

## Love Windermere Programme Board

01 May 2023

### Terms of Reference

#### Introduction

Lakes are sensitive to multiple human pressures that operate at different spatial and temporal scales and trigger a variety of interlinked, often negative, consequences for freshwater ecology and the wider benefits that lake ecosystems provide. Like all lakes Windermere has altered over time. Over several centuries, human activities and increasing presence caused nutrient enrichment. More recently, climate change and altered food webs have made Windermere more sensitive to nutrient enrichment requiring a sense of urgency and ambition in shaping and delivering action to improve its health.

A multi-agency programme of amelioration activity has been underway for some time to redress nutrient enrichment within Windermere. However, challenges remain, and a Programme Board is being established to enhance and progress a co-ordinated approach of both current and future activity designed to improve water and wider environmental quality within Windermere lake and catchment.

#### Vision

Windermere lake, its upstream catchment and downstream waterbodies enjoy good water quality and rich biodiversity. Improvements in land and water management mean that the catchment is more resilient to the impacts of climate change; and can continue to support the local economy as well as the wellbeing of its communities. The communities of the catchment recognise their role as custodians, they support and are actively engaged in the multi-agency working arrangements.

#### Purpose of the programme board

- To develop an enduring approach and governance structure, to include thematic working strands and groups as appropriate, to accelerate water quality and nature recovery, and increase the climate resilience of Windermere and the Leven Catchment over the next 20 years.
- To agree and have oversight of a short-term tactical plan which captures and prioritises the work to be developed. Work streams will include but not necessarily be limited to 'community engagement', 'data and modelling', 'sustainable future finance', 'sewered network', 'non mains drainage', 'land management' and 'long-term management planning for the catchment'.
- To ensure sufficient measures and resources are in place, and coordinated, to redress nutrient enrichment in the lake.
- To submit six monthly Implementation Progress Updates to the Lake District National Park Partnership's Farming Forestry Nature Recovery and Climate Outcome Group, with attendance by the Chair of the Programme Board.
- To establish channels of effective communications with people who live/ work/ visit Cumbria and in particular the Windermere catchment.
- To engage with our communities to support the establishment and maintenance of trust and confidence in the multi-agency working arrangement.
- To maintain risk register/ issues and opportunities log.

The strategic context for this work and Board, measurable objectives and further details regarding scope will be contained in the Programme Board mandate. The mandate, these terms of reference, any working group terms of reference, and agreed work programmes together inform and guide the Love Windermere work over which this Board oversees.

#### Ways of working

1. Environment Agency provides Board administration; an arrangement that can be reviewed as required and by agreement.

2. Meetings take place over bi-monthly, with an agenda distributed 2 days beforehand. Any required papers / presentations to be provided to the Environment Agency for circulation before this. These meetings will be supported and supplemented by 'ad hoc' in person meetings to take place as and when required, by agreement (and working sub-groups).
3. Meeting frequency to be reviewed as required, by majority agreement.
4. Working sub-groups terms of reference / work programmes need to be agreed by Programme Board. Key updates from each working group will form a standing item on Programme Board meeting agendas.
5. Board members will be required to delegate to others if not in attendance, and if not in regular attendance will be removed from the group.
6. Quorum for meetings is 5.
7. Board membership may be reviewed as required, by majority agreement.
8. Communications - All members of the Panel are responsible for communicating the work of the Board internally within their own organisations. The Environment Agency will be responsible for communicating decisions, achievements, and benefits of the Board externally, in doing this they may call on the support of partner comms teams.
9. The Board and its membership are required to demonstrate agile and flexible ways of working.
10. The key principles the Board and its members are required to work to are - Openness, Honesty, Leadership, Integrity, Accountability, Objectivity, and Selflessness.

#### Current Membership

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Role in Programme Board</b>	<b>Signature</b>
Environment Agency	Chair, Secretariat, reporting progress to LDNPP.	Andy Brown – Cumbria & Lancashire EPE Manager
Freshwater Biological Association	Member	Simon Johnson - Director
Lake District Foundation	Member	Sarah Swindley - Director
Lake District National Park Authority	Member	Steve Ratcliffe – Director of Sustainable Development
National Farmers Union	Member	David Hall – Regional Director NW
National Trust	Member	Laura Ruxton – General Manager
South Cumbria Rivers Trust	Member	Pete Evoy/ Mike West
Westmorland and Furness Council	Member	Claire Gould – Assistant Director – Climate and Natural Env Giles Archibald – Portfolio Lead Climate and Biodiversity
United Utilities	Member	Kevin Sayers - Area Engagement Lead (Cumbria)
Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership	Member	Nigel Wilkinson – CLEP Board Member

The above list represents the Board's core membership. It is possible if agreed by the majority of Board members to co-opt additional representatives / experts onto the Board as required. Other representatives and interested parties will be invited to contribute to additional thematic working groups.