

Community Engagement Brief Local Nature Recovery Strategy

December 2024

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1. Project overview



Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is looking to commission up to two organisations to plan and deliver engagement with citizens between February and March 2025 on a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the region.

The audiences we are looking to engage with are:

- Adults over 25 who are digitally excluded and living in Halton, St Helens, Knowsley and/or Wirral.

For the purposes of this commission, being 'digitally excluded' means not having access to the internet or a computer/laptop/ipad/smart phone and/or not having the necessary skills to be able to take part in an online survey.

We would also consider appointing the full budget to one organisation, or a consortium of organisations if they were able to effectively engage with a wide range of residents and ages, across all four council areas listed.

2. What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

The local nature recovery strategy (LNRS), introduced in the Environment Act (2021), is an evidence-based and locally led strategy which is designed to provide a joined-up, regional approach to nature recovery.

In time, there will be 48 LNRS's covering the whole of England which together form the Nature Recovery Network, a major commitment in the government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

Our strategy for nature recovery follows the same boundary as that of the Liverpool City Region, which comprises of Wirral, Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens and Halton.

Using local knowledge from stakeholders and citizens of the Liverpool City Region, it identifies and maps opportunities for habitat enhancement, restoration and creation, where the biggest benefit will be felt to both nature and people.

Why do we need a strategy?

Biodiversity – which is the variety of animal and plant life on earth - is in serious decline globally. Since 1970, almost 70% of mammal, bird, fish, reptile and amphibian populations have been lost following centuries of habitat destruction.

Biodiversity is central to human life on earth. We rely on nature to clean our air, filter our water, provide our food, protect us from the effects of climate change, and outdoor spaces to enjoy the physical and mental benefits of being in nature.

The Liverpool City Region is no exception to this, and we need to act not only to protect biodiversity wildlife and human health, but also to adapt to climate change and protect our local economy.



The region's post-industrial legacy has left biodiversity in a state of decline with many of our parks and woodlands in poor condition, and our coasts vulnerable to the effects of climate change, with human activity causing significant habitat loss and driving species to local extinction.

However, there is lots that can be done to address these challenges, and the Local Nature Recovery Strategy has been developed with a wide range of stakeholders across the region to join-up our efforts and protect our natural environment.

Actions big and small are equally as important and can together connect nature across the region to benefit everyone who lives here, attract long-term investment and allow nature to thrive once more.

Habitats and opportunities

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy sets out a list of priorities, grouped into six habitats and some priority species, as well as the actions we think need to be taken, listed below.

It's important to note that the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is not a delivery plan. It identifies key opportunities for nature recovery but does not bind local authorities or landowners to act on these opportunities.

1. Wetlands

Wetlands and watercourses are places where the land is covered by water—salt, fresh, or somewhere in between - either seasonally or permanently. It could be a marsh, swamp, river, brook, pond or lake and is important for water voles, otters, amphibians and reptiles.

Our priority is improving water quality and habitats by planting trees, restoring flood plains and removing man-made barriers such as weirs, so fish and other wildlife can move more freely.

2. Coastlines

The beaches and streams which flow into the sea in Sefton and Wirral often have lots of seasonal visitors.

Our priority is to prevent coastal erosion, reduce flood risks and protect rare local species, such as the natterjack toad.

We think this is best achieved by protecting clay cliffs and by public information campaigns and fencing and board walks to route people away from ponds, water-filled dunes and other areas where wildlife needs protecting.

3. Grasslands

Grasslands and heathlands are important for rare plants, animals and fungi.

Pickerings Pasture and Runcorn Hill Heath in Halton, Bidston Hill and Thurstaston Common on the Wirral, Cressington Heath and Childwall Fields in Liverpool and Freshfield Dune Heath in Sefton are all examples of grasslands and heathlands in our region.

Our priority is to promote the pollination of wildflowers, reduce grass cutting along road verges and introduce a 'no mow may' to help wildlife thrive.



We also want to increase the number of green spaces so people can enjoy more nature and natural beauty sites.

4. Woodlands

Woodlands and trees are important habitats for local species of bluebells, wild garlic and red squirrels.

Our priority is to protect ancient trees, like the Allerton Oak, and plant new native trees to help restore woodland, improve air quality and create more opportunities for people to enjoy nature.

5. Urban

Our region's tall high-rise buildings have become home to peregrine falcons and swifts, swallows in recent years and we want wildlife to continue to thrive in our cities and towns.

Land which has previously been developed on and is now unused - known as brownfield land – is now home to microhabitats of insects and plants, such as the slender thistle which is very rare.

Our priority is protecting these brownfield sites and making nature a feature of cities and towns by designing nature into development plans, with more trees, plants and routes for walking and cycling.

6. Farmland

26% of Liverpool City Region is farmland and a balanced approach is needed to maintain food production and safeguard wildlife.

More orchards, less pesticides and improving soil quality with sustainable farming methods are some of the ways we think farming can be protected against climate change.

We'd also like to see more undisturbed areas for ground nesting birds, planting winter bird seeds and installing nest boxes to help migrating and nesting birds.

Species

The strategy also contains a list of species which need extra support.

Our priority actions include increasing the numbers of plants and animals that are local to Liverpool City Region such as the red squirrel, natterjack toad and black poplar tree.

This can be achieved by raising awareness of endangered species through public information campaigns, protecting habitats and planting more trees and creating new ponds.

3. Public consultation

A public consultation will take place between **Monday 17th February and Friday 28th March 2025 via a survey which will be open to all citizens and stakeholders, before finalising the plan in 2025.**



The survey will ask citizens and stakeholders if they agree with our priorities for nature, what needs more thought or consideration and what they can do to support nature recovery in the region.

The survey will also include a habitat map which sets out actions and opportunities for nature recovery. Citizens and stakeholders will be able to highlight locations where there is an opportunity to do something for nature or to add a comment where they think we might have got a location or opportunity wrong.

The survey will be available both online and as a paper version.

This consultation activity follows early engagement on nature recovery which took place in 2023, which you can read more about [on our website here.](#)

4. The Brief | What we're commissioning

We are commissioning up to two organisations, or a consortium of organisations, to plan and deliver engagement with citizens between February and March 2025 on a new Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the region.

Interactive map

The main method of engagement should be centred around a habitat map which explains what action is needed across the region to support nature recovery.

Engagement proposals must clearly explain how the map will be adapted and accessible for people who are digitally excluded.

To help you plan your activity, please review the example map provided – ‘Document C’.

Please note that this map is a sample of one area in the region and shared for the purposes of this commissioning opportunity only. It should not be shared any further. Organisations which are successful in their application will be provided with a final map which covers the whole of the Liverpool City Region, in January 2025.

Audiences

The audience we are looking to engage with are:

- Adults over 25 who are digitally excluded and living in Halton, St Helens, Knowsley and/or Wirral.

For the purposes of this commission, being ‘digitally excluded’ means not having access to the internet or a computer/laptop/ipad/smart phone and/or not having the necessary skills to be able to take part in an online survey.

5. Deliverables

Interested organisations are asked to review **document B** draft survey framework and **document C** the example habitat map and use them to design and deliver an activity or activities which will gather feedback and understanding on the following:



- If the priorities identified in the strategy (Wetlands, Coastal, Grasslands, Woodland, Urban and Farmland) and the additional list of species, are the right things to focus on when it comes to nature recovery.
- If the actions identified on the habitat map are the right things to focus on and if any actions are missing.
- Which ideas/actions citizens think require the most urgent action and why.
- What personal actions people feel like they can make, to help nature recovery, what is stopping them from taking action and what support would be helpful to help them get started.
- If your engagement is focused on people who are 55+ we would also like to understand their views on how easy and accessible it is to enjoy nature.

Focus groups, workshops and one-to-one interviews are all legitimate methods of engagement; however, we are open to other suggestions and ideas and are keen to hear your most creative and innovative ways of engaging communities.

All activity must be evidenced, and organisations will be required to submit a written report of findings.

6. Budget

There is a total budget of £6,000 for this work which may be allocated to up to two organisations or a consortium of organisations. We would consider appointing the full budget to one organisation if they were able to effectively engage with a range of residents and ages across all four council areas listed.

Incentives

As we are looking to engage with people from a wide range of backgrounds, incentives to encourage participation can be offered, however they must be appropriate and proportionate to the overall cost of the engagement.

When scoring proposals, we will consider the total cost of the incentive per person, to determine value for money.

If your proposal includes plans to complete the survey with participants, you must detail how you will ensure quality responses. For this reason, you cannot gamify the completion of the survey, i.e. enter people into a prize draw or offer cash prizes as this could encourage poor quality responses.

If you choose to offer an incentive, please make sure it is clearly explained and costed in your proposals.

If you are unsure what would be appropriate or need any further clarification, please get in touch and we will be happy to assist, we have provided two examples below.

Example A

You run 80, 2-minute interviews with participants, in return for a £100 high street voucher. This would not be considered good value as it would cost £8,000 to gather just 80 views. As you are only spending 2-minutes with each person, the responses would also lack detail and understanding of the proposals and the high value of the voucher could influence how people feel, resulting in more positive feedback on proposals.



Example B

You hold a focus group with 50 people who give up an hour of their time to give their views and you offer them a £30 high street voucher. This would be considered good value for money as it would cost a total of £1,500 to gather 50 views and the length of the focus group would allow you to gain more in-depth insight.

7. How to apply

Applications can be submitted online via the link below and are **open until 23:59 on Friday 24th January 2024**. The application process has been designed to be quick and easy, and we commit to reviewing and responding to your application within one week of the closing date.

<https://lcrlistens.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/engagement/lcrs-community-engagement-applications>.

Tips for your application

1. Provide examples and evidence:

The highest scores will be given to those responses which demonstrate they have existing links within the community, are able to recruit a diverse range of people to take part and have evidence to support the recommendations.

2. Be specific:

Who do you plan to speak to and what are your planned activities?

Are you able to engage with a range of ages, genders, ethnicities and people with different levels of interest in nature recovery – if so, explain how you will do this. What is the rationale for your proposals? Why is your chosen method an effective way to engage? How will your proposals result in high quality and detailed responses?

We are also looking for reassurance that you will be able to deliver within the timescales, so consider what does your project plan look like?

3. Show off your expertise:

Tell us, why is your organisation the best for this project? We are looking for evidence that your organisation has good knowledge of how best to engage with citizens living in one of the four council areas listed in the brief and adults who are digitally excluded. Explain and evidence that you understand the needs of this target audience and know the best ways to engage them to get the best outcomes.

Application questions	
1-5	Your name, the name of your organisation and your contact details.
6	Is your organisation outsourcing any part of the proposed work?
7	How many citizens will you engage with?

8	Which council areas from the brief will your engagement activity take place in?
9	How will you recruit participants to take part? Specifically, we are interested in the ages and demographics of participants and how you will engage with people who are digitally excluded.
10	Tell us about your proposal and plans. Please include how you will use and adapt the habitat map and evidence why your proposal is the best way of gathering views from people who are digitally excluded?
11	As part of the reporting process, you will be asked to evidence the sessions that take place. Please give an overview of how you will document this - this could include taking photos, getting testimonials from participants or creating artwork.
12	Please provide a breakdown of costs.

Eligibility

This opportunity is open to any Community Organisation who is signed up to our Community Suppliers network and based in the Liverpool City Region.

Signing up to the network is free and easy to do:

[Community Orgs Membership Form \(snapsurveys.com\)](https://snapsurveys.com)

Applications will be accepted from Wednesday 4th December until Friday 24th January via the online form.

Please note we will only score the questions listed in this document, please do not send any supporting documents or external links as they will not be reviewed.

If you require a paper application or support completing the application, please let us know.

8. Scoring

Questions 9, 10 and 11 will be scored for quality.

Questions 7 and 12 will be scored for cost.

Scores will be weighted as 90% quality of response, 10% cost.

When scoring the cost, we will consider the number of people and the depth/amount of information which will be gathered per engagement/person you're proposing.

Organisations will not score more favourably for offering incentives or refreshments however, if the cost of the incentives or refreshments seem very high compared to the overall costs proposed, we may ask you for further information.

Score	Classification	Scoring principles
0	No response	No response to question.



1	Poor	<p>Insufficient information provided, answer fails in most parts to set out proposals that addresses and meets the requirements of the brief.</p> <p>No detail has been provided and, where evidence is required or necessary, no evidence is provided to support and demonstrate that the tenderer will be able to provide the services requested.</p> <p>Reservations about relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirements.</p> <p>Would represent an unacceptable risk to the Combined Authority</p>
2	Fair response but with significant areas of weakness	<p>Response lacks detail, there are gaps or does not fully address and meet the requirements in the brief.</p> <p>Where evidence is required, or necessary, poor evidence is provided to support and demonstrate that the tenderer will be able to provide the services requested.</p> <p>Lack of confidence in suppliers understanding expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirements.</p> <p>Proposal may represent a risk to the Combined Authority.</p>
3	Satisfactory response (addresses the brief with no major concerns)	<p>Submission to the question sets out proposals that largely addresses and meets the requirements.</p> <p>Some detail has been provided and, where evidence is required or necessary, some evidence is provided to support and demonstrate that the tenderer will be able to provide the services required.</p> <p>Minor reservations or weakness in a few areas of the proposals in respect of relevant ability, understanding, expertise, skills, and/or resources to deliver the requirements.</p> <p>Response is low-risk to the Combined Authority.</p>



<p>4</p>	<p>Good response (fully compliant with requirements).</p>	<p>Submission to the question sets out robust proposals that fully addresses and details how requirements will be met.</p> <p>Full details have been provided and where evidence is required, or necessary, full, detailed and relevant evidence is provided to support and demonstrate that the supplier will be able to provide the services requested.</p> <p>Proposals provides confidence in suppliers ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources to deliver the requirement.</p> <p>Proposal presents a minimal risk to the Combined Authority.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>Excellent response (fully compliant, with some areas exceeding requirements)</p>	<p>Submission to the question sets out robust proposals that fully addresses and details how requirements will be met and in addition, provides or proposes additional value and/or elements of the proposal which exceed the requirements brief.</p> <p>Proposal provides full confidence in suppliers ability, understanding, expertise, skills and/or resources not only to deliver the requirements, but also exceed it as described.</p> <p>Proposal presents a minimal risk to the Combined Authority.</p>

9. Key dates

<p>Wednesday 4th December 2024</p>	<p>Applications open</p>
<p>Wednesday 8th January 10am-11am</p>	<p>Online briefing session for interested suppliers.</p> <p>To book a place please email LCRListens@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk</p>
<p>23:59 Friday 24th January 2025</p>	<p>Applications close</p>
<p>By Friday 31st January 2025</p>	<p>Successful organisations notified</p>



Monday 17th February – Friday 28th March 2025	Community engagement to be delivered
Friday 4th April 2024	Final report due

10. Questions

For anything not covered here, please email LCRListens@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk.

Can we see the full strategy?

The strategy is in draft and currently being reviewed by our local authority partners. It will be made available in January to organisations which are successful in their bid.

For the purposes of this commission, please focus on the deliverables section of this brief and reviewing the supporting documents.

Can our proposal be to get people to fill in the online survey or paper surveys?

We are looking for in-depth data and views to be gathered from this engagement exercise and whilst supporting people to complete the online survey is an acceptable method of engagement, we are keen to receive creative and engaging proposals beyond filling in the survey.

If the survey is part of your proposal, you must detail how you will support people who are digitally excluded to view the habitat map and participate and how you will ensure quality responses.

You cannot 'gamify' the completion of the survey i.e enter people into a prize draw or offer cash prizes as this could encourage poor quality responses.

If participants are completing a paper survey, you will be required to enter the data online.

You will also need consider how you will record and evidence how many people completed the survey during your session.

What needs to be included in the final report?

Document D – a report template can be [found here](#).

Can we offer incentives?

As we are looking to engage with a wide range of people, appropriate incentives can be offered. Please detail the costs in your proposals, ensuring any incentives are appropriate and proportionate to the task. For more information, please refer to the incentives section in this brief. If you are unsure what would be appropriate, please get in touch and one of our team can assist.



Can we offer refreshments?

Yes, please detail the costs in your application ensuring that they are appropriate and proportionate to the overall cost of your engagement activity.

When will invoices be paid?

Our payment terms are 30 days and invoices will be paid when a final report has been submitted and approved. The deadline for submitting the report is 4 April 2025.

We will work with you to make sure you are paid as quickly as possible.

I have up-front costs; can I be paid sooner?

We can look at part payments to support you to deliver the work and will discuss this with you if you are successful.

How much money can I apply for?

There is a total budget of £6,000 for this work which may be allocated to up to two organisations. Please detail in your application how much of the total budget you are requesting.

We would also consider appointing the full budget to one organisation, or a consortium of organisations if they were able to effectively engage with a wide range of residents and ages, across all four council areas listed.

What support is available?

During the application process our team are on hand to answer any questions you may have, you can email us at: LCRListens@liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk

If your application is successful, we'll make sure you have all the support you need to deliver your plans, and we'd also welcome the opportunity to attend one of your engagement activities.

We'll start by arranging a meeting to discuss your engagement plans and get you set up on our finance systems and then we'll agree how often we will check-in and discuss any other support you might need.



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METRO MAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION