







Making Space for Nature in Kent and Medway

Developing the County's Local Nature Recovery Strategy

What will Making Space for Nature develop?

- A **spatially** framed strategy for nature – focussing action to where its most needed and/or where it will deliver the greatest benefits. 
 - A framework for **joined-up** action, developed with those that will be instrumental in its delivery. 
 - A set of **agreed priorities** for nature recovery, with **measures** to deliver. 
 - A **shared vision** for nature recovery and the use of nature-based solutions in Kent and Medway. 
 - An **ambitious but realistic and deliverable** plan, linked to supporting mechanisms and finance.
- Network of **wildlife-rich** places across the county.
 - **Restored and healthy** natural environment.
 - **Coherent and resilient** ecological network.
 - County **thriving** with wildlife and plants.
 - Natural landscape that inspires **engagement**, underpins **health and wellbeing** and supports the **economy**.
 - Nature providing **solutions** to some of the county's societal challenges.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy and delivery

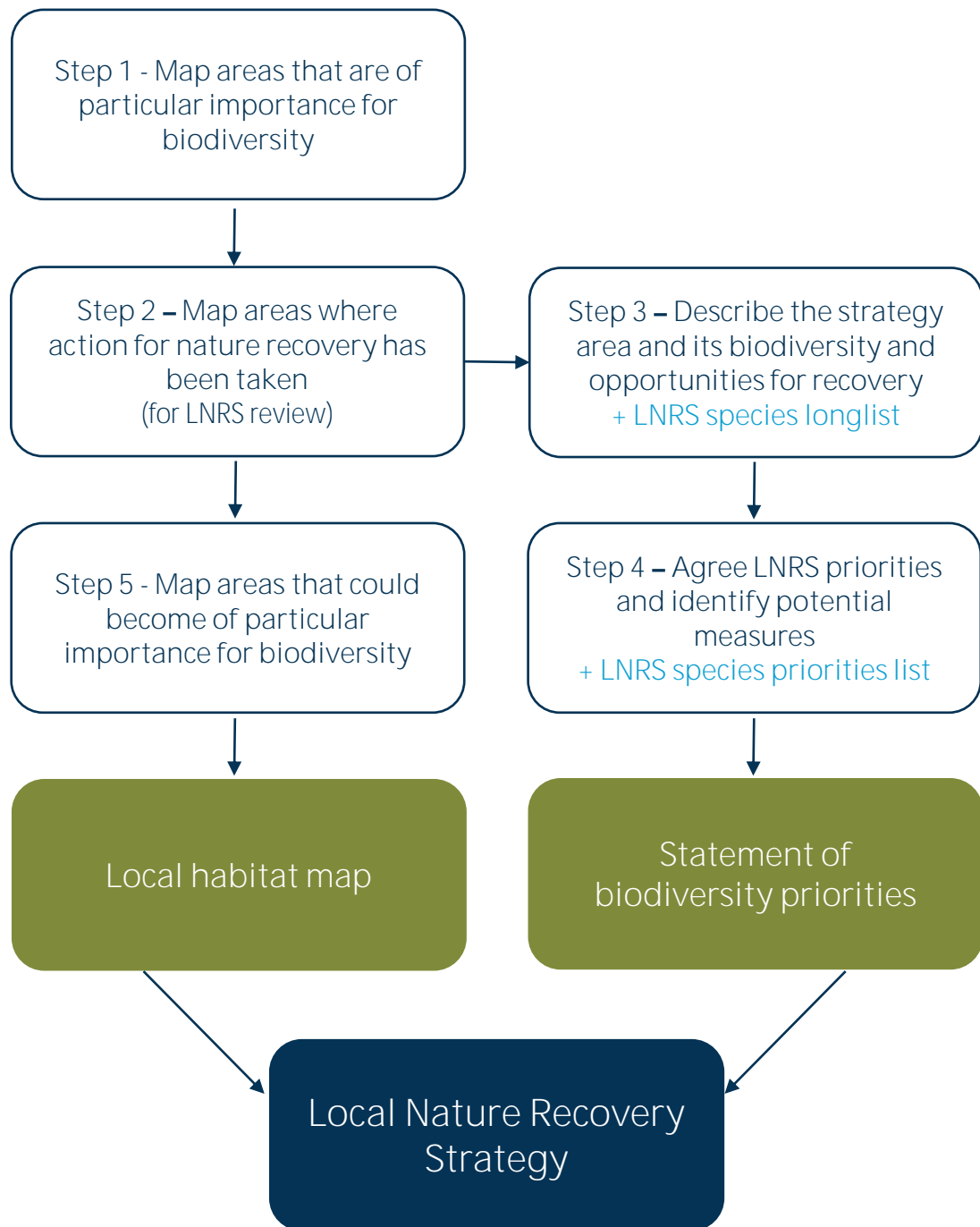
- Description of the strategy area and its biodiversity.
- Description of the **opportunities** for recovering or enhancing biodiversity in the strategy area.
- Statement of **priorities** for recovering and enhancing biodiversity and potential **measures** (actions) relating to those priorities.
- Local habitat map:
 - **existing areas** of importance for biodiversity
 - **areas which could become of particular importance** for biodiversity.
 - areas where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity could make a particular contribution to other environmental benefits.



- Channel investment from Biodiversity Net Gain, green financing and government grants.
- Evidence for local plans.
- Evidence for decision making.
- Evidence for development management, including BNG metric.



- Losses and impacts directed away from most valuable assets.
- Action and investment directed to areas of greatest need and/or benefit.



Development

- Development will be **evidence-based, locally led and collaborative**.
- Must follow **statutory guidance** and meet LNRS regulations.
- Will be developed by a “**responsible authority**” – **Kent County Council** for the Kent & Medway LNRS
- Responsible authorities are not solely responsible for delivering the strategy – it will be a **shared effort** with public, private and voluntary sector partners all playing a role.

Step 1 – map areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity

- The areas that are of particular importance for biodiversity (APIB) will identify:
 - National conservation sites (protected sites).
 - Local nature reserves.
 - Local wildlife sites.
 - Areas of irreplaceable habitat (as defined by NPPF, unless legal definition is subsequently provided).
- APIB mapping based on statutory requirements – cannot map any other areas outside these.
- Project specific, additional map of “other sites of local importance” to inform the mapping of opportunity areas (step 5) and the strategy area description (step 3).
- October 2023 to January 2024.

Step 2 – map areas where nature recovery action has been taken

- Statutory guidance only requires this step during Strategy review and re-publication.
- Project will still map this at this stage – priorities and LNRS action will be better informed by knowing what has already taken place, what is underway and what is planned.
- Will also identify any other strategic projects and priorities which may provide opportunities for, result in conflict with, nature recovery action in the county.
- October 2023 – January 2024.

Step 3 – describe the area and its biodiversity

- Breadth and distribution of habitats.
- Habitats of local and national importance and those that support scarce or declining species.
- Changes in the distribution/extent of habitats and species & those lost, or at risk of loss.
- Species, or groups of species, for which the strategy area is, or could, feasibly be, of national importance.
- Existing, and anticipated, influences on species and habitats.
- Opportunities that these influence may present.
- Wider environmental issues that the Strategy could help to address.
- October 2023 – January 2024.

Specific species work (stage 1)

- Creation of **“LNRS Species Long List”** = assessment of local species data to identify which meet national criteria + other species of local significance (from stakeholders).
- Will follow national criteria set by NE, EA, FC and Defra:
 - Native species assessed as Red List Threatened.
 - Native species not been formally assessed but where strong evidence is provided to show that they would meet the criteria for Threatened status
 - Any native species considered to be nationally extinct that re-establish themselves or are rediscovered
 - Any native species which have been assessed as Red List Near Threatened.
 - On NE advice, any native species suitable candidates for conservation translocation, or any native species already subject to translocation efforts.
- Evaluate current and future pressures affecting species on LNRS Species Long List.

Step 4 – agree LNRS priorities and identify potential measures

- Creation of long list of potential priorities.
- Refinement of priorities using selection criteria (national advice to be provided).
- Agreement of nature recovery priorities and identification of potential measures.
- December 2023 – July 2024.
- Stakeholder input critical at this stage.

Specific species work (stage 2)

- Identify which species LNRS can best support, using species prioritisation categories provided by guidance.
- Group priority LNRS species into habitat-based assemblages, based on species' shared potential to benefit from the same recovery measures.
- Pool of "LNRS potential priority species" that includes assemblages and individual species.
- Further refine this pool to create "**LNRS priority species**" by considering:
 - Urgency of recovery requirements.
 - How feasible the recover measures are to deliver.
 - National or international significance for the conservation of the species/assemblages.
 - Opportunities for cross boundary join up of species /assemblages recovery plans.
 - Other benefits that may result from recovery of that species/assemblages.
 - Vulnerability to climate change impacts.
 - Pre-existing initiatives to build on.
- Develop potential measures for the LNRS species priorities – practical actions that will contribute to the recovery or enhance of the species/assemblages in question.

Step 5 – map areas that could become of particular importance

- Identifying locations to recover or enhance nature is the local nature recovery strategy's main purpose.
- Will map with partners and stakeholders the areas which they believe could become of particular importance for biodiversity; or where the recovery or enhancement of biodiversity deliver a nature-based solution to an environmental issue.
- These areas will be collectively referred to as 'areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity' (ACIB).
- ACIB = the areas of Kent and Medway where the county proposes that effort should be concentrated to restore habitat, to achieve the most for biodiversity and the wider environment.
- August 2024 – November 2024.
- Delivery partner input critical at this stage, particularly those that own and manage land.

Step 6 – consultation and publication

- Four week pre-consultation review period for Supporting Authorities (the county's local authorities and Natural England) and our neighbouring Responsible Authorities (East Sussex, Surrey, London and Essex).
- Eight week public consultation.
- Four week pre-publication review period for Supporting Authorities (the county's local authorities and Natural England) and our neighbouring Responsible Authorities (East Sussex, Surrey, London and Essex).
- Inform Secretary of State of our intent to publish.
- November 2024 – May 2025.

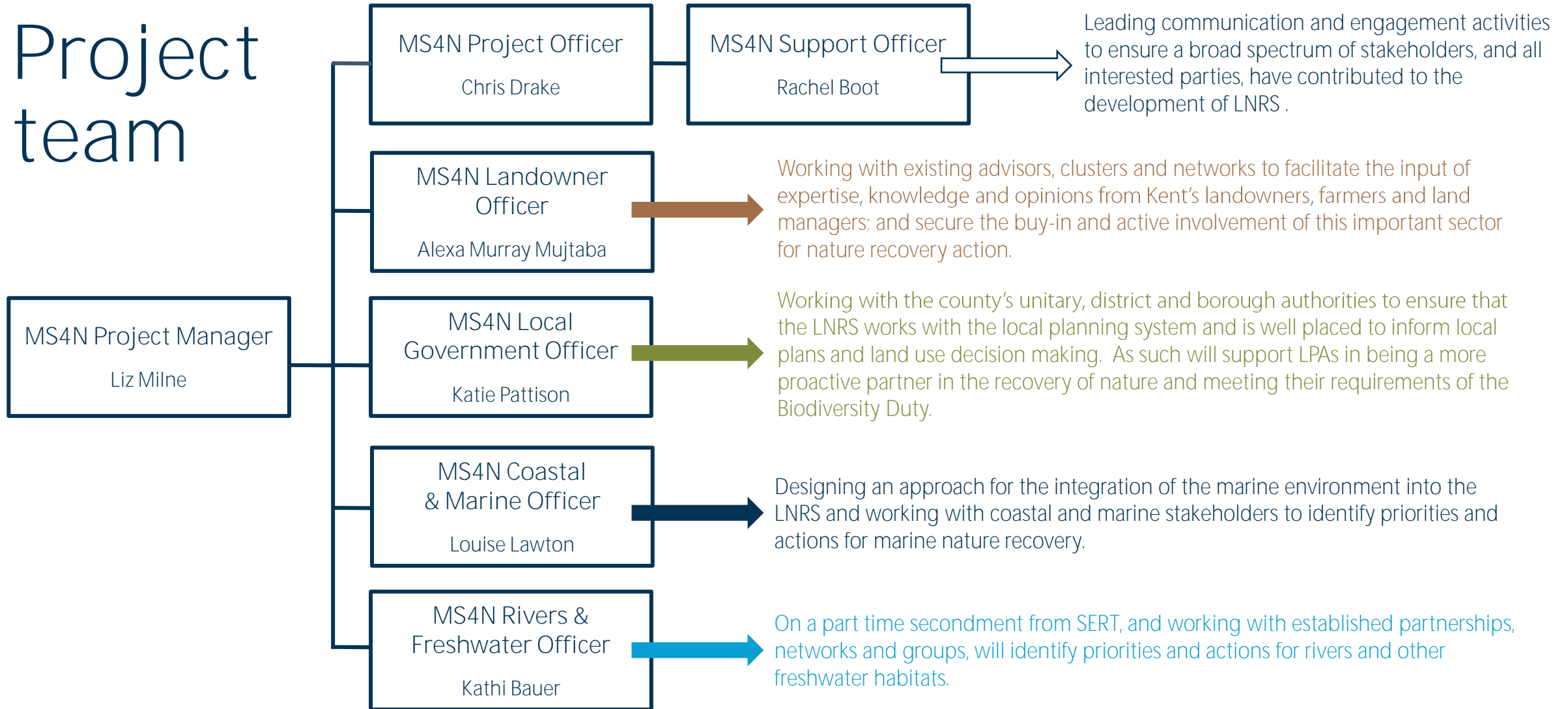
Throughout the process...the golden threads

- Contribution to wider environmental goals.
- Opportunities to deliver additional benefits.
- Nature based solutions.
- Climate change – impacts, mitigation, adaptation.
- Deliverability.
- Financing.

Project programme

2023				2024												2025													
June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May						
Project development and inception				Local habitat map – areas of particular importance for biodiversity																Local habitat map – areas that could become of particular importance for biodiversity					Consultation and publication				
				Strategy area description + LNRS species long list																									
				Mapping of existing projects and action																									
				Statement of biodiversity priorities (and measures) + LNRS species priorities list																									

Project team



Natural England LNRS Senior Advisor

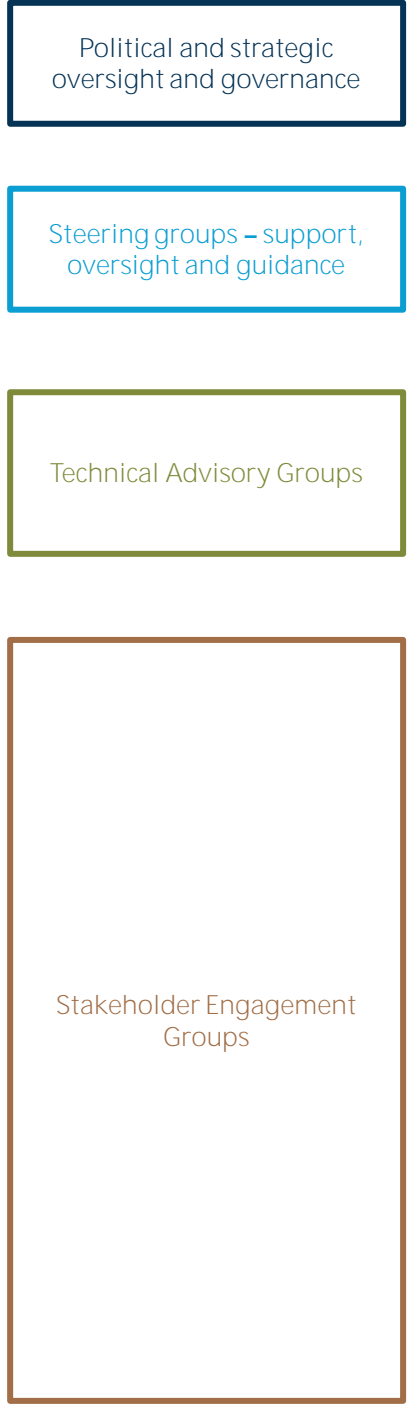
Karen Rigby-Faux

Stakeholders

- Partnership approach aims to:
 - provide a **single vision** for nature recovery and nature-based solutions, that all interested parties have been able to contribute to and work towards.
 - **build and strengthen local partnerships** that will be important in both development and delivery of strategy.
 - **involve the people who own and manage the land**, and the people who take regulatory decisions, so they can contribute to what action is being proposed, where and why.
- Project will work with:
 - those that **own and manage** the land
 - those that **influence** how biodiversity is protected and enhanced
 - those that **use and depend** on nature's services
 - those that **inform and make decisions**.

✓ Local government	✓ Recreation and access	✓ Developers
✓ Protected landscapes	✓ Utilities	✓ Businesses
✓ Government agencies	✓ Transport	✓ Marine
✓ Nature conservation charities/organisations	✓ Education	✓ Health
✓ Agriculture and Land Management	✓ Local community	
- Strategy needs to be informed by stakeholder's **priorities, data, information, knowledge and future plans** to deliver an LNRS that represents a feasible plan for joined-up action.

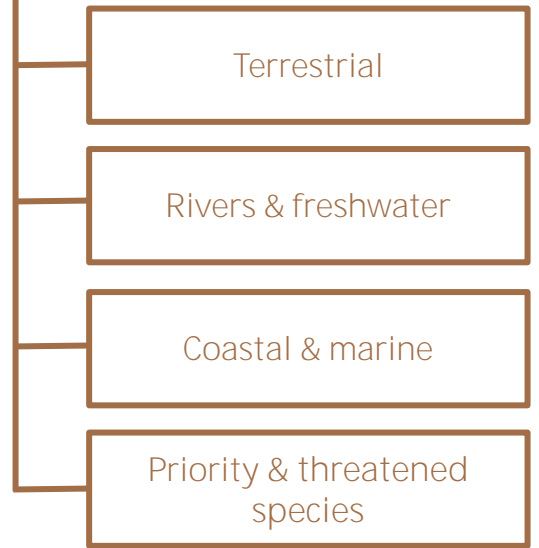
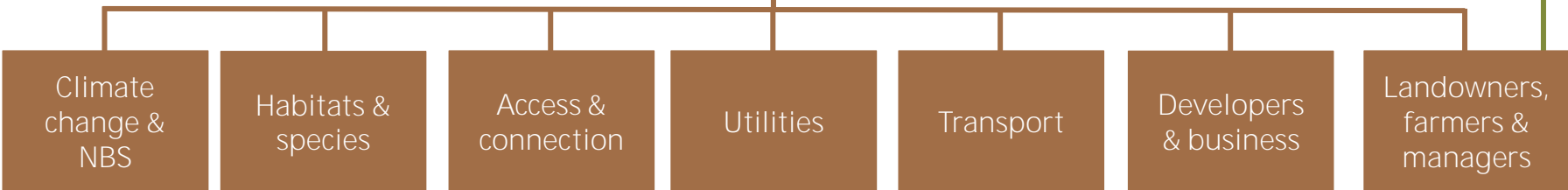




Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway Board

Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway Supporting Authorities

Making Space for Nature in Kent & Medway Delivery Group



Governance and delivery

Website

- Critical **communication and engagement tool** in reaching as many people as possible - particularly important for engagement of the general public.
- Important **source of information** and the place to go to for **update to date information** on the progress and **project outputs**.
- Information on each of the **project's stages of work**, including timeline, events, project outputs and opportunities to get involved.
- Detail on the **project governance and delivery structure** and papers/reports relating to these.
- Details of **how to get involved** – this includes:
 - Registration of interest in the project (including interest in stakeholder engagement groups).
 - Surveys – from here the project's series of surveys will be run, allowing the project to hear as many views as possible (crowdsourcing) as work progresses and the Strategy takes shape.
 - Events listing – where details of all forthcoming and past events can be viewed.
- **News** – links to articles and monthly newsletter.
- FAQs.
- Details on how to contact the project.
- Relevant publications.

www.makingspacefornaturekent.org.uk

makingspacefornature@kent.gov.uk

Additional slides on
governance and delivery
structure if questions asked

Board

Purpose of the Board:

provide political and strategic oversight and governance for the development of the Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The Board will:

- Ensure the statutory and legislative requirements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are met.
- Ensure that the Strategy is developed in an appropriate and timely way and undertakes comprehensive engagement with all stakeholders.
- Act as a review panel and decision-making forum for the tabling of any objections to the Strategy's preparation and/or the Strategy itself.

Members:

- Country Land and Business Association Kent Chair
- High Weald AONB Director
- Kent County Council Cabinet Member for Environment
- Kent County Council Director for Environment
- Kent Downs AONB Director
- Kent Nature Partnership Chair
- Kent Rural Partnership Chair
- Kent Wildlife Trust Chief Executive
- Medway Council Cabinet Member for Environment
- Medway Council Director of Place
- National Farmers Union Kent Chair
- Natural England Deputy Director Kent and Sussex
- Supporting Authorities represented by Kent Chief Planners Chair & TMBC Cabinet Member for Climate Change, Regeneration and Property.

Delivery Group

Purpose of the Delivery Group:

provide the technical and sectoral advice required to steer the preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

Not designed to enable broad stakeholder engagement but be representative of key stakeholder groups.

The Delivery Group will:

- Ensure that the development of the Strategy is based on the widest and most inclusive stakeholder engagement feasible.
- Ensure that the Strategy meets the needs of the county's biodiversity and wider environment.
- Ensure that the Strategy is evidence-led and developed with technical expertise and scrutiny.

Members:

- Countryside Management Partnerships
- Country Land and Business Association Kent
- Environment Agency
- Forestry Commission
- High Weald AONB
- Kent County Council
- Kent Downs AONB
- Kent & Medway Biological Records Centre
- Kent Public Health
- Kent Wildlife Trust
- Marine Management Organisation
- Medway Council
- National Farmers Union Kent
- Natural England
- RSPB
- Supporting Authorities
- South East Rivers Trust

Supporting Authority Group

Purpose of the SAG:

provide political and strategic oversight and governance for the development of the Kent & Medway Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The SAG will:

- Ensure the statutory and legislative requirements of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are met.
- Ensure that the Strategy is developed in an appropriate and timely way and undertakes comprehensive engagement with all stakeholders.
- Act as a review panel and decision-making forum for the tabling of any objections to the Strategy's preparation and/or the Strategy itself.

Members:

- Ashford Borough Council
- Canterbury City Council
- Dartford Borough Council
- Dover District Council
- Ebbsfleet Development Corporation
- Folkestone & Hythe District Council
- Gravesham Borough Council
- Kent County Council
- Maidstone Borough Council
- Medway Council
- Natural England
- Sevenoaks District Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Thanet District Council
- Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council
- Tunbridge Wells Borough Council

Technical Advisory Groups

Purpose of the Technical Advisory Groups:

to provide their insights, skills, guidance and expertise to the Making Space for Nature project on a specific aspect of the LNRS development.

Not designed to enable broad stakeholder engagement but rather is a focussed group of the county's experts, selected based on their technical competency and/or experience, that will ensure the technical and/or practical soundness of the Strategy's development.

All recommendations of a TAG are advisory – the Responsible Authority, under the steer of the Delivery Group, retains responsibility for subsequent decisions and actions.

The Technical Advisory Groups will:

- Advise on specific elements of the LNRS development, providing their collective expertise to the project.
- Provide a collective and representative view and make recommendations to the Responsible Authority.
- Act as a conduit to a wider community of experts within their field.
- Provide this expertise independent of their own body's agenda, priorities and interests.

Proposed Technical Advisory Groups :

- Land advice network
- Data, evidence and mapping
- Stakeholder engagement
- Species recovery

Stakeholder Engagement Groups

Purpose of the Stakeholder Engagement Groups:

to provide the opportunity for a wide and diverse number of stakeholders to comprehensively engage with and contribute to the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The Stakeholder Engagement Groups will:

- Provide dedicated working groups focusing on a specific aspect of the LNRS's development.
- Enable engagement with stakeholders on matters specific to their area of interest and/or influence.
- Provide a forum through which the Strategy can benefit from the input of the wide collective expertise within Kent.

Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Groups:

- Terrestrial habitats
- River and freshwater habitats
- Coastal and marine habitats
- Species recovery
- Landowners, farmers and managers
- Climate change and nature based solutions
- Access and connection
- Utilities
- Transport
- Developers and business?

Open to all – register interest online