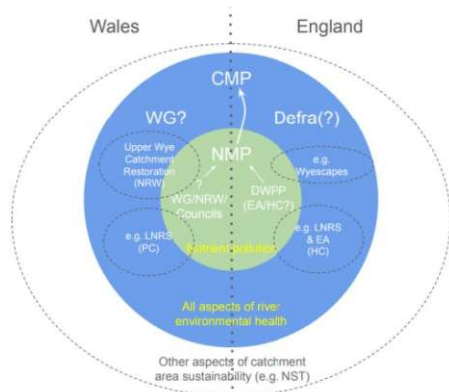


## Background

As outlined in its recently reviewed terms of reference, the Wye Catchment Partnership's vision is to restore the Wye and Lugg SSSIs and Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to a favourable conservation status for its designated features. The Partnership is committed to developing a Catchment Management Plan (CMP) and coordinating its delivery with a broad range of partners. The Partnership's particular strength lies in its membership, which spans across the border and includes key sectors such as regulation, farming, landownership, and conservation. The Partnership's commitment to use of best available evidence, collaboration, transparency, and a catchment-wide ecosystem approach to river restoration makes it a cause deserving of support.

The purpose of the Nutrient Management Board, initially established to create a strategic plan to mitigate development impacts within the catchment, has evolved due to legislative change and there is now a consensus that its primary focus is to reduce nutrient levels by developing and delivering a catchment wide action plan currently underway. As a result, the Board's role is now more closely aligned with the objectives of the Wye Catchment Partnership than ever before.



## Proposal

Given this alignment of goals and the need for operational efficiencies to secure the longevity of the Partnership, Herefordshire Council is offering to host the secretariat for the Wye Catchment Partnership alongside that of the Nutrient Management Board for which it has now delivered for a number of years. The purpose of this proposal is to offer a streamlined approach to managing administrative functions, maximising collaboration, and reducing operating costs.

## In Practice:

- Hosting both the Partnership and the Nutrient Management Board at Council offices, with flexibility to rotate locations if desired.
- Coordinating the choreography, timing and agendas of Partnership and Board meetings, with the option to host wider partnership (steering/Statutory Officers Group) meetings on the same day.
- Providing full administrative support, including:
  - Sending meeting invites and follow-ups.
  - Drafting agendas and minutes for review by the Chairs.

**Benefits:**

- **Operational Efficiencies:** Streamlined meeting coordination, reducing time and resource requirements.
- **Maximised Collaboration:** Ensures ongoing collaboration and representation from all relevant sectors in both bodies.
- **Timely Discussions:** Facilitates continuous and efficient discussion of key issues.
- **Cost Reduction:** Decreases overall operating costs by consolidating administrative functions.

This approach will ensure that both the Wye Catchment Partnership and the Nutrient Management Board can continue to effectively work towards their shared objectives, while also improving efficiency and reducing costs.