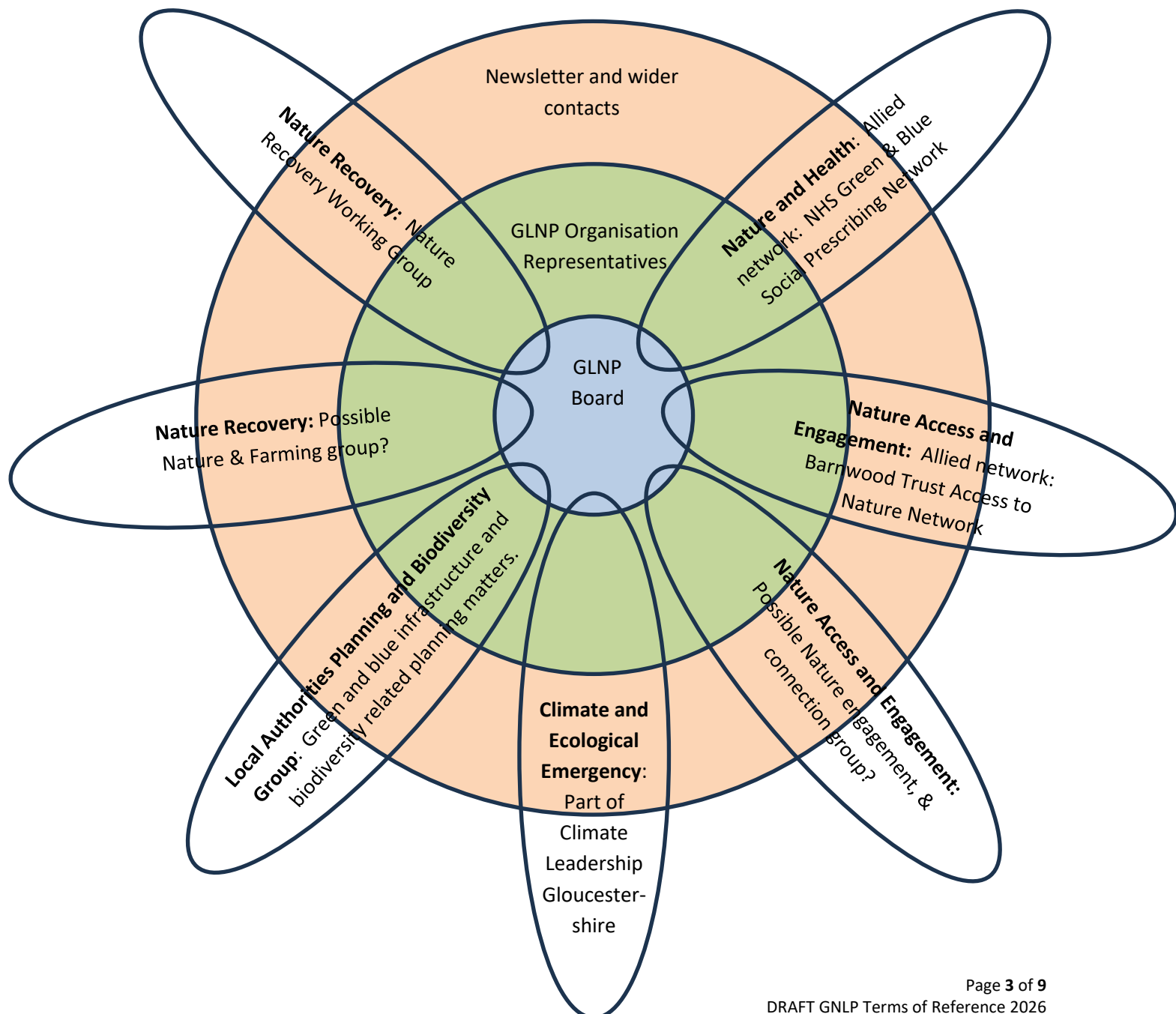
Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership convenes working groups when there is a clear project or focus and where effective outcomes are identified.

In some circumstances, a partner organisation will lead and run an allied network or group delivering or contributing to Local Nature Partnership goals, where the LNP will support as required and seek a representative on the LNP board.

When appropriate we will convene task and finish groups or communities of practice on strategy themes to come together to discuss and plan key issues.

We will retain flexibility about the ways that working groups or more temporary task & finish groups can be initiated and organised.

The diagram below shows the different types of involvement, and how working groups and allied networks can involve different types of LNP members, or others, and link to the LNP board.



3. Operating principles – How does the GLNP Operate?

The GLNP organises itself through a Board, its working groups and its wider networks of Partners (the Partnership). Through a Partner (GWT) it employs a Partnership Manager and may employ others for specific roles. It organises at least one, full Partnership meeting each year, and communicates through regular newsletters and online media.

3.1. The role of Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Board

The role of the GLNP Board is to steer the delivery of the GLNP strategy, including by:

1. Facilitate collective strategic leadership on natural environment issues in Gloucestershire.
2. Develop Local Nature Partnership strategy for Gloucestershire.
3. Agree Local Nature Partnership priorities and workplan.
4. Approve working groups, networks and task and finish groups that can support collaboration, provide a strong constructive voice for the environment and promote delivery of LNP strategic themes.
5. Support Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund as Gloucestershire's initiative to develop natural capital investment.
6. Advise on engagement in nature-related policy and decision-making in Gloucestershire.
7. Secure long-term sustainability of the partnership, including resourcing and cross-sectoral support.
8. Provide robust governance, accountability and oversight for GLNP.

3.2. Membership of the GLNP Board

The GLNP Board consists of up to 19 board members, covering between them the following roles:

1. Independent chair, and vice-chair.
2. Executive members for strategic leadership, including:
 - Host organisation Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust
 - Local Authorities representation
 - National Landscape representation
 - National Trust representation
 - Other Environmental NGO representation
 - Defra agencies
 - University representation

3. Working group or allied network leads or representatives as nominated by working groups or allied networks, as agreed by the LNP board in line with LNP strategy. These board representatives could potentially change more frequently as working groups evolve or form. Groups of Partners are encouraged to review the work of the GLNP at the annual meeting (or at other times) and suggest new themes that could become future working groups. If there is no current working group or allied network on a strategic theme area of work, then the GLNP board can consider co-opting a representative.

Note: Individuals on the Board may serve more than one role, and a representation role can be covered by more than one person. The current Board members and role profile is appended to this Terms of Reference document.

3.3 Roles and responsibilities of GLNP Board Members

Board members will determine GLNP's strategic direction and purpose. They also champion GLNP work to deliver its aims. To achieve this, members need to:

- Commit to the work of GLNP and to the delivery of its aims
- Participate actively in GLNP work
- Stay informed about GLNP matters, prepare for meetings and review and comment on papers
- Represent the views of their sector on the GLNP Board
- Take relevant issues back to their sector and engage relevant players in their sectors in the work and delivery of the GLNP objectives
- Build a constructive working relationship that contributes to consensus
- Attend GLNP Board and other related meetings
- At meetings, disclose any matters of interest of conflict on issues that may directly affect the decision-making process

3.4. Role of Chair

The independent Chair will:

1. Provide leadership to Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership.
2. Work with the Partnership Manager to ensure coordination and delivery of GLNP's work programme and strategy.
3. Chair meetings of the GLNP Board.
4. Report to the wider GLNP membership annually on the work of the GLNP Board
5. Recruit and brief GLNP board members.
6. Hold the lead representative role for the biodiversity theme in Climate Leadership Gloucestershire.
7. Represent GLNP at appropriate events and meetings.
8. Act as a spokesperson for GLNP where appropriate.

3.5. Role of Vice-Chair

One of the members of the GLNP Board will be elected as Vice-Chair, and they will:

1. Stand in for the Chair if the Chair is not available.
2. Support the Chair and Partnership Manager to plan Board meetings.
3. Support the Chair and Partnership Manager in operational decision-making and the development of strategic recommendations.
4. Support the Chair and Partnership Manager in recruitment of GLNP board members.

3.6. Role of GLNP representative on the board of Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund

At least one of the members of the GLNP Board will be elected to be a board member of Gloucestershire Nature and Climate Fund, to represent the purpose and aims of Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership. Their role on GNCF's board is to liaise between GNCF and GLNP board and to ensure GNCF works fairly with landowners to enable them to be good stewards of their land for nature.

3.7. Appointment and recruitment of GLNP board members

Appointment to the Board should require a two thirds majority of Board members present at the meeting at which the candidate is suggested.

The Board should have the right to invite individuals to join or ask an organisation to nominate an individual.

The GLNP Board aims for a 50% male and 50% female membership and aims to increase minority ethnicity representation. This should be taken into account when appointing and recruiting new GLNP board members.

3.8. Terms of office of GLNP board members

It is considered important to have consistent membership of the Board, as the leaders of key organisations are vital to successful function. Therefore, it is suggested to have no maximum term of membership. The annual governance review will review the organisational membership of the board and whether any terms of office should be concluded or re-appointed as relevant.

The independent Chair will hold the role for a 3-year term, which can be renewed once, that is, a maximum of 6 years.

The Vice Chair will hold the role for a 3-year term, renewable for a further 3 years, to be reconfirmed annually.

3.9. Resignation and removal of GLNP board members

Board members may resign by giving written notice to the Chair.

GLNP board may require a board member to resign, if, in the view of the board:

- The board member has failed to attend sufficient meetings or to contribute to the activities of the partnership
- The board member has not acted in the interests of GLNP
- The board member has failed to declare and/or resolve conflicts of interest
- The board member has failed to act in a collaborative manner with other board members at meetings
- The board member is involved in activities that could bring GLNP into disrepute.

3.10. Operational Arrangements

Meeting frequency

The board will meet six times a year.

Quorum

The quorum for GLNP board meetings will be 50% of the board membership present in person or virtually.

Voting

As a voluntary partnership, most decisions will be by consensus. When voting is required, the Chair has a casting vote. If a vote is required between meetings, the Chair or Partnership Manager may seek votes via email.

Attendance of officers and observers at GLNP board meetings

The GLNP Partnership Manager and the Manager of Gloucestershire Nature + Climate Fund will attend GLNP board meetings. Other colleagues and guests may be invited to attend and comment, in a non-voting capacity, at the invitation of the Board or Chair.

Attendance of nominated deputies

A board member can, if needed, nominate a colleague as an occasional deputy and if so, should communicate this to rest of the GLNP board.

4. Partnership Manager

The GLNP Partnership Manager role was established in 2017. This post and other core costs of running the partnership will be funded by a group of contributing partners. As their contribution, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust hosts the payroll, office, IT and finance functions for the Partnership Manager. The Partnership Manager will enable development and delivery of the GLNP strategy and work programme, manage the partnership network and provide secretariat for the GLNP board and other working groups.

The Partnership Manager role, GLNP budget, and data and any intellectual property of the partnership will be organisationally hosted by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust as part of their contribution to the Local Nature Partnership.

There will be an annual review to check whether any change in circumstance would mean that GLNP would need to be constituted. This review will check(at least) these questions:

- Is there any need to constitute in relation to the types of income coming to GLNP?
- Are GWT auditors satisfied by the hosting arrangement?
- Is GWT happy to continue the hosting arrangement?
- Have any partners flagged up any issues with GWT's hosting of GLNP?

5. Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed by the Board on an annual basis, normally in the summer.

Appendix - Matrix of Board representative roles, with current board members or vacancies:

BOARD ROLE	DH/ SS	AMc	CC	D O	K O	SD	RW	JL:	JR	MQ	CS	EH	AL	HG	DB				
Independent Chair																			
Vice Chair																			
Executive members for strategic leadership																			
Host organisation Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust																			
Local Authorities representation																			
National Landscape representation																			
National Trust representation																			
Other Environmental NGO representation																			
Defra agencies																			
University representation																			
Working group or allied network leads or representatives:																			
Nature Recovery working group																			
Climate Leadership Gloucestershire																			
NHS Green and Blue social prescribing network																			
Barnwood Trust Access to Nature Network																			
Green infrastructure and planning liaison																			
? Nature and farming group																			
? Nature engagement and connection group																			