

Terms of Reference for the new South Downs Partnership

Name of group	South Downs National Park Partnership
Purpose	<p>Work alongside the SDNPA to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion the South Downs National Park, its Vision, Purposes, and the Outcomes in the Partnership Management Plan (PMP); • Broaden and deepen engagement with the National Park, in particular through the active involvement of individuals and groups for whom its relevance and potential benefits have been limited until now; • Embed the PMP as a shared vehicle for collaborative change across partners and sectors; • Mobilise additional resources and commitments for the highest priorities within the PMP; • Maintain an overview of progress towards PMP outcomes across partners and sectors, identifying weak areas and helping to address them; • Provide a forum for resolving conflicts between competing policy objectives and sectors; • Give strategic advice and objective, independent feedback to the SDNPA
Outcomes & Deliverables	<p>Actively seek to bring in new audiences and underrepresented groups;</p> <p>Work with the SDNPA to drive and monitor overall delivery across sectors, and recommend to the SDNPA and other bodies how this can be improved;</p> <p>Act as a sounding board for the SDNPA on strategic issues and overall direction;</p> <p>With the SDNPA, jointly commission and oversee reviews of the PMP,</p> <p>Report, at least annually, to the SDNPA, partners and the public on overall progress</p>
Duration	<p>Not time limited</p> <p>Individual members of the SDP will be appointed to for a period of two years with the option of an extension of two years.</p>
Membership	<p>An independent Chair will be appointed</p> <p>Sector representatives will be identified through external advertising and all available means to ensure a diverse group</p> <p>The SDNPA will support the Chair in this process</p>
Accountability	<p>The SDP Chair will work alongside the SDNPA Chair to deliver the above;</p>

	<p>The SDNPA will act as a secretariat for the SDP;</p> <p>The SDNPA remains ultimately accountable to Defra for the creation of and periodic reviews of the PMP</p>
Review	<p>Changes to these Terms of Reference may be recommended, by majority agreement, to the NPA</p>
Working methods & meetings	<p>The SDP will meet at least quarterly - in person or via electronic means at the discretion of its Chair</p> <p>If a Quorum is required this will be the presence of half of the SDP</p> <p>A joint meeting with the NPA will be held at least annually where the SDP will report on its activities and give an overview of progress in delivery of the PMP.</p> <p>External attendees may be invited at the discretion of the SDP Chair</p> <p>Meetings of the group will be administered by the SDNPA working closely with SDP Chair</p> <p>Meetings may comprise of formal business, workshop sessions, tours or visits. (to be agreed with SDNPA if its resources are required to deliver such activities)</p> <p>Senior members and officers of the SDNPA may be invited to attend at the discretion of the Chair.</p> <p>The SDP will not normally be required to take votes, if required in exceptional cases decisions will be taken by a majority vote, with each partner having one vote</p> <p>The SDP will be made up of individuals selected for their expertise, background and experience, so substitutes will not be allowed</p> <p>Continued non-attendance will result in the seat being allocated to another representative for the sector</p> <p>The Chair may create task groups to focus on priority areas or address specific issues.</p> <p>Those appointed to the SDP must abide by the principles of public life and sign up to a code of conduct that enshrines these principles.</p>
Resources	<p>The SDNPA will allocate a budget to support the work of the SDP, managed by the Director of Countryside Policy & Management in consultation with the SDP Chair</p> <p>SDP partners will be entitled to claim expenses for their participation.</p> <p>Where appropriate and by mutual agreement with the Director of Countryside Policy & Management in kind support for the SDP may be provided by the SDNPA</p>
Amendment, modification or variation	<p>Amendment, modification or variation of these Terms of Reference can only be made by resolution of the SDNPA.</p>