



PREFACE

RNRP DOCUMENT SUITE

June 2007

RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK PARTNERSHIP

The River Nene Regional Park partnership (RNRP) has evolved rapidly from an initiative to co-ordinate Green Infrastructure activities (planning, economic development, regeneration and leisure) to a partnership which has now become an industry leading model. It has achieved award winning project delivery - generating national and international interest, including the Green Infrastructure (GI) concept project which many of the directive organisations within the industry and statutory agencies are closely scrutinising.

The RNRP is now established as an independently constituted, not for profit environmental organisation, a Community Interest Company funded through a clear funding plan, led by a board of Directors.

It is a framework developer, enabler and implementation body, responding directly to the needs of the regions dynamic growth areas. It offers the opportunity for partners to engage in the delivery of greenspace projects enabled by funding identified and secured by the RNRP. It champions the provision of GI, facilitates project development and co-ordinates the delivery of GI initiatives.

During the course of the last three years the partnership has evolved through a number of phases.

Initially, during 2004 and 2005 the RNRP was active within a research and concept development phase. Throughout this period the potential for the regional park was evaluated and the concept developed, partner contacts being explored and established. This was followed by the initial development phase (2006 and into 2007) during which the partnership was consolidated and more fully integrated. Within this period a number of significant milestones were achieved including the development and delivery of a series of signature projects which culminated in several award winning works.

The next phase for the partnership from this point forward, when it moves into its final transition phase, is that of a self sustaining, active partnership and delivery body; an exemplar model of partnership and best practice in the co-ordination of environmental investment and initiatives across the region.

To support this, a suite of documents has been produced, including this preface, which inform the intended direction of the RNRP through the identification in detail of a strategy, business plan, management plan and delivery programme - the detailed mechanisms through which the RNRP will be developed, delivered, reviewed and advanced.

DOCUMENT SUITE

STRATEGY

The cornerstones of the RNRP strategy include the Vision, Terms of Reference and the Principle Purposes. These components, previously adopted, inform all other areas of operation and development by the RNRP. The Vision, revised in 2007 for the RNRP states:

By 2016 the RNRP partnership will be an independent, inclusive, reciprocal and beneficial partnership of public, private and third sector members. It will be nationally and internationally recognised as the centre of excellence for the piloting, co-ordination and delivery of regional sustainable development. It will address strategic issues such as climate change, the enhancement of local biodiversity and the innovative development of the environment as an asset for social development, education, leisure & recreation, heritage & cultural activity, and as a primary vehicle of economic regeneration.

BUSINESS PLAN

The business plan sets out a financial framework within which the RNRP will become self sustaining within a four to five year period. This is an important and very significant reorientation for the RNRP which currently acts as a funding conduit and grant distributor but is not self sustaining in terms of its internal overheads. Investment is needed to support the core team and thereby the continuation of the initiative. This plan therefore sets out the ways in which this can be achieved. The current business plan covers to the period until 2010 and will be reviewed annually.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

This operational document supports the work of the executive (core) team of the RNRP and details the composition of the team, roles and responsibilities. It also sets out a framework for key working areas, resource utilisation, operational methodologies and the wider work programme for the team. This document will be reviewed and updated at intervals of not more than six months over the course of the next two years as the RNRP continues to evolve and change at a rapid pace.

DELIVERY PROGRAMME

This programme records and charts the progress of all active projects under the direction or administration of the RNRP. It identifies the funding position of each project, resource requirements and lead responsibilities. It sets out delivery milestones and completion dates for all project work. This document is reviewed and updated at quarterly intervals.

Having successfully established the RNRP Community Interest Company and having developed strong foundations for both this unique concept and delivery mechanisms for partnership working, co-ordination and project implementation, significant challenges remain.

These include the need to develop and secure a sustainable financial footing for the organisation; to advance partnership working, clarifying and broadening the reciprocal contributions and responsibilities of each partner and to enhance the capacity of the RNRP executive team in order that it can fully support and deliver the aspirations of the newly appointed Board.



RIVER NENE REGIONAL PARK
INSPIRED SPACES

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