



# **Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environment Partnership**

## **Strategic Work Plan**

**2014-2017**



## **Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Natural Environmental Partnership (BMK NEP) – Strategic Work Plan (SWP) 2014/17**

BMK NEP is Buckinghamshire's Local Nature Partnership. It brings together a diverse range of individuals, businesses and organisations from Buckinghamshire with an interest in the natural environment. BMK NEP brings together expertise in biodiversity, green infrastructure, energy and resource management fields. It provides a collective voice for Buckinghamshire's and Milton Keynes' natural environment.

Its overall purpose is to:

1. 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.
2. Contribute to achieving the Government's national environmental objectives locally, including the identification of local ecological networks, alongside addressing local priorities.
3. 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.

### **SWP Background**

The SWP is a strategic 3 year plan of project and programme objectives for the BMK NEP.

10 objectives are indicated as of higher priority for delivery before 31 August, these are included as **bold** items.

Progress towards objectives will be monitored by the NEP Board.

Objectives for governance, development and funding are provided in addition to plans under the Four Priority Themes.

## NEP Governance, Development and Funding

The NEP allocates resources to meet the requirements of good governance, develop and deliver projects across its Four Priority Themes and pursue funding opportunities for projects, partners and running costs.

### NEP Priority Themes

**1) Partnership development – collective voice & coordinated working**

Advocacy and policy – One collective voice to champion the county’s natural environment. To raise awareness of the value of the natural environment and the range of services and benefits it brings for people, communities and the local economy. Promotion of coordinated working and creation of a platform for sharing best practice

**2) Promoting the environment as an economic asset and driver of environmental growth**

A healthy natural environment brings with it social and economic benefits. The NEP will engage with local strategic partnerships such as the Local Enterprise Partnership and Health and Wellbeing Board and look for opportunities to deliver social and economic outcomes across Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. The NEP aims for a prosperous Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes economy supported by, managing and protecting its natural capital.

**3) Developing frameworks to support Landscape scale projects**

It is now widely acknowledged that the only way to secure our natural capital is to make our network of sites bigger, better and more joined up (Natural England White Paper 2011). We aim for restored and connected habitats across the whole county, creating resilient wildlife populations and allowing wildlife to adapt to climate change and other pressures.

**4) Connecting people & Nature – highlighting the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment**

Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes will have healthier communities enjoying a greater quality of life and wellbeing through accessing and enjoying their natural environment. The NEP has a key role in engaging with Health and Wellbeing Boards and providing clear, usable evidence of the benefits and value of the natural environment to health and well-being.

## NEP Governance, Development and Funding

Lead Board Member: Sir Henry Aubrey Fletcher

Lead DG Officers: NEP Partnership Manager

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<p><b>Governance</b></p> <p>1. <i>Service and manage the NEP governance structure (Board, Board Meetings and Visits, Delivery Groups, Task Groups and Secretariat function).</i></p>	NEP PM - DK/VW	Ongoing	1. <i>Schedule and facilitate at least 4 Board Meetings, 4 Delivery Group Meetings and 4 Task Group Meetings per annum. Deliver papers at least 7 days ahead of the arranged meetings. Maintain minimum membership levels.</i>
<p><b>Development</b></p> <p>2. <i>Prepare a Business Plan (including measures of success) with Delivery Group and use to monitor progress.</i></p> <p>3. <i>Review of forthcoming State of the Env/Natural Capital reports from other LNPs</i></p> <p>4. <i>Prepare a 'state of play' summary for Bucks &amp; MK Natural Capital Audit- listing the top 10 key priorities and 10 key indicators for our environment.</i></p> <p>5. <i>Develop accessible, robust, nationally <u>comparable indicators for monitoring NEP success</u> at national and regional levels.</i></p> <p>6. <i>Create a project approval protocol to summarise their fit and contribution to the NEP's Four Priority Themes</i></p>	<p>NEP PM / Delivery group</p> <p>NEP PM</p> <p>NEP PM</p> <p>NEP PM -</p> <p>NEP PM</p>	<p>April 2015</p> <p>March – Aug 2015</p> <p>March – Aug 15</p> <p>August 2015</p> <p>March 2015</p>	<p>2. <i>Strategic Work Plan</i></p> <p>3. <i>Contract provider (BMERC), Baseline Data, Workshop, Report</i></p> <p>4. <i>Top 10 identified in SofE Report</i></p> <p>5. <i>identified in SofE Report</i></p> <p>6. <i>Protocol approved by DG</i></p>

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<b>Funding</b>			
7. <i>Secure MOA resources/funds to deliver NEP objectives and priorities &amp; develop a sustainable funding model to help secure the NEPs future</i>	NEP PM	April 2015	7. <i>MOA signed and funding in place.</i>
8. <i>Identify opportunities for funding delivery of beneficial wildlife and environmental projects, as specific opportunities arise</i>	NEP PM	Ongoing	8. <i>Target 10 opportunities publicised on website</i>
9. <i>Input to roll out of public health funding (Active Bucks) for communities in green spaces at LAF level to secure NEP objectives</i>	NEP PM / Public Health	Ongoing	9. <i>Green space/GI opportunities secured through Active Bucks</i>
10. <i>Review ESIF opportunities</i>	ESIF Lead	Ongoing	10. <i>Review of ESIF opportunities and alignment with NEP SWP</i>

## Theme 1: Partnership Development - collective voice and coordinated working

Lead Board Member: Adam Wallace

Lead officer: NEP Partnership Manager

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<p><b>Communication</b></p> <p><b>1. Deliver communication strategy and plan</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Website delivery and management</li> <li>b. E-newsletter/briefing</li> <li>c. Twitter/Facebook</li> <li>d. Prospectus leaflet</li> <li>e. roller banners</li> </ul>	<p>NEP PM/COMMS TASK GROUP</p>	<p>April - June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Communication strategy in place</li> <li>a. <a href="http://www.bucksmknep.com">www.bucksmknep.com</a></li> <li>b. e-briefing produced every 6-8 weeks</li> <li>c. regular social media presence</li> <li>d. Leaflet available</li> <li>e. Banners available</li> </ul>
<p><b>Co-ordination and collaboration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. NEP wider Forum, creation and development</li> <li>3. Leverage from quarterly/Annual LNP Cluster briefings</li> <li>4. <b>Develop consultation protocols and develop standard evaluation tool for use in statutory consultations</b></li> <li>5. Develop NEP web site for promoting Bucks/MK offer on GI – ‘one stop shop’ with case studies, checklist etc.; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Develop LNP collaboration to share best practice etc.</li> <li>b. Endorse and promote County Energy Strategy</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>NEP PM</p> <p>NEP PM</p> <p>GI Task Group/NEP PM</p> <p>NEP PM NEP Board/ERMTG</p>	<p>April 2015</p> <p>July 2015, then ongoing</p> <p>May 2015</p> <p>April - June 2015</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Program of stakeholder events</li> <li>3. Annual NEP <u>Local</u> Groups Conference with workshops.</li> <li>4. Protocol approved by DG</li> <li>5. See below <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. on website</li> <li>b. on website</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p>c. <i>Advocate consistency and best practice, publish guidance (web based)</i></p> <p>d. <i>Deliver expertise so ecosystem services/natural capital approach can be used to underpin our economic</i></p> <p>e. <i>Host case studies of SUDS on NEP website</i></p> <p>f. <i>Provide a direct link to strategic flood management schemes</i></p> <p>g. <i>Use our web site to champion/sign post info in this area, for example Green Gyms, Health Walks, Ecotherapy and Eco minds</i></p> <p>h. <i>Promote roll-out and support Countryside Stewardship Schemes</i></p> <p>i. <i>To develop website pages with: directory, events listing e.g. dates of conservation volunteer work parties, downloadable publications, opportunities to post requests for help/machinery sharing offers on website or newsletter</i></p> <p>6. <i>Investigate NEPs role in strategic Infrastructure Projects</i></p> <p>a. <i>Provide collective/partnership response to any strategy for compensation finds for environment – HS2.</i></p>	<p><b>NEP PM/BTVLEP NEP PM EA/BCC  NEP PM  NE / FC/ NFU  NEP PM  NEP PM</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p>c. <i>on website</i></p> <p>d. <i>on website</i></p> <p>e. <i>on website</i></p> <p>f. <i>on website</i></p> <p>g. <i>on website</i></p> <p>h. <i>on website</i></p> <p>i. <i>on website</i></p> <p>6. <i>Evidence of collaborative approach to large scale projects, with a single response delivered, where deemed appropriate, following consultation with NEP members.</i></p>
--	---	-----------------------	---

## Theme 2. Promoting the environment as an economic asset and driver of economic growth

Lead Board Member: Richard Harrington

Lead DG Officer: Nick Phillips

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<b>Local Enterprise Partnerships</b>			
1. <i>LEP Relationship development and accord</i>	<b>NEP PM/BTVLEP LAF</b>	<b>June 2015</b>	1. <i>Development of partnership and development opportunities with LEP including tourism (Join Bucks Tourism Group)</i>
2. <i>Rights of Way Improvement Plan/LAF projects – to confirm with the Local Access Forum any areas of synergy and joint working which should be reflected in the NEP Strategic Plan</i>	<b>[NEP PM/BTVLEP LAF]</b>	<b>July 2015</b>	2. <i>More targeted and quantifiable Strategic Work Plan deliverables</i>
<b>Funding</b>			
3. <b><i>Work with NEP partners to develop a Bucks/MK approach to make the best of/minimise the risks of Biodiversity Offsetting</i></b>	<b>NEP PM/LEP/DELIVERYGROUP</b>	<b>June 2015</b>	3. <i>Approve project. Create Task Group. Timetable milestones and describe outcomes. Deliver NEP Offsetting policy</i>
4. <i>Feasibility Study looking at One Landscape project for environmental data platform</i>	<b>BTVLEP/NE/NEP PM</b>	<b>July 2015</b>	4. <i>Feasibility study delivered</i>
5. <i>Support new LEADER fund roll-out</i>	<b>LEADER NEP/BCC</b>	<b>May 2015 and ongoing December 2015</b>	5. <i>Detail on website etc.</i>
6. <i>Develop Tourism opportunities to promote economic growth</i>			6. <i>Detail on website, collaborate with BBF etc.</i>
7. <i>Funding sources for GI, e.g. influence CIL strategies for NEP/GI delivery</i>	<b>GI Task Group</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	7. <i>Secure funding</i>



Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<b><i>Sustainability [and Resilience]</i></b>			
8. <i>Re-launch and develop sustainability and environmental toolkit as NEP to support Neighbourhood Plan guidance</i>	NEP PM/BCC/CIB	<b><i>June 2015</i></b>	8. <i>Rebranded and updated toolkit</i>
9. <i>Support sustainable wood fuels development project</i>	FC/NEP PM	<b><i>Mar 2016</i></b>	9. <i>Put Energy Strategy on website, NEP and FC engagement to stimulate firewood market – indicated by more woodland under management and more local end users of firewood</i>
10. <i>Adopt, Endorse and promote County Energy Strategy and the associated Action 1 plan</i>	DS/NEP PM	<b><i>Sept 2015</i></b>	10. <i>Place on website, Request that the ERM Task Group provide an update every 6 months, Review the approved policy and associated action plan after 1 year</i>

### Theme 3: Developing frameworks to support landscape scale projects

Lead Board Member: Chris Williams

Lead officer: Simon Newell

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<p><b>Assessing Values of Local Wildlife Sites and Biological Notification Sites</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>BNS site assessment designation project</b></li> <li>All LWS habitat condition regularly surveyed (at least every 10 years)</li> <li>Conservation management advice given to site managers on rolling program</li> <li>Conservation plans and proposals for enhancement proposed by LWS land managers</li> </ol>	<p>Biodiversity Task Group</p> <p>Biodiversity Task Group</p> <p>Biodiversity Task Group</p> <p>Biodiversity Task Group</p>	<p>May 2015 to May 2017, piecemeal progress</p> <p>To follow point 1 on piecemeal basis</p> <p>To follow point 1 on piecemeal basis</p> <p>To follow point 1 on piecemeal basis</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure Funding for 24 month+ delivery project of BNS evaluation</li> <li>LWS condition assessments completed</li> <li>LWS in appropriate condition</li> <li>LWS in appropriate condition</li> </ol>
<p><b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Revise &amp; Launch BAP</li> <li>Promote 2020 targets for habitat delivery</li> <li>Activate the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs) by identifying Leads to promote delivery, providing a spatial framework with new targets.</li> </ol>	<p>Biodiversity Task Group</p> <p>Biodiversity Task Group</p> <p>Biodiversity Task Group</p>	<p>Feb 2015</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BAP 2020 disseminated</li> <li>Put targets on website, measure performance (annually)</li> <li>BOA leads appointed, Individual BOA Plans drafted, BOA progress monitored</li> </ol>

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<p><b>Pollination Strategy</b></p> <p><b>8. Promote Pollination Strategy TBC following delivery group discussion</b></p>	<b>NEP PM</b>	<b>March 2015</b>	8. Develop specific projects and actions to support pollination on farmlands, urban and in non-agricultural landscapes. Identify opportunity to develop information leaflet
<p><b>Landscape Scale Projects</b></p> <p>9. Promote Water Catchment Management including flood management</p> <p>10. Audit of existing strategies, projects and initiatives (planned and underway) in Bucks</p> <p>11. Develop and promote a Framework for Landscape Scale Delivery for the natural environment and related ecosystem services</p> <p>12. NEP to be aware of the risks of climate change and build adaptation to climate change into their plans, strategies and work.</p> <p>13. Bernwood Project.</p> <p>14. Aylesbury Linear Park</p> <p>15. Return of the River Wye</p>	<p><b>EA /BCC /FC</b></p> <p><b>NEP PM</b></p> <p><b>NEP PM</b></p> <p><b>NEP Board</b></p> <p><b>Bernwood Project</b></p> <p><b>AVDC</b></p> <p><b>WDC</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>June 2015 and ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p><b>tba</b></p> <p><b>tba</b></p> <p><b>tba</b></p>	<p>9. Case studies put on website, improved water quality for Bucks and reduced localised flood risks</p> <p>10. Strategic projects mapped to aid prioritisation</p> <p>11. Case studies put on website, support other initiatives</p> <p>12. Case studies put on website, support other initiatives</p> <p>13. Develop project liaison opportunity and highlight best practice</p> <p>14. Develop project liaison opportunity and highlight best practice</p> <p>15. Develop project liaison opportunity and highlight best practice</p>



## Theme 4: Connecting Nature and People - Highlighting the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment

Lead Board Member: Annett Gammel

Lead DG Officers: Richard Garnett

Priority/Action	Lead partner	Timescale	Deliverables
<b>Health and Wellbeing</b>			
1. <i>Work with health sector for benefit of natural environment and people making links to the Health and Wellbeing Boards and Healthy Communities Partnership</i>	<b>NEP PM/H&amp;W Board/HCP/Public health</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	1. <i>Consider Accord/MoA with Public Health/Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to outline joint objectives and collaboration</i>
2. <i>Review Health and Wellbeing information offered and how well this links to natural environment/Provide natural environment evidence to support health and wellbeing objectives</i>	<b>NEP PM/H&amp;W Board/HCP/public health</b>	<b>April 2015</b>	2a <i>Liaison with H&amp;WBB and influence JS&amp;NA drafting for Buckinghamshire - Ensure Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) takes account of natural environment and reflected in our State of the Environment Report.</i> 2b <i>'Green Space Means Health' –how green spaces in Buckinghamshire's most deprived communities (High Wycombe, Aylesbury and Chesham) can improve health outcomes</i>
3. <i>Promote walking and cycling as travel and recreation. Collaborate with 'Walk to', Buckinghamshire's Physical Activity Strategy, Local Transport Plans 3 and 4 and Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy</i>	<b>BCC Sustainability /LAF</b>	<b>July 2015</b>	3. <i>Linked to a series of events programs, promotional events and other detailed linked on the web site. Expansion of SWP objectives</i>

			<i>for Transport Plans 3 and 4 and Sustainable Modes of Travel Strategy</i>
<b>Volunteer Network</b>			
<b>4. <i>Develop a Volunteer network strategy, to promote and provide support to local groups to encourage their delivery for wildlife and environmental improvement</i></b>	<b>NEP PM</b>	<b>Apr - June 2015</b>	<b>2. <i>BOA volunteering practical working days, workshop and report</i></b>