



Rewilding Harborough – Partner Steering Group

Terms of Reference

Date agreed: 20/01/2026

Purpose/remit

The purpose of the Partner Steering group is to bring together the key partners to discuss project progress, ensure effective communication and to ensure project delivery in line with the agreed project vision as below.

Together we aim to restore and reconnect habitats at scale across the District, creating a resilient and healthy environment, accessible for people, teeming with nature and rich with opportunities for learning, health and wellbeing.

Membership

Harborough District Council

Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust

East Mercia Rivers Trust

Market Harborough & Bowden's Charity

Anglian Water

Others by agreement of the above partners

Roles

Harborough District Council to be represented by the Leader of the Council and as de facto Chair of the group, due to Strategic Portfolio responsibility. The Leader of the main Opposition Group at Harborough District Council will also be an attendee. Officers of the Council will attend as appropriate to advise partners. Attendees of each partner will be for each partner to decide



Responsibilities

- Maintain high level overview of rewilding project to ensure alignment to Vision Statement
- Monitor progress against a project development plan which will be established during 26/27.
- Receive reports and recommendations from the working groups and make decisions on any Partnership issues that are escalated (noting that each agency will have its own governance arrangements and decisions will only be made where appropriate delegations are in place).
- Review terms of reference of the projects working groups to ensure efficient and effective delivery of the project development plan.
- To receive the following reports at each meeting
 - Project development plan update reports
 - Risk register
 - Budget monitoring
 - Other reports as required

Decision Making

It is expected that all decision will be made with consensus, if a vote is required all named partners will be entitled to one vote with the Chair holding a casting vote.

Each partner is expected to ensure that its representatives have an appropriate level of delegated authority to be able to make decisions relating to the progression of the project. It is acknowledged that there may be decisions, such as funding and risk acceptance, which may require representatives to seek approval within the body they represent before committing to a decision. Where this is the case, partners should be clear with each other as to the timeframes involved and level of authority required to ensure that decisions can still be progressed expediently.

Meeting Frequency and Administration



The working group will meet every 4 months, with additional ad-hoc meetings as required. The Council will undertake administrative duties including issuing meeting invites, taking minutes, agenda and reports management.

The meeting will be Quorate with three Partners in attendance.

The role of the Chair will be to facilitate the meeting agenda, including asking for and managing appropriately any conflicts of interest.

Meeting Conduct and Behaviours

There is an expectation that all members will respect the Nolan principles of conduct in public office and abide by the Debate Not Hate principles.

If an item is confidential then it should be identified as part of the Agenda and will be treated accordingly. It is expected that the Agendas and minutes of the Steering Group and Working Groups will be made publicly available (subject to the agreement of all partners) with the exception of confidential items.

Harborough District Council is a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004. Should a request for confidential information be made to Harborough District Council, Harborough District Council will follow the Information Commissioner's guidance in seeking to confirm with other authorities any concerns they have relating to the confidential information being released into the public domain and determining whether, on that basis, disclosing the information is appropriate.

The Council will host a Rewilding Website which will contain all of the appropriate documents for the project.

Reporting

The Partner Steering Group will report to Harborough District Council's cabinet periodically on its progress.

