

Sperrin Future Search – Sperrins Community Partnership

Terms of Reference

The geographical area represented by the Sperrins Community Partnership includes the council areas of:

- Causeway Coast and Glens
- Derry and Strabane
- Fermanagh and Omagh
- Mid Ulster

Definition: There is uncertainty as to what is meant by 'the Sperrins' in terms of geographical area. The discussions that took place suggest that there is a probable consensus around treating the AONB as the core while embracing the critical relationships between communities in the AONB and neighbouring larger settlements (gateway towns).

1 Purpose

- 1.1** The purpose of the Partnership and Chair is to oversee the strategic direction and delivery of the four thematic groups Action Plans, Environment & Heritage, Infrastructure, Brand & Tourism and Community. The Partnership will provide a mechanism for interested parties/stakeholders to help preserve, enhance and manage the culture and heritage of the Sperrins by making them more accessible and enjoyable for all, in ways that address social, economic and environmental interests, and with regard to issues of particular local relevance.

Facilitate discussion through four common thematic groups, Environment & Heritage, Infrastructure, Brand & Tourism and Community. This will ensure the implementation of the Sperrin Future Search Action Plans. They will address key issues within the Sperrins area while seeking to balance social, economic and environmental interests.

Facilitate understanding of needs and aspirations of user groups, activity providers, sporting clubs, land owners, competent authorities, and statutory bodies.

2 Objectives

The Sperrins Community Partnership will aim to:

- 2.1** Promote and support the marketing of developments that increase and improve sustainable and responsible activities taking place in the area.

- 2.2** Promote the development, adoption and communication of voluntary codes of conduct that promote responsible use of the area and help create a sense of ownership by the local communities.
- 2.3** Encourage partnership working to avoid duplication with other relevant bodies.
- 2.4** The role of the board will be to drive the ideas of the wider thematic groups, overseeing budgets, employment and management responsibilities.

3 Membership

3.1 SPERRINS COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD

- 3.2** Membership of the Sperrins Community Partnership board will comprise of 20 members including 2 Council members drawn from the membership of the all four Councils elected members. Should any party not be able to attend, they may nominate another representative from their party.
- 3.3** Councillors nominated will be nominated at the relevant councils Committee meetings and ratified by full council.

3.4 Thematic Group Members

Two Representative from each of the following Thematic Groups may attend:

- Environment and Heritage
- Infrastructure and Economy
- Brand and Tourism
- Community

- 3.5** Two representative from the Co – Coordinating Group will be nominated to sit on the board
- 3.6** Two representative from the Statutory Partnership group will be nominated to sit on the board
- 3.7** Local Government Officers are members of the board in an observer status.

- 3.8** The partnership board is a network of representatives of sector interests with an interest in the development of opportunities for increased participation in the Sperrins.

4 Chair

- 4.1** The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be appointed by voluntary nominations to the partnership board and shall hold office for up to three years or until such time as they are replaced by nominations at the first meeting following the expiry of that calendar year. Subject to their continued membership to the partnership board they shall be eligible for re-nomination thereafter.

In the case of more than one nomination being received a bi election will take place to appoint the positions of Chair and Vice – Chair.

5 Administration

- 5.1** An appointed secretary will have the responsibility and administration for the partnership board.
- 5.2** The Partnership board shall normally meet four times per annum and additional meetings may be arranged where necessary. Board meeting will rotate around each of the four council areas.
- 5.3** An annual open network meeting will be held once per annum to share information to sector groups by representatives.
- 5.4** Meeting agendas shall be agreed between the Chair and the Project Officer. Agendas, papers and minutes of the meeting shall be available to the public on request from the Project Officer.
- 5.5** The Partnership board may, where appropriate, formally invite observers to the meeting who shall be able to contribute at the meeting at the discretion of the board.
- 5.6** All papers for meetings will be sent to members at least five days in advance and should be supported by a clear recommendation wherever possible.

- 5.7** A consensus should be reached on all matters discussed but where this is not the case opposing views will be recorded.
- 5.8** The quorum for meetings of the partnership board shall be 10 members. Any member missing three consecutive meetings shall be addressed by the Chair.

6 General obligations

- 6.1** A member must:
- promote equality by not discriminating unlawfully against any person
 - treat others with respect
 - not do anything which compromises or which is likely to compromise the impartiality of those who work for, or on behalf of the partnership board.
- 6.2** A member must not in his or her official capacity, or any other circumstance, conduct himself or herself in a manner that could reasonably be regarded as bringing their office or the forum into disrepute.
- 6.3** A member must not in his or her official capacity, or any other circumstance, use his or her position improperly to confer on or secure for himself, herself or any other person, an advantage or disadvantage.

7 Disclosure of personal interests

- 7.1** All members must disclose and sign a register of interest which will be maintained and updated on an annually basis.
- 7.2** A member with a personal interest in a matter who attends a meeting of the forum at which the matter is considered must disclose to that meeting the existence and nature of that interest at the commencement of that consideration, or when the interest becomes apparent and must leave the room when it is being discussed.
- 7.3** The declaration of interests shall be an agenda item at the start of each meeting.

A Conflict of Interest would include, but not be limited to, direct or indirect interests of a Member in:

- A company, service or product that could be affected by a decision of the partnership board;
- A company or product that is in competition with a company, service or product that could be affected by a decision of the forum

- Acceptance of any gift, entertainment, services, loans or promises of future benefits from any person or organization that might benefit because of the individuals connection with the forum.
- Compensation in the form of fees or salaries if such payment results directly or indirectly from the Member's work with the partnership board.

Project Road Map

