



Terms of Reference

September 2016

1. Background

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership was formed in 2012 and comprises a range of organisations, groups, authorities and individuals dedicated to working together. Our aim is to improve the water environment and provide wider benefits for people and nature at a catchment scale - known as a [Catchment Based Approach](#) (CaBA).

We have agreed a shared vision for the Bristol Avon Catchment and have produced a [Catchment Plan](#) to work towards achieving a better water environment for all.

2. Aims

1. Collectively identify the key water based issues within the catchment.
2. Ensure that work to improve the water based issues in the catchment is well-informed by local evidence/data
3. Summarise the agreed issues into a strategic Catchment Plan, co-ordinating and integrating both current and future plans to secure better, more effective working and outcomes
4. Agree the relevant actions that are required and develop a collaborative Action Plan to help coordinate and facilitate delivery to improve the water based issues in the catchment
5. Maximise the use of existing resources and seek to attract additional funding where appropriate, to support the agreed outcomes of the Action Plan.
6. Share findings and best practice with Defra and communicate widely with surrounding catchments/partnerships and local community groups to provide a mandate to improve the water and land environment

3. Roles and Responsibilities

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership is supported by the following groups:

Strategic Water Group

- Will comprise senior representatives from local government, Local Nature Partnerships, Local Enterprise Partnerships, land management/agricultural interests, environmental, community and business sector representatives who are empowered to make strategic decisions
- Advocate and provide strategic direction for collaborative delivery to improve the water and land environment on a catchment scale
- Base decisions on informed, up to date evidence, helping to remove blockages for joined-up delivery across administrative boundaries
- Meet annually or as required to achieve strategic join up on policies, plans and development

Steering Group

- Will comprise of management level representatives from a variety of organisations including: Environmental NGOs; local government; community groups, agricultural sector; water company representatives and Defra agencies who have the capacity to make decisions and cascade information appropriately within their organisations
- The Group will have support and guidance from an Independent Chair, who will provide steer and advice to help progress the delivery of the Catchment Plan/ Action Plan
- Will provide support and steer to Local Nature Partnerships on matters related to water and sustainable land management in the catchment
- Will help to facilitate sustainable land/river management and development across the political boundaries
- Will access funding made available through the Strategic Group and other mechanisms to support the Delivery Group and other related partnership projects
- Will review financial and technical progress reports and agree subsequent actions required to ensure successful delivery

3. Roles and Responsibilities

Delivery Group

- Will comprise representatives from a variety of delivery organisations
- Will focus on the development and delivery of projects that bring benefits to the water and land environment, people and society
- All projects/delivery will be based on the most up to date data/evidence
- Will communicate and report back progress to help inform the Steering Group and Strategic Group/wider partnerships and groups

Task Groups will form as and when required to support specific project delivery

- Existing partnerships/ initiatives that are delivering water based projects will be welcomed to feed into the partnership to ensure joined-up delivery

Catchment Coordinator

- Will provide support to all groups and individuals within the partnership to ensure communication and work efforts are joined up
- Will organise relevant meetings and support the development of an Action Plan to aid delivery in the catchment
- Will support Task Groups and help facilitate projects that deliver multiple benefits
- Will provide a conduit of information between the national CaBA groups and regional River Basin Management Liaison Panels

Local Nature/Enterprise Partnerships

The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership will provide expert water advice for both Local Nature and Local Enterprise Partnerships. It will also align with Local Government plans and policies to deliver joined up and efficient water management across the catchment.

For more information please see the **Governance Structure** on the next page or visit our [website](#).

4. Resources

This is a partnership led initiative that encourages and facilitates co-working, collaboration and synergies between the organisations and partners involved.

The Partnership will coordinate a strategic, sustainable and more cost beneficial approach to delivering benefits for the water-based issues through the Action Plan.

When funding is required to help deliver actions that have been agreed within the Action Plan, the Catchment Coordinator will help partners collaboratively identify and apply for appropriate funding.

The Partnership can provide resources, skills, data and knowledge through the Catchment Coordinator, Steering Group and Delivery Group to help secure funding for shared actions identified as a priority within the Action Plan. Where a blockage is found, issues can be raised with members of the Strategic Group to identify an alternative/more appropriate way to deliver outcomes.

Catchment Host

Wessex Water currently hosts the Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership. As part of Wessex Water's commitment to working in partnership a full-time Catchment Coordinator will be funded until March 2020, providing support to the partnership. Funding will also be provided for an Independent Chair to support the Strategic Water Group and Steering Group. Wessex Water is also able to provide web/communication support as required.

Catchment Funding

When funding becomes available the Steering Group will agree and decide who is eligible/best placed to apply for funding on behalf of the catchment partnership to deliver beneficial outcomes for the water environment.

The Steering Group has supported the development of a [Catchment Fund](#); this will be administered annually via a small grants scheme on behalf of the partnership. The purpose of the fund will be to support the delivery of projects that will improve the water environment within the Bristol Avon Catchment.

Contact Information

For more information please email: info@bristolavoncatchment.co.uk or visit our website: www.bristolavoncatchment.co.uk

5. Governance Structure

