



## River Severn Partnership

### Minutes and Actions

15<sup>th</sup> May 2020

#### Attendees:

##### Environment Agency

Mike Grimes- Area Director West Midlands (joint chair)  
Adam Lines- Place Manager Shropshire & Telford and Wrekin  
Dave Throup- Place Manager Worcestershire  
David Hudson- Place Manager Gloucestershire  
Hayley Deighton- Sustainable Growth Manager

##### Worcestershire County Council

Emily Barker- Planning Services Manager  
Matt Maginnis- Flood Risk and Highway Drainage Manager  
Penny Unwin- Programme Manager, One Public Estate

##### Wychavon District Council

Vic Allison- Deputy Managing Director

##### Telford and Wrekin Council

Katherine Kynaston- Director, Housing, Employment and Infrastructure

Lucinda Lycett- Flood Risk Manager

Gavin Ashford- Principal Planning Policy Officer

##### Water Resources West

Richard Blackwell- Director

##### Natural Resources Wales

David Lee- Environment Team Leader

Helen Tidridge

##### Herefordshire Council

Steve Hodges Flood Risk Manager

##### Shropshire Council

Mark Barrow: Exec Director of Place (joint chair)  
Hayley Owen- Growth Programme and Strategy Manager  
Caroline Reid Smith- Programme Manager, One Public Estate

##### Wyre Forest District Council

Mike Parker- Director of Planning and Regulatory Services

##### Worcester City Council

Philippa Smith- Deputy Director Economic Development and Planning

##### Tewksbury Borough Council

Robert Weaver- Deputy Chief Executive

##### Gloucestershire County Council

James Blockley- Principal Flood Risk Management Officer

##### Marches LEP

Gill Hamer- Director

##### Worcestershire LEP

Luke Willetts- Director

##### Severn Trent Water

Tim Smith- Flood Risk Manager

Marcus O'Kane- Water Resources and Catchments Lead

##### MACE

Richard Dinsdale- Operations Director

Mark Holmes- Associate Director

**Apologies:** Nigel Hudson (Worcestershire County Council) Roy Stokes (EA), David Preston (EA), Richard Osborne (North Worcestershire Water Management Team), Fabian Toner (Gloucestershire County Council), Martin Cox (Natural Resources Wales)

#### 1. Welcome

Remote Teams meeting opened by Joint Chairs and attendees welcomed.

#### 2. Partnership Update

Ongoing engagement and opportunities outlined with a focus on engagement with key partners including Severn Trent (ST), National Farmers Union (NFU) and Homes England noted.

#### **ACTION**

Homes England Market Places and Partners Team have local leads. Local Authority partners to raise River Severn Partnership with their local leads and to see whether a Homes England representative can join the partnership going forward.

**ACTION** Parliamentary interest was reviewed and includes a current request from Minister Pow for an update on the River Severn Partnership and progress. An action was taken for partners to be briefed on the proposed timeline for any MP engagement ahead of bringing together the MP Consortium.

Ongoing engagement with Cabinet Office was outlined, aimed at raising the profile of the River Severn Partnership with the intention of securing the Programme as a named National Project.

### **3. Partnership Governance and Processes**

**AGREEMENT** Partners agreed governance arrangements.

**ACTION** Partners to work with Hayley and complete any outstanding gaps in the governance with named individuals.

**ACTION** A query was raised about cross border representation on the Partnership from Powys Council and the Grow Mid Wales Partnership. Gill Hamer agreed an action to raise with her counterparts in the Grow Mid Wales Partnership as part of an upcoming cross border meeting with the Marches LEP.

**AGREEMENT** Partners supported Shropshire Council as Accountable Body for the Partnership.

**AGREEMENT** Partners agreed the Terms of Reference for the MP Consortium

**AGREEMENT** Partners agreed the Partnership MOU

### **4. Building the Programme**

Future work to support the programme was outlined and includes place based workshop sessions to be run remotely along with the use of partner funds to commission work, as set out in Paper 2.

**ACTION** Gloucestershire and Worcestershire leads to work with Hayley to agree workshop sessions and dates to run these between now and the end of July.

**ACTION** Suggestion that LNP representatives be invited to join the Board was noted and an action taken to pursue with LNPs.

**ACTION** Initial work programme in Paper 2 was discussed and agreed. It includes establishment of a virtual programme team. Partners to provide Hayley with lead contacts from economy, growth and environment teams within each geography to form this virtual programme team.

### **5. Investment Narrative**

**ACTION** Partners supported the Draft investment document produced as an engagement tool to provide a common narrative. Document to evolve as the partnership develops but all agreed that the current draft is a good basis for use as necessary. Mark Barrow highlighted work that is ongoing via Shropshire Council around branding and agreed an action to share draft logos in due course for comment.

**ACTION** MACE provided a presentation on the support they are offering the partnership in terms of benefit assessment, particularly focused on building an economic model which will help to identify and quantify the economic benefits. Hayley to share MACE presentation slides. MACE to consider building in Covid recovery as a key theme in the economic model.

**ACTION** Partners queried how the economic dimensions of the partnership sit within the current draft governance. It was agreed that the current place based groups should be supported by theme based groups. Hayley to review and update governance with thematic groups. Partners to consider themes and send to Hayley.

## **6. Innovation and Funding**

### **6a. 5G Funding Opportunity**

An innovative funding opportunity linked to the development of 5G networks was outlined.

The funding competition closes on 27 July. Initial ideas are being explored around links to the River Severn Partnership, including using 5G to assist with water management scenario testing across the catchment and use of 5G to deliver responsive abstraction licencing for Agri- Tech sector.

**ACTION** Partners to provide Hayley with ideas to support the development of a bid.

### **6b. Green Tourism Opportunities**

Green / environmental tourism opportunities were outlined and discussed including discussions with Eden International and ongoing work linked to joint working between Shropshire and Wyre Forest.

**ACTION** Partners expressed interest in exploring the role of the river as a tourism asset to support the visitor economy.

## **7. AOB**

Hayley outlined the request she has received from national EA colleagues to share the River Severn Partnership as a live case study. This will be on a cross government sharepoint linked to innovative work around delivery of the 25 year Environment Plan.

The Comprehensive Spending Review in October/November was highlighted as a key milestone that the Partnership should work towards.

**ACTION** An action was taken to explore how Midlands Connect secure schemes as named National Projects in order to secure support and funding.

### **Next Meeting**

**ACTION** It was agreed that the next meeting needs to take place before the planned next quarterly (Aug 2020) session, in light of the CSR timescale. Hayley to confirm dates.

## Actions Noted

<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Local Authority partners to raise River Severn Partnership with their local Homes England leads.	Mark Barrow and Mike Parker	July 2020
Partnership to be briefed on timescale for any MP engagement	Hayley Deighton	June 2020
Partners work with Hayley to fill any gaps in key contacts for governance	All partners to Hayley Deighton	June 2020
Marches LEP to lead cross border discussions with Growing Mid Wales Partnership	Gill Hamer	June 2020
Worcestershire and Gloucestershire leads to work with Hayley on setting programme of workshop sessions	Emily Barker, Matt Maginnis, James Blockley and Rob Weaver	June 2020
Explore LNP involvement within Partnership governance	Hayley Deighton	June 2020
Each LA to nominate area leads for economy, growth and environment to form part of virtual programme team and provide to Hayley	LA leads	June 2020
Shropshire Council to circulate some suggested branding for the partnership to consider	Mark Barrow	June 2020
MACE presentation slides to be shared with the partnership	Hayley Deighton	End May 2020
Incorporate Covid-29 recovery within the benefits work being developed by MACE	Hayley Deighton and MACE	June 2020
Develop thematic groups as part of governance arrangements	Hayley to draft and circulate for comment	June 2020
Partners to provide Hayley with ideas to support the development of a 5G-Create funding bid	All partners to Hayley Deighton	End May 2020/Early June
Partners to continue to explore how the river network might be best utilised as a tourism asset	All partners	ongoing
Explore how Midlands Connect secure schemes as named National Projects to inform CSR	Mark Barrow/Mike Grimes	June 2020
Schedule next meeting pre August 2020	Hayley Deighton	June 2020