

**From:** [SM-Defra-localnaturecoverystrategies \(DEFRA\)](#)  
**To:** [Laurie Heykoop](#); [Felix Kumi-Ampofo](#)  
**Cc:** [Hunston, Tash](#); [Duncan, Paul](#); [Packer, Sam](#)  
**Subject:** Provisional LNRS responsible authority appointment - South Yorkshire Combined Authority  
**Date:** 23 February 2022 16:06:38

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Dear Laurie and Felix,

We are writing following previous communication with you regarding preparations for the roll-out of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) across England.

Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a new, England-wide system of spatial strategies that will establish priorities and map proposals for specific actions to drive nature's recovery and provide wider environmental benefits. They will, for each area that they cover: agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing habitat for nature, and map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

As part of this new measure of the Environment Act 2021, we have been in conversation with local authorities, umbrella organisations, Natural England and other government departments to determine appropriate geographical areas on which to prepare a LNRS. The proposed scale for LNRSs aims to enable effective join up with the planning system alongside taking ecological considerations across a sufficiently large scale, as well as being meaningful for local stakeholders to engage.

Ahead of formal appointments of responsible authorities by the Secretary of State for the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra), we are writing to confirm with you that South Yorkshire Combined Authority (CA) is considered the provisional responsible authority for the LNRS for South Yorkshire. This provisional agreement is made on the understanding that South Yorkshire CA have agreed this with other local authorities in the proposed LNRS area, and we request that they are kept informed and involved as we progress towards formal appointment.

**This provisional appointment is made at official level and is non-binding.** Formal appointments with Defra Secretary of State as set out in the Environment Act 2021 can be expected in the coming months following further detail being made available concerning regulations, guidance and funding from April 2022 onwards to cover LNRS preparation.

Once we have provisional agreements in place, Defra will be able to offer a small amount of seed funding in the form of a Section 31 grant (around £12,000 per responsible authority). This should hopefully help facilitate your preparations and preparedness and is ahead of (and in addition to) further resourcing confirmations for Summer 2022 roll-out.

A response to this email confirming you are content to proceed with provisional appointment as responsible authority for an LNRS area covering South Yorkshire CA area and will allow us to proceed with allocating initial seed funding and deepen our discussions with you in the coming weeks. Please copy into your reply the Chief Finance Officer of South Yorkshire CA so that they are aware of the incoming Section 31 grant.

**We would kindly request a swift response by Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**, and are of course available

to answer any questions either via direct email to Tash Hunston, [tash.hunston@defra.gov.uk](mailto:tash.hunston@defra.gov.uk) / Sam Packer, [sam.packer@defra.gov.uk](mailto:sam.packer@defra.gov.uk) or via the mailbox, [localnaturerecoverystrategies@defra.gov.uk](mailto:localnaturerecoverystrategies@defra.gov.uk).

Kind regards,  
Local Nature Recovery Strategies team, Defra.

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