

Appendix 1. Relationship between the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the planning system

There is a requirement in the Environment Act 2021 S102 (5) (2B) for the Secretary of State to issue guidance to local planning authorities as to how they must have regard to Local Nature Recovery Strategies. Further guidance on the links between the current planning system and the future planning system post- Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill are yet to be provided by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities/Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs.

It is clear however that the information that would be presented in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy would be of value as an evidence base and strategy for the development of local plan policy and for decision making at the local level.

Additional to this the Biodiversity Net Gain approach, that becomes mandatory in November 2023, incentivises onsite or local delivery through the 'Spatial Risk Multiplier'. Where onsite delivery of the Biodiversity Net Gain is not possible, Local Nature Recovery Strategies can be used to target offsite Biodiversity Net Gain, through the 'strategic significance' score which provides additional unit value (up to 15% extra value) to habitats located in preferred locations for biodiversity and other environmental objectives.

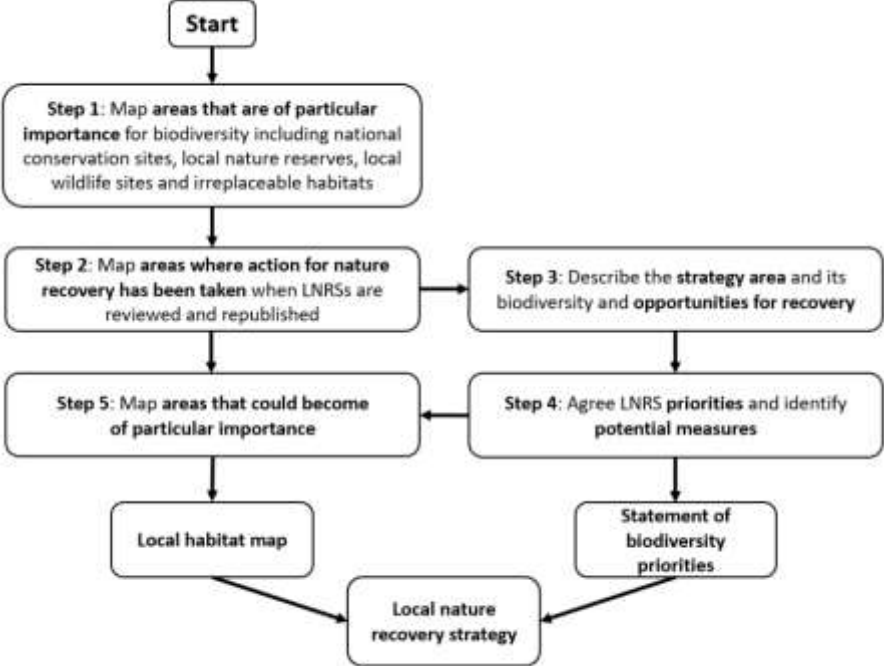
Appendix 2. Alignment between the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and other West Midlands Combined Authority programmes

As the West Midland Combined Authority's Natural Environment Plan was delivered in 2021 before the Environment Act, it was unable to include within it the role of delivering the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. However, as the scope of the duties of the Responsible Authority and the content of the Local Nature Recovery Strategies have been defined, it is clear that a number of actions as set out in the Natural Environment Plan will be delivered (for some in a slightly different form) through the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and due to the statutory nature of the process and outputs they will have much greater significance to the region and its stakeholders. The actions within the Natural Environment Plan that will in effect be delivered by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy are as follows:

- Wildlife Corridors Commission;
- A regional 'Wildlife Ways' programme;
- Species Recovery; and
- Spatially defining the region's natural capital through maps.

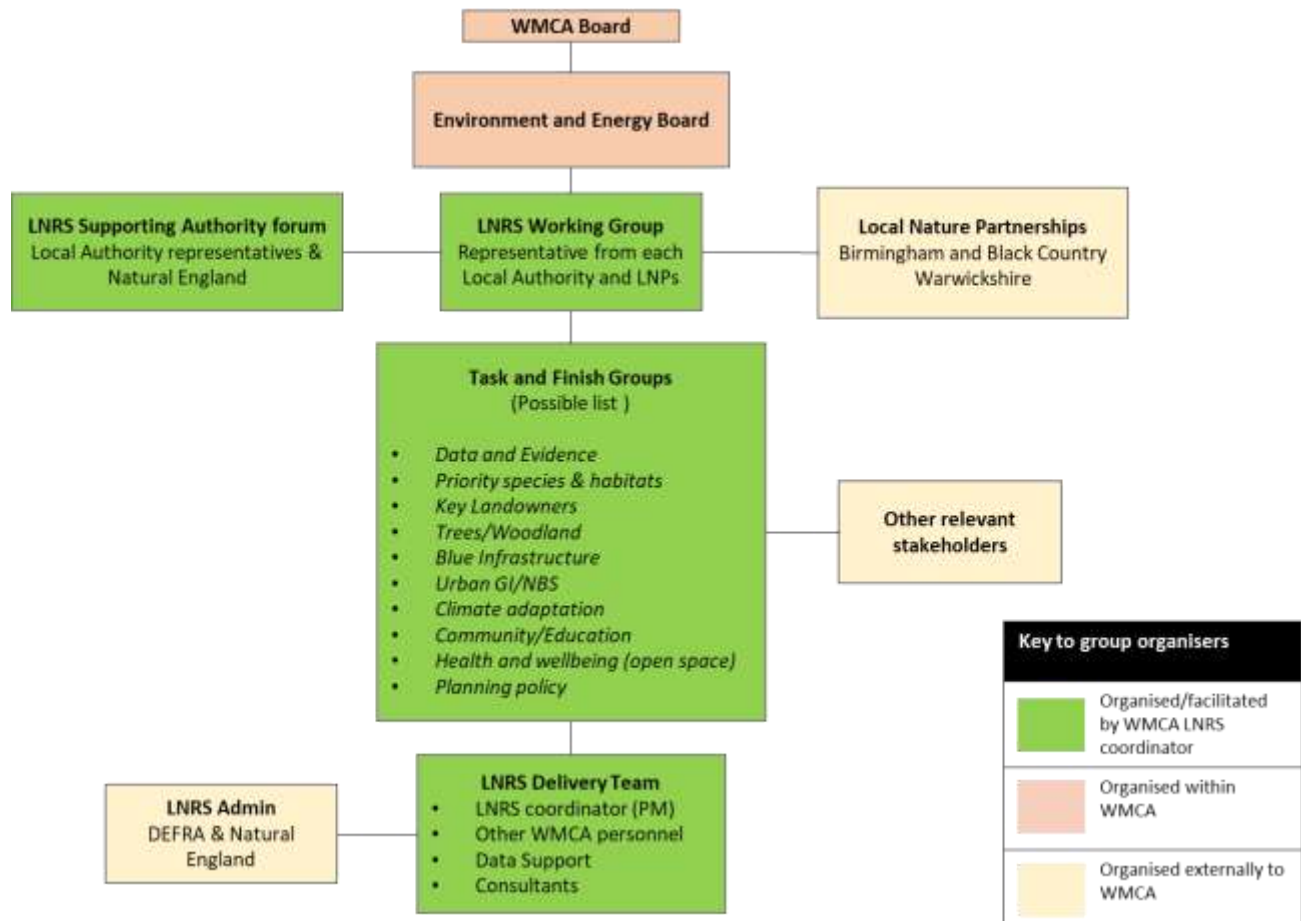
Additionally, the Responsible Authority appointment will provide an opportunity to take a lead role in convening and strengthening relationships with key stakeholders in the region and providing support to them with their own natural environment programmes. It also provides a much closer link to the delivery of nature-based solutions for nature recovery and other wider environmental outcomes such as climate adaptation and environmental equality. The Responsible Authority role will also be complementary to our programmes around climate adaptation and Local Investment in Natural Capital.

Appendix 3. Local Nature Recovery Strategy process



The above diagram sets out the steps to be followed in developing the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (source: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Statutory Guidance, Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, March 2023).

Appendix 4. West Midlands Local Nature Recovery Strategy Governance structure



The above diagram gives an overview of the agreed governance structure for the West Midlands Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Descriptions of each governance group are given below.

Local Nature Recovery Strategy governance groups descriptions:

- West Midlands Combined Authority Board: Decision making board which will give final approval of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- Environment & Energy Board: Will provide feedback and input into Local Nature Recovery Strategy at key moments in its development.

- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy Working Group:** A multi-stakeholder group comprising of expert officers from each of the constituent authorities and from key nature-based organisations, responsible for collaborating on the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy across a broad range of relevant expertise. The group will work collaboratively and meet on a monthly basis to develop the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy Supporting Authority Forum:** A forum organised by the Local Nature Recovery Strategy team at key moments in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in order to bring together a wide range of expertise from officers across the constituent authorities, ensuring input from key areas such as planning, public health, air quality and green spaces.
- **Local Nature Partnership:** An existing partnership of local nature organisations which will be engaged with closely in the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy. The West Midlands Combined Authority Local Nature Recovery Strategy will take input from two Local Nature Partnership's which cover its region: The Birmingham and Black Country Local Nature Partnership and the Warwickshire Local Nature Partnership.
- **Task and Finish groups:** Smaller groups of specialised experts will be established in order to focus on key topics within the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, as outlined in the governance structure. These groups will feedback to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy working group which will collate their inputs.
- **Other relevant stakeholders:** Stakeholders not covered by the Supporting Authority forum or Local Nature Partnerships will be able to feed into the Local Nature Recovery Strategy process through its different themes, e.g. on the task and finish groups.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy Delivery Team:** The Local Nature Recovery Strategy coordinator, based at the West Midlands Combined Authority, other West Midlands Combined Authority personnel and any additional resource brought in to support the delivery of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy.
- **Local Nature Recovery Strategy admin:** Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs and Natural England provide oversight and advice throughout the development of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy, working directly with the responsible authority.

A separate plan for public consultation prior to and following the first draft of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy will also be developed alongside stakeholder engagement.

Appendix 5. Local Nature Recovery Strategy timeline

The nationally provided deadline for the Local Nature Recovery Strategy is March 2025. Below we provide a high level timeline outlining the key activities of work in the development of the LNRS.



Note: SAs refers to the Supporting Authorities in the Local Nature Recovery Strategy production, which in the case of the West Midlands Combined Authority's Local Nature Recovery Strategy are the seven full member authorities of the West Midlands Combined Authority plus Natural England.