

# Shropshire Middle Severn Catchment Partnership

## Terms of Reference

**The vision of the Shropshire Middle Severn catchment partnership is to create a healthy, wildlife rich and valued water environment that will bring both social and economic benefits to all.**

**Context:** In June 2013, Defra launched a policy framework to aid the wider adoption of the Catchment Based Approach [CaBA]. The policy sets out the high level objectives for the approach, which is to establish catchment partnerships in every catchment in England where there is an interest in doing so to:

1. Deliver positive and sustained outcomes for the water environment by promoting better understanding of the environment at a local level; and
2. Encourage a more transparent form of decision making, in support of local collaboration or partnership working, for both planning and delivery.

Severn Rivers Trust and Shropshire Wildlife Trust are the co-hosts for the Shropshire Middle Severn catchment partnership which includes the catchments of the rivers Perry, Roden, Tern and Telford Brooks. The Partnership is committed to collaborative working to improve the water environment across the whole Shropshire Middle Severn catchment area.

**Objectives:** Due to the critical importance of addressing the issues to the water environment the co-hosts and partners have formed the Shropshire Middle Severn Catchment Partnership to ensure that issues that affect the water environment are understood and appropriate measures are put in place, including to:

- a. Provide a clear understanding of the issues in the catchments and enable better access and sharing of information about the water environment in the Shropshire Middle Severn catchments.
- b. Promote liaison and encourage collaborative working between existing organisations, interest groups and projects in the Shropshire Middle Severn catchments to deliver environmental benefits and avoid duplication of effort.
- c. Involve local communities, groups and individuals in decision-making by sharing evidence and listening to their ideas;
- d. Work on identifying priorities for action and seek to support the delivery of integrated actions that address local issues in a cost effective way and protect local resources through both existing and new delivery groups
- e. Help with the development of a strategic plan and specific objectives for the Shropshire Middle Severn catchments
- f. Influence how resources are used and targeted
- g. Identify, participate in and seek additional resources for the management of the Shropshire Middle Severn catchments
- h. Contribute to the development and planning of key environmental policies [e.g. River Basin Management Plans], local plans such as the 'Shropshire Middle Severn Catchment Plan' and other strategic plans and guidance.
- i. Collectively Steer overall partnership activity to meet Defra expectations as per the funding agreement issued [as and when applicable].

### **Operating principles:**

- a. The Shropshire Middle Severn catchment partnership will be supported by the co-hosting organisations Severn Rivers Trust and Shropshire Wildlife Trust.

- b. A Steering group has been formed to formulate and drive delivery. The Steering group comprises representatives of Shropshire Wildlife Trust [ Shropshire Middle Severn secretariat], Environment Agency [Regulator -Catchment Coordinators], Severn Rivers Trust [co-host – funding], Natural England [Regulator], Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, Severn Trent Water, National Farmers Union and an independent Agricultural Sector representative [attendance costs covered by CaBA if possible]
- c. The Steering Group will convene a least twice a year. An email protocol has been agreed to support decision making in regard to programme and other activities.
- d. The co-hosts will facilitate the activities, meeting cycle and secretariat services to support the aims and objectives of the partnership.
- e. The full membership members will meet at once a year. The secretariat function will administer the meeting cycle and facilitate venues, invites and refreshments.
- f. Representatives from other organisations may be invited to attend by agreement to participate in meetings in respect of a particular matter or join the partnership.
- g. When funding allows a dedicated CaBA project officer will be assigned to support the workings of the catchment partnership, such a post will be supported by one of the co-hosts.
- h. Budgetary matters will be a standing item on steering group meetings and available as an annual account report to all members post end of year audit.

**Membership:**

Membership of the Shropshire Middle Severn catchment partnership is not restricted to, but currently includes:

- a. Landowner representatives and business stakeholders, including NFU, CLA, Strine IDB, Perry Catchment Group, Severn Trent Water, BESST, MMBEN
- b. Public bodies, including : Environment Agency, Natural England, Forestry Commission, Shropshire Council, Telford and Wrekin Council, National Flood Forum, Severn and Wye Regional Flood and Coastal Committee, CaBA National Support Group
- c. Charities , including: Shropshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Rivers Trust, Canal and River Trust, RSPB, Angling Trust
- d. Academics, Including: University of Wolverhampton

An annual review of membership composition will help ensure adequate and appropriate spread of membership representation to support core aims of the partnership.

**Wider membership** – the partnership can invite or receive interest from others to join the group or provide presentations at meetings. The hosts will also co-ordinate the organisation or promotion of relevant events for a wider stakeholder group as and when it decides this is required.

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