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## The Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP) Terms of Reference

The Manhood Peninsula Partnership (MPP) is a Standing Conference for the Manhood Peninsula. Its aim is to promote, develop and support initiatives that deliver economic, social and environmental benefits to the coastal communities on the Manhood Peninsula.

The Partnership has forged a new way of working together for the benefit of the peninsula and its people; it has helped create a wider understanding of local issues; it has promoted forward thinking. As a community led initiative, it provides a representative local forum and brings together key organisations: local groups, local and national government agencies, and other bodies.

Sustainable transport, surface water management and a sustainable coast are essential in maintaining well-functioning communities on the peninsula. Complementing this is a sustainable economy of which the visitor economy is the main driver.

The Partnership has a proven track record of project delivery. Its success relies on its ability to promote a multi-agency approach that fosters trust and cooperation and brings together different funding schemes, including giving access to funding denied to local councils or small organisations. The achievements of the MPP are recognised locally, nationally and internationally.

### Objectives of the MPP:

The MPP wishes to reflect what community consultation says the Manhood Peninsula should continue to be:

*'low key, tranquil, relatively unspoilt and undeveloped, isolated, semi-rural, sustainable (in its widest sense, economic, social and environmental), and, whilst maintaining unique qualities, providing economic security and an important link between the South Downs and the sea'*

The following principle was identified as an important part of creating a sustainable vision  
*"Safety from flooding, economic security and maintenance of the unique qualities of the area."*

The Partnership will seek meaningful and practical results for these key objectives:

**Environmental management** - enhancing the strong sense of place through the renewal of local historic and landscape character, sustainable water quality, a well-managed coast including the marine environment and coastal risk management, biodiversity, and facilitating adaptation to climate change.

**Social wellbeing** – community engagement, trust, co-operation and participation in local governance; and promotion of inspiration and enjoyment of the area through enhancing access, interpretation and understanding of the local environment.

**Economic regeneration** - sustainable economic development and regeneration - enabling businesses to grow, promoting successful business sectors and new business opportunities and providing high quality employment opportunities.

### **Working practices and aims**

The Partnership seeks to obtain consensus on issues between all organisations through open discussion. It meets quarterly and aims to:

- Improve and promote inter-sectoral integration, co-ordination, communication and understanding between those involved in the Manhood Peninsula
- Secure a proactive approach to identify, manage, increase awareness, and mitigate the impacts of climate change.
- Bring together different skills, knowledge and resources to identify and enable the most beneficial delivery of projects and strategies.
- Provide opportunities for wider community participation and interaction
- Include and celebrate project contributions by volunteers

The work that has been delivered to date through the Partnership has helped to:

- Raise awareness of climate change throughout the community
- Allow residents to understand some of the pressures facing local authorities
- Encourage greater dialogue and cohesion between the numerous agencies and stakeholders in the area
- Increased understanding of the issues affecting the Peninsula.
- Put the Manhood “on the map” in terms of its positive approach to climate change

The Partnership forms working groups as required and invites persons outside its membership to contribute as appropriate. At present there are three working groups – Green Links across the Manhood (**GLaM**); Surface Water Issues and Solutions (**SWISH**); Crustaceans, Habitat And Sediment Movement (**CHASM**).

The partnership meets online to reduce the collective carbon footprint of the group by reducing car journeys. Opportunities for external funding have been and will continue to be sought, particularly for project implementation.

The MPP will not take views on individual domestic and business planning applications. However shared responses in the form of Key Policy Statements agreed by all partners, and comments on local and national government consultations that affect the Peninsula will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

### **Action programme**

The MPP aims to continue its work through pursuing projects and ensuring matters of significance to the peninsula are discussed and actioned by Partners. Ensuring the peninsula is increasingly resilient socially, economically and environmentally in the face of flooding and climate change, is a significant ambition for the peninsula. Actions include securing

opportunities for economic regeneration, including managed ecotourism, and realising the full potential of the Medmerry Managed Realignment scheme by improving physical links to adjacent towns and businesses to the east and west of Medmerry.

Key Statements on issues and opportunities for the peninsula have been produced. The initial statement on Green Links across the Manhood Peninsula (GLaM) was followed by statements on The Economy of The Manhood Peninsula, and Drainage across the Manhood Peninsula.

### **Achievements and Future Direction**

The Partnership has a proven track record of project delivery and has itself implemented or enabled projects on the Manhood Peninsula worth over £1,000,000. Major achievements, financial and non financial, include:

- The “Going Dutch 1” workshop in 2001. The Medmerry Managed Realignment Scheme was a direct outcome. Medmerry is now recognised internationally, has received UK architectural recognition, is part of the UK National Curriculum, and has been the subject of many academic papers.
- The ESPACE programme in 2004-07 and adoption of the “Climate for Change on the Manhood Peninsula – Adaptation Action Plan” in 2006.
- The “Going Dutch 2” workshop in 2008 and the MPP’s role in gaining understanding and acceptance of the Coastal Defence Strategy and the Medmerry proposals
- The Coastal Change Pathfinder project 2009-11; adoption by Chichester District Council of the integrated coastal zone management plan “Towards ICZM on the Manhood Peninsula”.
- The inclusion of policies on ICZM (Integrated Coastal Zone Management) and the Manhood Peninsula in the District Council’s Local Plan.
- Creation of a Destination Management Plan (DMP) aimed at furthering the prospects for green tourism and economic regeneration.
- Development of partnership links with respect to advancing sustainable transport links across the Manhood Peninsula, and the creation of the MPP subgroup Green Links across the Manhood (GLaM) in 2012.
- Development of partnership links between Flood Action Groups and decision-making bodies on the Manhood Peninsula, and the creation of the MPP subgroup Surface Water Issues and Solutions (SWISH) in 2016.
- Partnership working with Selsey Town Council and the Selsey fishery on the Selsey Haven feasibility project in 2016 and subsequent projects, notably Sea’s the Day in 2018-2020.
- Development of partnership links in response to questions from the Selsey fishermen with respect to decline in lobster catch and increase in sediment, and the creation of the MPP subgroup Crustaceans, Habitat And Sediment Movement (CHASM) in 2020.

### **Membership**

The Peninsula area includes the following parishes: Apuldram, Birdham, Donnington, Earnley, East Wittering and Bracklesham, Hunston, North Mundham, Selsey, Sidlesham, West Itchenor and West Wittering. The Partnership consists of representatives from Parish Councils, local groups and from organisations with statutory responsibilities on the Manhood Peninsula. The following organisations are currently members of the Partnership:

- Chichester Canal Trust

- Chichester District Council (including MPP Secretariat)
- Chichester Harbour Conservancy
- Environment Agency
- Manhood Wildlife & Heritage Group
- Marine Management Organisation (MMO)
- National Trust
- Natural England
- Parish Councils on the Manhood Peninsula: Apuldram; Birdham; Donnington; Earnley; East Wittering; Hunston; North Mundham; Selsey; Sidlesham; West Itchenor; West Wittering.
- Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)
- Selsey Town Council
- Sussex Association of Local Councils
- The Great Sussex Way
- West Sussex County Council
- Wittering Estate

### **Resources**

The Partnership, including the MPP Project Officer, is supported financially by Chichester District Council and the town and parish councils on the peninsula.

The Partnership is currently chaired by Joan Foster and supported by three Project Leaders, Carolyn Cobbold, Paul Bedford and Jane Cunningham. The chairman is elected annually in June. A Vice Chairman is also elected.

The Partnership Project Officer, Jane Cunningham, is hosted by the District Council. Her role includes:

- Initiating, developing and managing/delivering project work
- Co-ordinating and supporting the Manhood Peninsula Partnership
- Supporting the MPP sub-groups GLaM and SWISH
- Leading the MPP sub-group CHASM
- Providing a first point of contact for the public and the media
- Seeking and administering funding
- Publicising and promoting relevant events and information.

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### **Origins of the MPP**

The Peninsula lies south of Chichester, West Sussex. It has significant open coast, beaches and three environmentally important areas – Chichester and Pagham Harbours, and the Medmerry Managed Realignment Scheme. In common with many areas in southeast England and northwest Europe, it faces significant land-use pressures likely to be exacerbated by climate change.

In March 2001, an intensive five-day workshop – “Going Dutch on the Manhood Peninsula” - brought together local people and specialists from the Netherlands and the UK to look at future options. Participants examined conflicting problems including water management; coastal defence; pressure for development; ecological, environmental and infrastructure

issues; agriculture, industry and leisure/ tourism issues; maintaining sustainable communities and increasing community awareness and participation.

The desired outcomes - safety from flooding, economic security and maintenance of the unique qualities of the area - led participants to establish the Manhood Peninsula Partnership in 2002.

Further information about the **Manhood Peninsula Partnership** can be found at:

<http://peninsulapartnership.org.uk/>

Or by contacting the MPP Project Officer, Jane Cunningham:

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