



# South Pennines Local Nature Partnership Application

## Section A: A description of your proposed LNP

### Q.1. a. The geographical location and boundary of your proposed LNP.

#### Q.1.b. Your partnership's current membership and structure, including the level of involvement of the different members.

The proposed Local Nature Partnership covers the distinctive uplands landscape of the South Pennines; part of the Pennine hills lying between the Yorkshire Dales National Park to the north and the Peak District National Park to the south east. This landscape is one of stark contrasts: from open moorlands and pastures enclosed by dry-stone walls, to distinctive stone-built settlements in narrow valleys. It is a rural landscape lying at the heart of three city regions (Greater Manchester, Leeds and Pennine Lancashire).

The boundary of the proposed LNP follows the outline of National Character Area 36 within the South Pennines Heritage Area; operating across administrative boundaries to reflect natural habitats and responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by the landscape. A map of the proposed South Pennines LNP is shown in Diagram 1.

The boundary will enable the proposed LNP to raise awareness about the services and benefits the natural environment provides to the 450,000 people who live and work within the South Pennines and the 7 million people that live within one hour's drive.

The partnership is coordinated and led by Pennine Prospects (The Southern Pennines Rural Regeneration Company, No. 5432174). Pennine Prospects was established in 2005 to protect, enhance and promote the natural heritage assets of the South Pennines. It builds on the work carried out for more than 30 years by the Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities (SCOSPA) and the West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee.

Pennine Prospects is a mature cross-sector partnership working at the landscape scale, with a board comprising:

- Six local authorities: Bradford, Calderdale, Kirklees (West Yorkshire); Oldham and Rochdale (Greater Manchester) and Lancashire County Council.
- United Utilities, Yorkshire Water Services and Northern Rail from the private sector.
- Membership organisations: the National Farmers Union and the National Trust.
- Natural England.
- Voluntary sector umbrella bodies: Pennine Heritage and the South Pennines Association.

Within this broad membership, technical advice, information and data on the natural environment is provided by a well-established Sustainable Land Management (SLM) group. This group brings together specialists from the partner organisations listed above along with staff from:

- RSPB
- Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
- West Yorkshire Ecology
- Lancashire Biodiversity Partnership
- The Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside
- Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
- The Moors for the Future Partnership

The South Pennines Fire Operations Group (FOG) and the South Pennines Moorwatch Forum are responsible for safeguarding and protecting the South Pennines from pressures such as wildfire and anti-social behaviour (e.g. fly-tipping). In addition to Pennine Prospects members, the FOG and Moorwatch bring together major South Pennine landowners and their agents (e.g. Peel Holdings Ltd, Ingham & Yorke Ltd), Fire & Rescue Services and the Police Forces for Greater Manchester, Lancashire and West Yorkshire.

Pennine Prospects is based on a strong ethos of partnership working and actively involves a wide range of interests and organisations in its work. For example, the Watershed Landscape Project (supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and South Pennines LEADER) includes many local NGOs (e.g. Groundwork Trusts covering Oldham, Rochdale, Pennine Lancashire and Leeds, West Yorkshire Geology Trust, Friends of Ilkley Moor and Todmorden Moor Restoration Trust) and works hand-in-hand with local communities to improve access to the landscape and strengthen connections between people and their environment. Pennine Prospects works with the South Pennine Association and others to promote voluntary sector activities to protect and enhance the natural and built heritage of the landscape.

Pennine Prospects has a strong track record of joined-up partnership action across sectors so that an integrated approach to land management is adopted rather than treating environmental concerns in isolation. The current governance of Pennine Prospects is shown on Diagram 2

Diagram 1

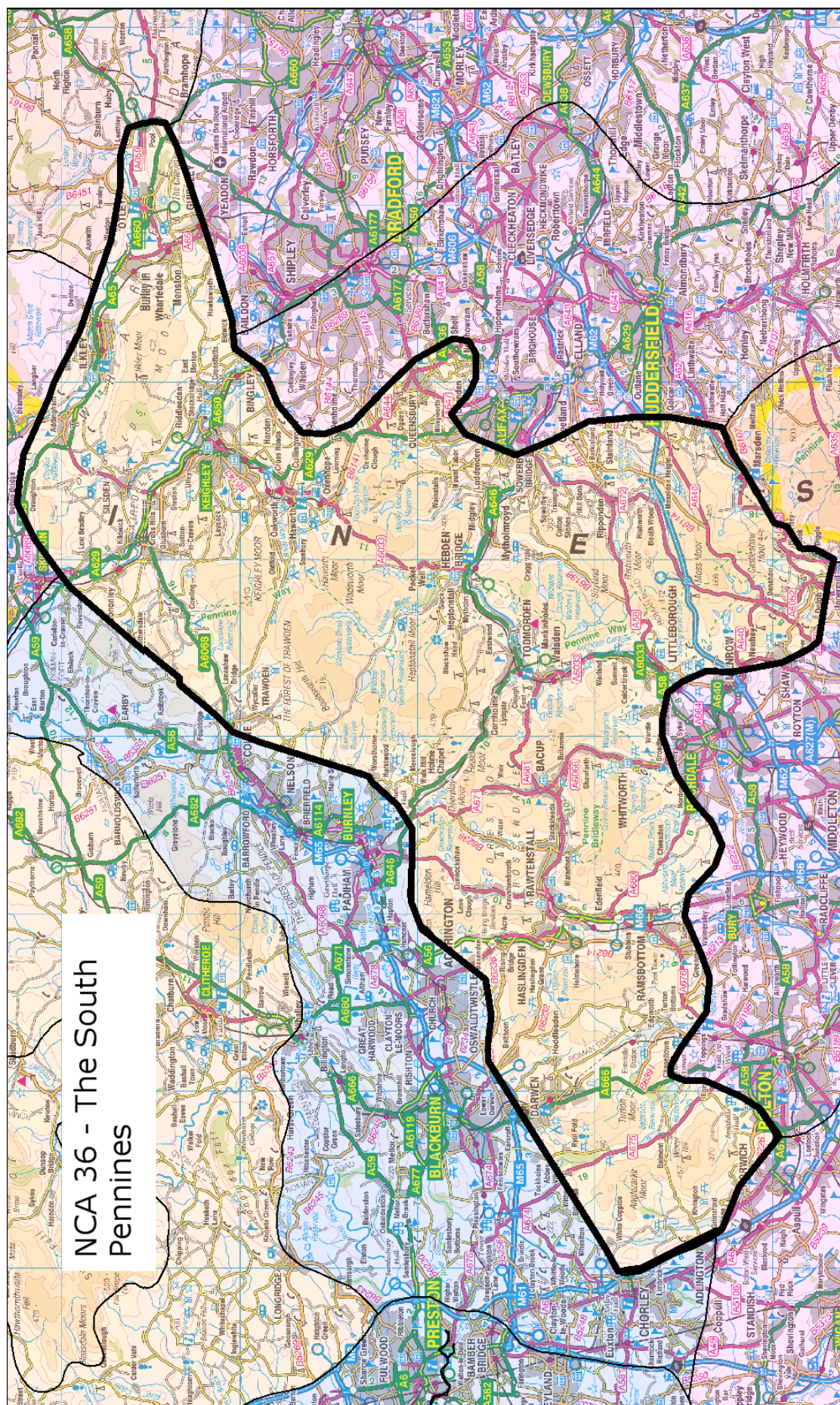
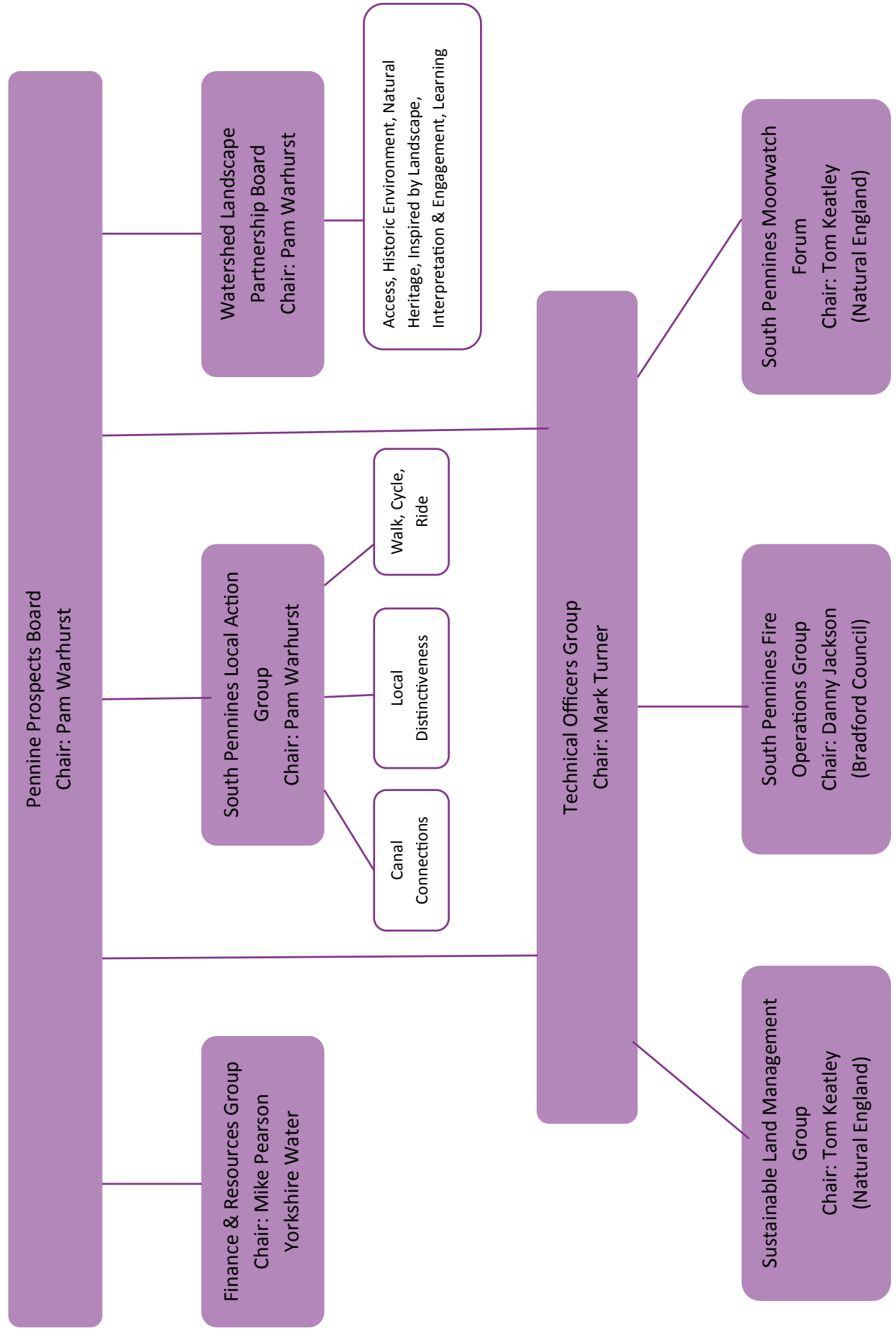


Diagram 2



## Section B: A summary of your ideas and plans for an LNP in your area

**Q.2. a. Summarise what you feel the LNP role could mean for your area - what difference could your LNP make at a strategic level and how might it go about doing it?**

**Q.2.b. Provide a high level summary of the key actions you plan to undertake in the first six months if you become a Government-recognised LNP.**

The South Pennines is the only significant upland landscape in England that is not designated as a National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. A LNP would underline and emphasise the value and importance of this unique landscape and raise the profile of the South Pennines in local decision-making processes. The South Pennines is a cherished landscape lying at the heart of three city regions. This lack of a single administrative unit means that a strong partnership approach is required in order to provide a coordinated response to the opportunities, benefits and pressures on the landscape. Reflecting natural features, systems and habitats a LNP would make an impact on the natural environment of the South Pennines by:

- Providing a significant opportunity to safeguard, manage and enhance the large areas of open moorland and the internationally important species and habitats they support.
- Providing a framework to manage existing areas of woodland, link fragmented habitats and increase woodland cover in appropriate locations.
- Providing a framework to manage and enhance the unique pastoral character of the “in-bye” areas of the moorland fringe.
- Enabling coordinated action to sustain, enhance and promote the Ecosystem Services provided by the South Pennines to adjacent areas with large populations (e.g. the supply of good quality drinking water, the mitigation of flood risk and carbon storage).
- Providing a mechanism for coordinating existing and new activities that are working well and take place across the South Pennines (e.g. the LEADER programme, the Watershed Landscape project, SSSI restoration and the twite recovery project) to align efforts and make the best use of available resources in the future.

In undertaking the above, LNP status would provide the impetus for individuals, communities, businesses and local organisations, through Pennine Prospects, to understand the economic benefits of protecting biodiversity and ecosystems and promote a thriving green economy in the area.

**A LNP would make a difference by:**

- Providing a clear “voice” for the uplands of the South Pennines. A LNP would act as a champion for the South Pennines within three city regions; Leeds, Greater Manchester and Pennine Lancashire, and promote the unique range of Ecosystem Services that are provided to over 7 million people.
- Influencing decision making around the management of the natural environment. This includes delivering part of the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy (Live Moor, Learn Moor project) and developing a woodland strategy for the South Pennines.
- Providing a forum for the discussion of planning issues at a landscape scale and helping neighbouring authorities to cooperate across administrative boundaries.
- Taking up the key environmental opportunities and actions which could enhance the natural environment of the South Pennines set out in National Character Area Profile 36.
- Broadening involvement from the economic, health and wellbeing sectors in the social and economic benefits that are derived from the natural environment and working to connect the residents of the South Pennines to their natural environment and promoting the unique assets of the area to the residents of the surrounding conurbations.
- Collating and responding to the best available data and information that show both short and long term pressures and needs (e.g. climate change, water quality and visitor pressure).

Government recognition as a Local Nature Partnership would enable the South Pennines partners to build on over 30 years of partnership working and create a new vision and structures designed to address the challenges of the 21st century.

The work undertaken during the LNP capacity building phase has enabled the partnership to capture the views and input of existing stakeholders and a wide range of organisations not traditionally involved in the management of the natural environment.

**The initial steps we plan to take towards becoming a LNP include:****Core document**

The LNP will produce an over-arching document that brings together:

- A strategic vision for the LNP.
- Data and information on the key environmental challenges and opportunities facing the natural environment of the South Pennines.
- Summary of LNP priorities.
- Outline of LNP governance and operational structures.
- Terms of Reference for the LNP board and Sustainable Land Management group.

**Getting started**

The LNP will identify a small number of straightforward and practical actions that can be taken forward to encourage organisations and individuals to participate. This information will be presented on the Pennine Prospects website. For example:

- Completion of woodland opportunities map for the South Pennines.
- Introducing the natural environment of our area to a wider audience through the South Pennines Walk & Ride Festival (8th to 23rd September 2012). Organisation of bespoke events such as a “Meet the Peat” walk in partnership with Natural England and the National Trust.
- Working with Natural England to agree action to take forward from the South Pennines Ecosystem Services Pilot project delivery plan.
- Assembling funding/development plan to enable sustainability of LNP and facilitate action.
- Develop a project monitoring framework.

**Partnership development**

Work in this area will have two key elements: embedding the LNP into the work of existing partner organisations and sectors and involving and engaging organisations and sectors new to the partnership. Activities will include:

- Aligning LNP objectives with those of key partners and stakeholders e.g. local authority members.
- Second voluntary and community sector event in association with voluntary sector infrastructure organisations in West Yorkshire and the North West (planned for summer 2012).
- Working with partners in the health sector to identify shared opportunities and priorities.
- Working with partners across the three city regions (including the new LEP Sustainable Growth Advisers in the North West) to agree a South Pennines LNP “proposition” to the LEPs.
- Identifying “early win” projects to demonstrate the added value of collaboration through the LNP.

### Working with neighbouring LNPs

- The LNP will build on existing and new relationships to ensure that opportunities for working in concert with city-region and county-wide LNPs are maximised.
- The LNP will work with neighbouring upland LNPs to ensure that the ecosystem services of the uplands are understood, articulate and valued.
- The LNP will work closely with the Lancashire LNP and through existing contacts in the Forest of Bowland AONB to promote upland issues and opportunities within Lancashire.

### Promotion

Raising awareness of the LNP and the value of the South Pennines environment will be a key early priority. Activities will include:

- Creating bespoke LNP pages on the Pennine Prospects website [www.pennineprospects.co.uk](http://www.pennineprospects.co.uk)
- Promoting the LNP and the natural assets of the South Pennines through press releases and targeted use of social media, including @tweetingtwise.
- Launch of the LNP, potentially at the Pennine Prospects annual conference which is scheduled for 19th October 2012.
- Liaison with local MPs to explore possibility of House of Commons reception focusing on the natural environment of the South Pennines.

## Section C: Your preparations and plans for becoming an effective LNP for the South Pennines

### **Q.3. Describe any progress you have made towards developing, and / or how you plan to develop, a strategic vision for your area and how you plan to use your vision to inform your work and priorities.**

The basis for an LNP vision exists in a range of documents produced by Pennine Prospects and constituent organisations. For example:

- The South Pennine Moors Integrated Management Strategy and Conservation Action Programme (1998).
- South Pennines: Landscape Character Assessment (1998).
- A Heritage Strategy for the Southern Pennines (2001).
- The South Pennines Heritage Education and Access Network Final Report (2006).
- South Pennines LEADER Local Development Strategy (2008).
- South Pennines Watershed Landscape, Access & Audience Development Plan (2008).
- South Pennines Watershed Landscape Project, Landscape Conservation Action Plan (2009).
- Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010).
- West Pennine Moors Forces for Change Update (2010).
- South Pennines Ecosystem Services Pilot Project Draft Delivery Plan (2011).
- National Character Area Profile 36 (2012).

The LNP capacity building fund was used to broaden the LNP's membership and strategic vision. One-to-one consultations were carried out with over 30 respondents from existing partner organisations, Local Enterprise Partnerships, the private sector more widely, non-departmental public bodies and the voluntary and community sectors. They include:

**Current members of the Pennine Prospects partnership**

Name	Role/Position	Organisation
Tom Keatley	Yorkshire & Humber South & West Team Leader & chair of SLM group	Natural England
Jeff Lunn	Area Manager & Pennine Prospects board member	Natural England
Hugh Firman	Conservation Officer	Calderdale MBC
Jeff Keenlyside	Environment Officer (Biodiversity)	Kirklees Council
Dave Melling	Rural Economic Development Programmes Coordinator	Bradford Council
Andrew Eadie	Principal Planning Officer	Rochdale MBC
Francis Comyn	Strategic Planning Officer	Rochdale MBC
Imogen Fuller	Principal Regeneration Officer	Oldham MBC
Elliott Lorimer	Principal AONB Officer	Forest of Bowland AONB
Chris Dean	Programme Manager	Moors for the Future
Amanda Miller	Regional Conservation Manager	RSPB
Rob Stoneman	Chief Executive	Yorkshire Wildlife Trust
Nabil Abbas	Countryside Manager	National Trust
Robin Gray	Watershed Landscape Project Manager	Pennine Prospects
Peter Jordan	Director	Groundwork Pennine Lancashire
Mike Pearson	Land & Programme Manager	Yorkshire Water
Alexandra Scott	Lead Environmental Advisor - Biodiversity Environment Strategy Team	Yorkshire Water
Matthew Taylor	Woodland Officer	United Utilities
Alan Sutcliffe	Chair of Hebden Bridge branch and Pennine Prospects Board Member	NFU

**LEPs and the private sector**

Name	Role/Position	Organisation
Melanie Taylor	Low Carbon & Environment Lead	Leeds City Region Secretariat
Sally Hinton	Strategy Manager	Leeds City Region Secretariat
Martin Kelly	Director of Economic Development	Lancashire County Council
Charlie York	Land Agent	Ingham & Yorke Ltd
Ben Heyes	Land Agent	Chatsworth Settlement Trustees
Douglas Chalmers	North Director of Policy and Public	Country Land & Business Association

**Public sector**

Name	Role/Position	Organisation
Katherine Causer	Irwell Pilot Catchment Project Manager	Environment Agency
Gary Morris	Technical Officer	Environment Agency
Nancy Steadman	Landscape Scale Delivery Team North	Natural England
Nicola Sims	Landscape Scale Delivery Team North	Natural England
Major James Evans	Commandant Holcombe Moor Training Area	Ministry of Defence
Penny Oliver	Partnership and Expertise Manager	Forestry Commission
Paul Butcher	Deputy Director of Public Health	NHS Calderdale
Rachel Stewart	Partnership Support Officer	Calderdale MBC & Calderdale Health & Wellbeing Board

A targeted workshop for local voluntary and community groups was held in Huddersfield on 24th March 2012 to focus on the development of a vision for the LNP and identify integrated environmental action at the landscape scale. The workshop was attended by over 20 delegates from a range of organisations including:

Calderdale Countryside Volunteers
The Source Project
Treesponsibility
Diocese of Bradford
Todmorden Moor Restoration Trust
The Woodlands Trust
Saddleworth Conservation Action Group
Friends of Ilkley Moor
Saddleworth Civic Trust
Council for the Protection of Rural England
North West Transport Activists Roundtable
North West Environment Link
Friends of Beaumont Park, Huddersfield
British Dragonfly Society
South Pennines Association
Hurst Wood Regeneration Group
Bradford, Calderdale & Kirklees Local Access Forum

The development of the LNP was also discussed at:

- A Natural England Higher Level Stewardship Customer Panel & Workshop focused on NCA 36 (March 2012).
- Pennine Prospects board meeting (March 2012).
- Sustainable Land Management group meetings (February & April 2012).
- South Pennines woodlands workshop (May 2012).

A clear consensus and strategic vision for the South Pennines LNP has developed from these activities. The vision focuses upon:

- Developing the existing unified landscape partnership that brings together a broader range of public, private, NGO and local community organisations from both sides of the watershed.
- Developing a landscape that is more resilient to the future challenges of climate change and other pressures.
- A partnership that respects and protects the intrinsic value of the natural environment and seeks to maximise the functional value and outcomes of the environment in economic and social terms. A land agent for one of the large estates noted during the consultation that “the landscape is an active place of work and recreation in addition to having a conservation agenda”.
- Providing strategic influence and enabling and facilitating activities to improve the multiple benefits we receive from good management of the land. The LNP provides a framework for aligning efforts and making the best use of available resources rather than acting substantively as a delivery vehicle.

This vision will be developed as part of the strategic document outlined in the response to question 2b. The document will include a concise vision for the partnership, key opportunities and challenges for our area, priorities and targets and details of governance and operational structures and will be written in a style that is open and accessible and appealing to the widest range of interests in our area. The Sustainable Land Management group will lead this process and the document will be presented to the board of Pennine Prospects for approval. The strategy will be a living, meaningful document that will drive the LNP. It will be refreshed and updated annually highlighting examples of where the LNP has had strategic influence and facilitated practical activity.

The vision and strategic document will be used as a tool to:

- Provide a focal point for the partnership.
- Influence local decision-makers and engage with individuals and organisations.
- Identify priorities for action and challenges that the South Pennines may face.
- Provide a framework for project and programme delivery across the LNP area.
- Enable dialogue with neighbouring LNPs and to identify areas for joint action and added value.

#### **Q4. Describe how the individuals and organisations in your current membership reflects the range of skills, expertise, interests and level of authority needed to become an effective LNP and how you will address gaps.**

Pennine Prospects brings together senior individuals from public, private and voluntary organisations as well as representatives from community groups at board level and through its technical groups (e.g. SLM and the FOG). This provides a strong starting point for the development of the LNP.

##### **Local authorities**

Pennine Prospects receives Member level input from six local authorities across the South Pennines. Each Member is supported by a senior officer and by a specialist technical officer whom sits on the SLM and provides access to data, information and specific projects it delivers which benefit the South Pennines (e.g. Oldham MBC's Green Streets project and Rochdale MBC's Roch Valley initiative). This Officer and Member input also ensures wider interests within the local authorities are reflected in Pennine Prospects work (e.g. around planning, localism, health). A number of second tier authorities in Lancashire have traditionally played a minor role within the partnership. The LNP vision will be developed in association with these authorities and activities will be initiated to engage with Members and Officers in boroughs including Hyndburn and Rossendale.

##### **Voluntary sector and local communities**

Trustees and from the South Pennines Association and Pennine Heritage sit on the board of Pennine Prospects. Other voluntary sector organisations with scientific and technical specialisms sit on the SLM group, including staff from the RSPB and the Wildlife Trust for Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside. These organisations, alongside local community groups, have the skills and interests in working directly with residents to help them create and manage green spaces in their area (e.g. Incredible Edible Todmorden) and develop easy access to the countryside (e.g. Marsden Walkers Are Welcome).

The workshop held during March 2012 has enabled Pennine Prospects to begin work on embedding the LNP ethos within this sector. This is being taken forward at a second event organised with Keighley & Ilkley Voluntary & Community Action, Voluntary Action Calderdale and supported by North West Environment Link, Shipley & Bingley Voluntary Services and Voluntary Action Kirklees (with additional resources from the Big Lottery) scheduled to take place in summer 2012.

##### **Private sector**

The major landowners within the South Pennines (two utility companies: United Utilities and Yorkshire Water) are represented at a senior level on the Pennine Prospects board and their staff provide access to specialist areas (e.g. biodiversity compliance and regulation, ecosystem appraisal of investment programmes) into Pennine Prospects technical groups. Northern Rail, active supporters of the annual South Pennines Walk & Ride Festival, provide transport advice to the board. Other large private landowners (e.g. Peel Holdings) and land agents (e.g. Ingham & Yorke Ltd) are involved in the Fire Operations Group and the Moorwatch Forum. At a local level, over 70 businesses, from the visitor economy, food & drink and creative sectors are participating in the South Pennines local distinctiveness LEADER project which is supporting them to think about how natural features (landscape, flora and fauna) can benefit their business. The LNP provides an important opportunity to bring together landowners, large companies and small businesses to maximise the opportunities provided by the natural environment for the sustainable economic development of the South Pennines.

##### **DEFRA bodies**

Natural England and its predecessor bodies have been long-standing members of Pennine Prospects. The Natural England Area Manager is a member of the board and the SLM group and Moorwatch Forum are chaired by the local area Team Leader. Relationships with the Forestry Commission and the Environment Agency are less well-established. Pennine Prospects is currently developing a woodland opportunities map in association with the Regional Directors for the North West & West Midlands and Yorkshire & North East from the Forestry Commission that is part of a wider study commissioned by the Environment Agency considering how woodland creation can be used to achieve Water Framework Directive targets. This map will form an important role in providing data and information to the LNP and enhancing partnership work with the DEFRA bodies in the future. For staff at the Environment Agency the LNP would provide an important role in adding value to catchment pilots whose headwaters are in the South Pennines.

Any gaps in the current membership of the partnership will be addressed by working with members of the Pennine Prospects Board and the Sustainable Land Management group to identify suitable individuals to engage in the work of the LNP.

**Q.5. Describe how you have involved and engaged, and / or how you plan to involve and engage, wider interests who may not be represented in your membership in your work.**

The LNP capacity building fund has been used to consult and engage with a range of wider interests including health organisations, the private sector, low carbon policy managers and the Ministry of Defence. To help ensure that the LNP membership is wide and individuals and organisations across a broad range of sectors can contribute to the LNP, diversity has been taken into account and referenced using Natural England's "Access and engagement, people and partnerships diversity proofing checklist".

More detailed plans around how the LNP will engage with the health and wellbeing and economic sectors are outlined in response to question 8.

The value of the South Pennines landscape in contributing to resilience to climate change was highlighted during the consultation phase. The moorlands of our area are an important carbon sink and effective management can help to reduce the risk of flooding in surrounding urban areas. Meanwhile, the woodlands of our area and the windswept hills and fast-flowing streams provide significant opportunities for the generation of renewable heat and power. Pennine Prospects has been invited to join the Calderdale Energy Future Panel and to explore how the LNP and low carbon agendas can be aligned in the future.

Pennine Prospects has traditionally worked very closely with the major utility companies of the South Pennines (United Utilities and Yorkshire Water) whose investment programmes make a significant contribution to the enhancement of the natural environmental value of the moorlands. During the LNP capacity building phase the water companies highlighted the importance of "non-owned catchment land" to their core objectives around maximising raw water quality. The LNP provides a framework to bring a range of landowners together to initiate a series of habitat management schemes (such as woodland planting) that will achieve a range of environmental, economic and social benefits. More recently Pennine Prospects has established good relations with owners of one of the largest windfarms in our area. Peel Holdings is now an active member of the Fire Operations Group and Moorwatch Forum and would like to be engaged in the LNP.

Through the Watershed Landscape project Pennine Prospects has engaged with a wide range of elements of the local community and with residents of the surrounding conurbations. For example, community engagement coordinators from three Groundwork Trusts are delivering a programme of guided walks across the South Pennines and a number of artists in residence have used their skills to introduce the landscape of the South Pennines to new audiences. For example, writer Char March has worked with pupils from Thorn Park School for the deaf, Bradford, to explore the exposed and windswept nature of the South Pennines landscape. Meanwhile, visual artist Simon Warner has introduced Bronte Country, on the outskirts of Bradford, to members of the local Bangladeshi community. This approach will be developed further by the LNP. Representatives from Groundwork have indicated that they would be interested in joining the LNP board to guide work in this area.

The natural environment of the South Pennines requires a reservoir of skills if it is to be effectively and productively managed in the future. During the LNP capacity building phase, Pennine Prospects engaged with training providers such as LANTRA and Oldham College. The LNP will take forward initiatives in this area and explore opportunities to develop a programme of training through funding mechanisms such as the RDPE. The LNP will also work to ensure that the training and skills sector is represented throughout the partnership.

**Q.6. Describe any progress you have made towards establishing, and / or how you will establish, the partnership's credibility in the area and ensure it has the ability to effectively engage and collaborate with a range of local senior decision makers.**

Partnership working and the ability to 'do business' is long-established in the South Pennines, from the Standing Conference of South Pennine Authorities (SCOSPA) set up in 1974, to the West Pennine Moors Area Management Committee in 1981 and the formation of Pennine Prospects in 2005. Pennine Prospects is a company owned by the key local authorities, water companies, Natural England and voluntary and community sector and has a good reputation with local stakeholders. Pennine Prospects also has credibility within the emerging governance and economic development structures of the neighbouring city regions and is forging links with the Local Enterprise Partnerships.

The South Pennines does not benefit from an official landscape designation. Progress since the formation of SCOSPA in 1974 has therefore been based around developing a framework and mechanisms to enhance the natural environment of the South Pennines in ways which are mutually beneficial to local decision makers and stakeholders and reduce duplication of effort and resources. Working in this way has always been underpinned by an agreed understanding of the South Pennines as a "landscape for the future, a space for everyone".

Establishing the LNP's credibility in the area and engaging with decision makers around this would be achieved through an on-going programme of events, including an annual conference and themed workshops. There are also opportunities to draw out the strategic nature of the LNP through:

- Working with Natural England to deliver the outcomes of the South Pennines Ecosystem Services Pilot Project
- Working with partners across a wider landscape as a part of the South Pennines & Dark Peak Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Area (IBDA)
- On-going monitoring and analysis of the outcomes of the Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) scheme. The South Pennines was one of six landscapes selected by Natural England as part of a recent analysis of the HLS programme
- Work with the Forestry Commission and local community forestry initiatives to develop an NCA-wide woodland management and creation strategy.

Pennine Prospects has always benefited from strong leadership. The current chair is Pam Warhurst CBE, who also chairs the Forestry Commission and Incredible Edible Todmorden (a local food partnership). Pennine Prospects brings together senior elected Members from six local authorities. Through regular liaison with these Members Pennine Prospects is able to engage with decision-makers at local authority and city-region levels (for example, within the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and within the Leeds City Region). Active engagement from private sector partners ensures that Pennine Prospects is able to collaborate effectively with this sector. Consultation with the major landowners of the South Pennines, during the capacity building phase, has highlighted the value of programmes such as Moorwatch and the Fire Operations Group. LNP status will enable these programmes to be developed and achieve greater impact.

Pennine Prospects plans to increase its communications and promotions activities during 2012-2013. This includes working with local MPs to host a reception in the House of Commons to enable Pennine Prospects members and local decision makers to liaise with MPs and highlight in practical terms the benefits of investing in the landscape; enhancing local woodland management and creation through launching the Woodland Opportunities Map (with the Forestry Commission) and showcasing the benefits to the local visitor economy of the South Pennines local distinctiveness project.

**Q.7. Describe any progress you have made towards ensuring, and / or how you will ensure, that the LNP has effective and accountable governance and decision making processes.**

The existing Pennine Prospects partnership structure will provide the framework for the governance of the LNP. This approach was strongly endorsed during the LNP capacity-building phase and will enable the LNP to make rapid progress during the next stage of its development.

The technical groups within Pennine Prospects, the Sustainable Land Management group, Fire Operations Group and the Moorwatch Forum will provide a robust platform for ensuring that the LNP is able to identify opportunities, respond to challenges, facilitate action on the ground and to monitor progress.

A LNP board will be established which report will directly to the Pennine Prospects board. The new group will comprise senior representatives of the organisations that have a stake in the LNP; both organisations that are members of Pennine Prospects and organisations not previously engaged. The capacity building phase identified a number of senior officials who would like to join the LNP and contribute to its development (e.g. CLA, NFU, private estates, Groundwork and the North West Environment Link).

In parallel, the South Pennines Local Action Group (LAG) will be re-organised to ensure that its membership enables Pennine Prospects to respond to the socio-economic circumstances of our area and maximise the opportunities provided during the current and next round of the Rural Development Programme. The LAG and LNP will have equal status within the Pennine Prospects governance structure, as committees of the main board, and will work closely together to ensure activity is integrated as closely as possible across the landscape.

Regular events, including the Pennine Prospects annual conference and a series of dedicated workshops, will enable individuals involved at all levels of the LNP to meet, interact and exchange ideas. Meanwhile, input from neighbouring LNPs will be fed in at all levels of the governance structure to ensure that opportunities for collaboration and joint working are maximised (see response to question 11).

### **Q.8. Describe how your partnership plans to embed the value of the natural environment into the strategic planning and decision making of others, particularly the economic and health and wellbeing sectors.**

Pennine Prospect has traditionally worked across sectors to promote and facilitate the sustainable development of the South Pennines. The company's refreshed business plan and the senior representation of partner organisations at board level mean that the voice of the South Pennines is heard at a strategic level within Greater Manchester, Lancashire and Yorkshire.

The LNP capacity building fund has been used to develop dialogue with the health sector, building on input from East Lancashire PCT to the Pennine Prospects conference in 2010. Initial discussions have been held with NHS Calderdale and the Calderdale Health & Wellbeing Board as a pilot for wider working across the landscape. The LNP will continue to work with representatives from the health and wellbeing sector to:

- Promote the South Pennines and the wellbeing potential of its natural assets.
- Understand the relationship between the natural environment and good health.
- Provide natural environmental information, data and evidence that will help health and wellbeing partners to develop strategies and projects.

In order to deliver early wins in this area the LNP will actively explore the links between the South Pennines woodland opportunities map and the national NHS Forest initiative and identify the potential for increased woodland management and creation on NHS land across the South Pennines. Further joint projects and programmes will be developed as the LNP and Health & Wellbeing Boards are established.

Privately owned estates make a significant contribution to the economy, environment and social fabric of the South Pennines. Representatives from this sector have traditionally not been involved with the partnership at a strategic level although individuals have been involved in Pennine Prospects technical groups and existing programmes (e.g. Fire Operations Group, Moorwatch Forum). During the capacity building phase Pennine Prospects engaged with landowners and their agents more substantively to consider the economic opportunities and benefits that a healthy natural environment brings. The Country Land Owners Association (CLA), for example, which has 400 members in the South Pennines owning 40,000 hectares of land, has expressed enthusiastic support for the LNP proposal and would like to be closely involved in future developments.

The LNP capacity-building fund has also enabled Pennine Prospects to engage more fully with Local Enterprise Partnerships covering Greater Manchester, Lancashire, West & North Yorkshire and with City Regions to understand how the LNP could provide data, information and advice to inform their decisions.

#### **Pennine Prospects now intends to:**

- Work with Natural England to finalise the delivery plan for the South Pennines Ecosystem Services Pilot Project (SPESP) so that the LNP is able to quantify and articulate the scale and value of the ecosystem services provided by the South Pennines to neighbouring conurbations.
- Collate and analyse geo-demographic data to enable a better understanding of the economy of the South Pennines to be developed and communicated. This will include data on business investment and growth available from private sector organisations including the CLA.
- Work closely with the South Pennines Local Action Group (LEADER) and the West Yorkshire Rural Partnership to maximise the opportunities to align LNP priorities to the RDPE and future programmes.

**Q.9. Describe how you see the LNP adding value to the range of other local projects and initiatives concerned with the sustainable management of the natural environment in your area, including any Nature Improvement Areas, biodiversity off-set pilots and catchment partnerships and other land management initiatives.**

Pennine Prospects has traditionally brought partners together from both sides of the Pennines and from three city-regions to focus on the natural environment aspirations outlined in NCA Profile 36. The LNP will facilitate continued and enhanced project delivery and create a more strategic framework for future activity.

Significant investment is currently in place to restore and manage the extensive areas of blanket bog within the South Pennines. Programmes are being taken forward by the Moors for the Future Partnership (through the Moor Life project), the Yorkshire and Lancashire Peat Partnerships, South Pennines and Dark Peak Integrated Biodiversity Delivery Area (IBDA) and the investment programmes of the utility companies. An LNP provides the ideal forum to bring together these initiatives and to share knowledge and best practice. The LNP will be able to identify resources and attract additional partners for future projects and initiatives. The safeguarding role of the Fire Operations Group and the Moorwatch Forum will also ensure that the significant financial value invested in moorland restoration is protected and enhanced.

The South Pennines provides the only significant breeding area for the once widespread twite (or Pennine finch); an iconic species for the South Pennines. Pennine Prospects is working with a range of partners, led by the RSPB, on the South Pennines twite recovery project. This initiative works with landowners and managers to encourage and promote the development of traditional hay meadows that provide food for the twite. The LNP will promote and develop the twite recovery project; attracting new partners (for example, through increased engagement with the CLA), securing new resources and ensuring that awareness of this threatened species, and the habitat upon which it depends, is protected.

Since August 2011 Pennine Prospects has been working with a range of partners to develop a woodland strategy for the South Pennines. The strategy aims to increase woodland cover within the NCA (currently 4.8%) and increase the management of existing woodlands so as to reduce fragmentation. The wooded cloughs of the South Pennines are an iconic feature of the landscape and provide a wide range of ecosystem services within and outside the South Pennines (e.g. delivering water quality and flood reduction objectives as part of the Water Framework Directive). The LNP will provide strategic focus to the work of a number of local woodland initiatives across the landscape including the Pennine Edge Forest (Greater Manchester), White Rose Forest (Yorkshire), Forest of Burnley (Lancashire) and The Source project (Upper Calder Valley). A detailed woodland opportunity map is in preparation which will enable the LNP to identify project opportunities and attract resources in innovative and strategic ways beyond traditional grant funding (e.g. through the Forestry Commission's Woodland Carbon Code and Corporate Social Responsibility "products" targeted at companies and NHS organisations in the surrounding metropolitan areas).

A number of Water Framework Directive catchment partnerships are active within the South Pennines. For example, the Environment Agency led Irwell Catchment Pilot (part of a 3-year funded project) is working at a landscape scale to engage people and organisations in ways that make a difference to the quality of water and habitats along the river. The Environment Agency would like to work with the LNP to target the hydro morphology of the upper tributaries in the South Pennines to identify where potential opportunities for modifications exist. The LNP could also play a key influencing role across a number of catchment pilots in encouraging greater participation in the water environment at local authority, LEP and community levels.

The LNP will work with strategic partners to ensure that the data generated by the on-going projects outlined above are embedded into working practices of the three city-regions and will identify projects and programmes that can be taken forward and identify future funding mechanisms (e.g. Heritage Lottery Fund's landscape partnership scheme and future rounds of the NIA programme).

**Q.10. Describe the opportunities you see for funding the delivery of your aims, for instance by aligning and targeting local resources and sources of funding, and how you plan to support the running of the partnership.**

Pennine Prospects has a strong track record of attracting resources and investment (e.g. EU Life and Interreg programmes, RDPE and the Heritage Lottery Fund), securing more than £5M to deliver heritage, landscape and community projects in partnership with local organisations.

**The LNP will explore a range of opportunities to deliver its aims including:**

- Working with the South Pennines Local Action Group and West Yorkshire Rural Partnership to maximise opportunities to align LNP priorities to the RDPE and Rural Infrastructure Support Programme.
- Working with Natural England to fully understand the value of ecosystem services as part of the South Pennines Ecosystem Services Pilot project. This information will be used to promote the South Pennines as a pilot area for the payment of ecosystem services and be targeted at a range of sectors including health and wellbeing and economic development.
- Working with new and existing partners to develop a south Pennine “proposition” to the Local Enterprise Partnerships. This will involve close liaison with the sustainable growth advisors for the Greater Manchester and Lancashire LEs.
- The LNP will work with Yorkshire Water and United Utilities to ensure a beneficial settlement for the South Pennines during OFWAT’s PR14 process. This will allow the companies to maximise the investment in company-owned and non-owned land during the 2015-2020 Asset Management Plan programme.
- The LNP will work with landowners and managers to maximise the financial opportunities of positive woodland management. For example, through the production of woodfuel.
- Pennine Prospects leads on the South Pennines Walk, Cycle, Ride and Local Distinctiveness programmes, designed to facilitate a sustainable visitor economy within the area. Pennine Prospects is committed to developing this area of operations and will explore the opportunities for creating a visitor pay-back scheme to support improvements to the natural environment such as footpath restoration.
- Pennine Prospects will work with existing partners and organisations engaged in the LNP to develop major funding packages to build on existing programmes such as Watershed Landscape and Moor Life. A bid, led by Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Lancashire County Council and Pennine Prospects has recently been submitted to develop a landscape partnership programme in the West Pennines Moors. If successful this will enable the LNP to realise many of its objectives in the south-western section of the NCA.

The core running costs of Pennine Prospects are covered by the annual subscriptions paid by partner organisations. The LNP will become an integral part of the company structure with day-to-day operations funded by these contributions. Pennine Prospects will provide a secretariat with support for the LNP forming part of the job descriptions of the Programme & Operations Director and the Company Secretary. The LNP will have a dedicated online presence (hosted on the Pennine Prospects website) which will include: the LNP vision, membership, meetings, active information on how to get involved and links to other useful information and resources (e.g. LEs, city region contacts). If Government recognition is secured Pennine Prospects plans to launch the South Pennines LNP at its annual conference in October 2012 and use subsequent annual conferences to promote the LNP and its achievements. Pennine Prospects will also raise awareness of, and interest in, the LNP through regular press releases and new media postings.

**Q.11. Describe why your boundary is the most appropriate one for your LNP and why any overlaps are necessary. Please also tell us about what you have agreed with neighbouring LNPs about how you will work together, including how any overlaps will be managed or resolved.**

The boundary of the LNP is based on NCA 36 which recognises the South Pennines as a distinct bio-geographical unit with a characteristic landscape that supports a unique assemblage of habitats and species. The area has strong physical and functional links with adjacent urban areas to the east, west and south and provides a wide range of ecosystem services and benefits to over 7 million people.

A non-designated landscape, and the only significant upland landscape in England that does not have National Park or Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status, there is a very strong history of cross-boundary, multi-sector, partnership working, dating back to the 1970s. Natural England, the Environment Agency and the Forestry Commission recognise the NCA as a distinct management unit that has a clear environmental and socio-economic identity. A LNP is vital to build upon 30 years of partnership working and to protect and enhance this distinct landscape. The LNP will complement and add-value to the neighbouring city-region and county-based LNPs through its strong thematic focus on upland issues and the range of ecosystem services that the area provides.

Resources from the LNP capacity-building fund have enabled Pennine Prospects to meet with and liaise closely with neighbouring LNPs (Greater Manchester, Yorkshire West and Lancashire LNPs where we have the greatest areas of overlap and North Yorkshire LNP where we have a minor area of overlap).

**It has been agreed that:**

- The LNPs have different and complementary objectives. The county and city-region based LNPs will lead in issues that are relevant at this scale (e.g. liaison with LEAs) and the South Pennines LNP will lead on the integrated environmental management of the uplands, the development of a functioning green economy and connecting people to the natural environment assets of our area.
- In some areas resources may be pooled for mutual benefit. For example, delivery mechanisms may exist in one of the neighbouring areas that can be rolled out across the South Pennines to enhance the impact of the LNP. This is already taking place with the Yorkshire West proposal, with Pennine Prospects leading on the Live Moor, Learn Moor project, a strategic initiative outlined in the Leeds City Region Green Infrastructure Strategy.
- We have agreed to work with neighbouring LNPs on issues of shared interest. For example, building on existing relationships with the Forest of Bowland AONB team to promote upland issues and opportunities across Lancashire.

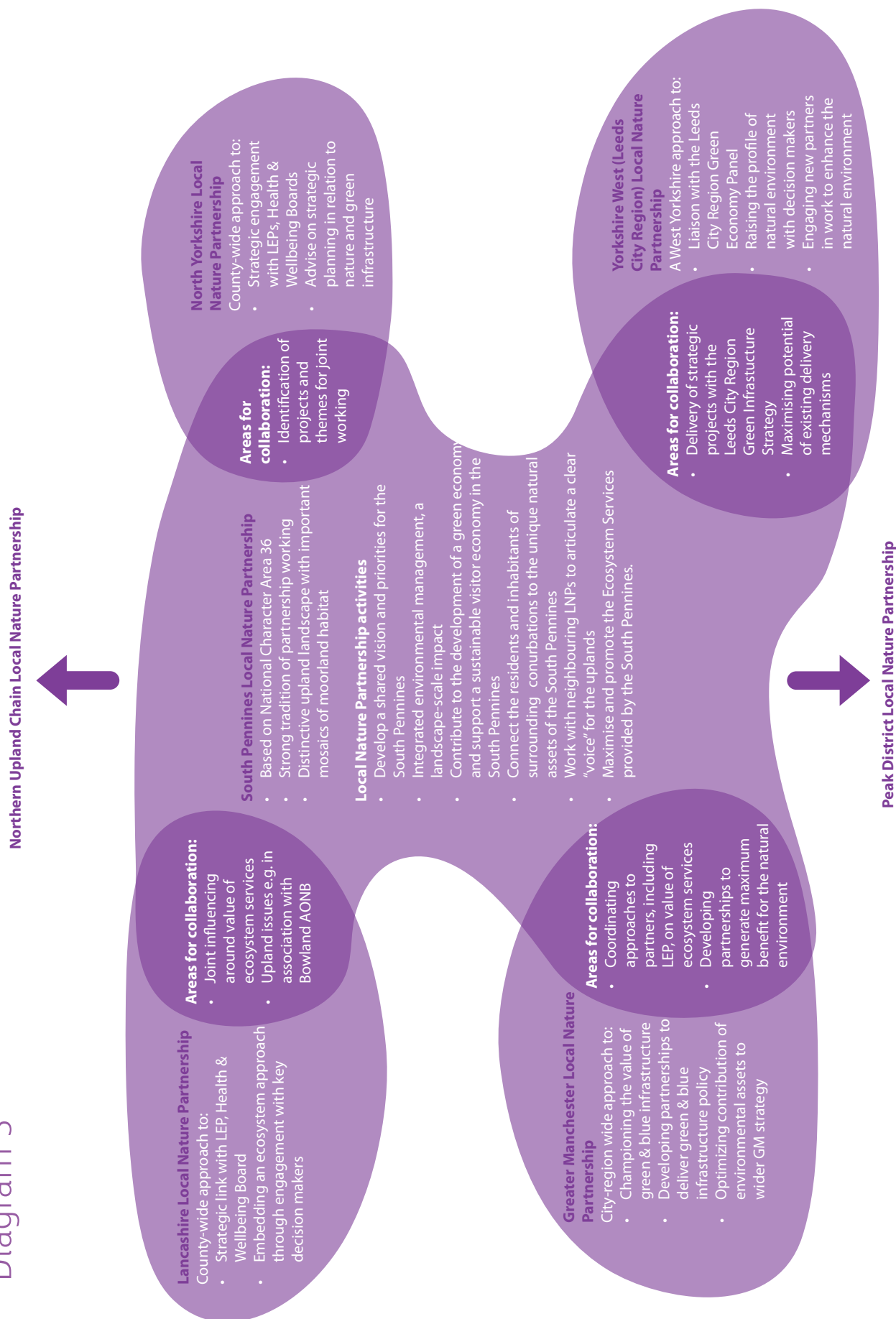
We have agreed to work closely with all of the LNPs that overlap and share a boundary with the South Pennines; taking forward existing relationships and building new partnerships. For example, members of the SLM group will provide links to the neighbouring LNPs at a technical level. The LNP board will be designed to create maximum linkages and exchange of information with the surrounding LNPs.

**We have agreed to work in partnership with the neighbouring upland LNPs as follows:**

- Peak District LNP: There is no overlap as both LNPs follow the NCA boundaries. Opportunities for cross-boundary working will be developed through the IBDA and the Moors for the Future Partnership.
- Northern Upland Chain LNP: There are no overlaps. The area of the Nidderdale AONB that falls within NCA 36 will be covered by the Northern Upland Chain. Opportunities for cross-boundary working will be explored through existing partnerships including the Yorkshire Peat Project.

Diagram 3 summarises how we will work with neighbouring LNPs and manage overlaps.

Diagram 3



### Q.12. Describe how you plan to monitor and evaluate your work, including how you will know you are making a difference.

During the first six months the LNP will establish a clear and robust monitoring framework. This will include high level indicators of the health of the natural environment of our area including the condition of the moorland SSSIs and the percentage of woodland cover. The technical expertise of the SLM and the wider IBDA will be used to scrutinise projects and programmes supported by the LNP. Members of the SLM will collate species records and details of habitats maintained, restored and created and feed this into the local record centres in Yorkshire, Lancashire and Greater Manchester.

Regular reports of LNP progress will be given to the Pennine Prospects board and up-to-date information presented on the Pennine Prospects website. Pennine Prospects will identify resources, after the LNP has been in place for 12 months, to evaluate the success of the initiative, using a model recently developed for a mid-term evaluation of the Watershed Landscape project.

#### **We will know that we are making a difference when:**

- The LNP is providing a clear “voice” for the uplands of the South Pennines which is aligned to the agendas of strategic organisations in the economic development and health sectors across three city regions.
- The ecosystem services provided by the South Pennines can be measured and disseminated to a variety of audiences including businesses and residents of the surrounding urban areas.
- The fragile habitats of the South Pennine uplands are adequately safeguarded through initiatives such as the Fire Operations Group and Moorwatch and enhanced through the South Pennines woodlands strategy and the Live Moor, Learn Moor project for example.
- The “green economy” of the South Pennines is making a positive contribution to the economy of a number of LEP areas, measured through the collation of socio-economic data at a super-output area scale.
- The residents of the South Pennines and the surrounding conurbations have physical and intellectual access to the environment of the South Pennines.
- A central repository of best available data and information is created which can be used to paint a picture of the natural environment of the South Pennines and assist and influence the decision-making of strategic bodies.

For further information please contact:  
 Mark Turner  
 Programme & Operations Director  
 Pennine Prospects  
 T: 01422 843716  
 E: [mark.turner@pennineprospects.co.uk](mailto:mark.turner@pennineprospects.co.uk)