

## Tyne Catchment Partnership Terms of Reference

These Terms of Reference are for the guidance of current or potential Partners (members) and are designed to outline what the Tyne Catchment Partnership (the 'Partnership') is all about and how it is intended to work.

### Our Vision

#### **Working together to benefit the people, wildlife and habitats of the Tyne Catchment's river environments**

The Partnership seeks to become a key influencer and supporter of decisions by any organisation or agency proposing work to improve our rivers and their catchments. As an unconstituted body, our primary role in delivery is to facilitate organisations, as individuals or groups, to identify, develop, seek funding for and then deliver projects.

Whilst we seek to develop strategic partnerships to which all partners can sign up, we recognise that individual partners will have their own complementary priorities. We recognise and accept this and encourage transparency from partners where and when this happens. The Partnership will operate on a collaborative basis and will seek to avoid competition for resources. We are happy in principle to support any work by any partner improving the rivers or land within the Tyne catchment area.

### Objectives (achieving our vision)

1. Promoting and celebrating partners' achievements and successes
2. Identifying and grasping needs and opportunities to work together (as organisations) for better outcomes for the River Tyne and its people
3. Speaking with a single voice where partners' interests in managing and improving the River Tyne overlap
4. Grasping opportunities for projects to deliver multiple benefits for the benefit of the River Tyne
5. Using resources to best effect and coordinating activities on a catchment and sub-catchment level

Our common objectives include improving the water environment for people and for the natural environment. They include an element of multi-functional benefits and green infrastructure, and of seizing opportunities to work together and make the best use of resources.

### Host and Chair

Hosting / co-ordination of the Partnership is provided by Tyne Rivers Trust. Our current Chair is Hugh Clear-Hill, who formerly represented Northumberland County Council on the Partnership, and is a Trustee of Tyne Rivers Trust. Meeting venues are not fixed, but move around, according to the agenda and offers of partners hosting the meeting. Feedback on the hosting role is welcome at any time.

## Membership

There are currently 22 member organisations [www.tynecatchment.org](http://www.tynecatchment.org) representing groups and organisations that have a direct relationship with Tyne river catchment issues. Members are:

- representatives of key stakeholder organisations whose interests lie in maintenance or improvement of the aquatic environment and the catchment
- knowledgeable in their field and able to offer advice, resources (such as data, information, access to other groups) and practical support
- willing to actively speak about the interests of their sector in discussions
- able to exert influence on behalf and within their organisation and are in a position to facilitate project delivery / work agreed by the Partnership
- aware and understanding about other partners' views and are willing to listen, communicate and respect each other.

New members can request to join the Partnership at any time. Members are expected to:

- commit time to attend meetings and be prepared by seeking information from within their own organisation if necessary. If sending a deputy, they should be fully briefed before the meeting
- represent the Tyne Catchment Partnership at other meetings where relevant and appropriate.

## Meetings

The Partnership meets around 3-4 times a year. Meetings include an element of professional networking, co-ordination of activities, raising awareness of issues across the catchment, and joint input into consultations. Meetings have two fundamental and complementary purposes: (1) action planning and raising awareness of existing projects and initiatives, and (2) development of existing and new partnerships and collaboration.

Notes are taken and are published on the [Tyne Catchment Partnership website](http://www.tynecatchment.org).

Agenda items for future meetings are welcome at any time. Where possible the Agenda and papers will be circulated at least one week before the meeting.

## Decision making

Decisions are made by majority voting of those present at a meeting where a vote is called for, or by online ballot outside of a meeting. Each organisation represented at the meeting is restricted to a single vote.

## Legal status

The Partnership is an unconstituted voluntary body. Its area of operation is the Tyne catchment. The Partnership has no legal status.