

## Terms of Reference for South East Nature Partnership (SENP) - 2023



### Background

Local Nature Partnerships (LNPs) in the South East are working together as the South East Nature Partnership (SENP) to address the nature crisis more cohesively and across a wider footprint to ensure greater impact. The partnership comprises LNPs for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes, Essex, Hampshire and The Isle of Wight LNP, Kent, Oxfordshire, Surrey and Sussex. The partnership also has representation from Natural England, the Environment Agency, the CLA, Greener NHS, protected landscapes in the south east, the Rivers Trust, the Earth Trust and Forestry England.

### Aim

To actively facilitate nature recovery across South East England to underpin a healthy community and a thriving economy.

### Objectives

To join up strategically to influence key decision makers in the region; political, economic, and cultural.

- To collaborate on Local Nature Recovery Strategies maximising opportunities from our collective communities, geography, geology, and ecosystems
- To identify sufficient resources to support the work of SENP and unlock additional resources for the LNPs in the region
- To ensure economies of effort by collaborating and cooperating on pieces of work which can be best done collectively
- To identify opportunities for large scale nature recovery interventions and develop a pipeline of investable projects.
- To establish a joint approach to communications delivering consistent, impactful messages highlighting the opportunities for nature-based solutions to the climate crisis

## **Working Practices**

The Governing Body for the SENP is the group of LNP chairs which comprises the SENP Board. It meets quarterly and has an annual face to face AGM. It is quorate if 4 Board Members or nominated representatives are present.

The wider SENP group is open to all those working to support nature recovery across the south east. It usually meets quarterly online and pools expertise and ideas on specific themes.

Secretariat for the wider group provided by Kent Nature Partnership.

There are sub-groups on the following themes: Health and Nature, LNRS and Finance. Proposals are being considered for a Marine and Coastal subgroup, a Research subgroup and a Tree and Woodland subgroup.

Each LNP retains its own governance arrangements and consults its own board on any major proposals from the SENP. Sharing of resources and information is encouraged. Joint letters are regularly sent to MPs and /or ministers. Joint responses to consultations are sometimes made.

**Review of effectiveness:** A review of the SENP took place in early 2022 to agree a development plan for the organisation which is currently in progress. A clear direction of travel is now agreed and once the organisation is supported by sufficient funds an annual review of effectiveness and a report on progress should be built in.

**Incorporation:** The partnership is a Community Interest Company, Company Number 14491283. Trustees are Matthew Balfour, Caroline Jessel (Lewis) and Allison Potts

**Review :** Terms of reference are to be reviewed annually