

Local Nature Recovery Strategy Overview & Scrutiny Committee

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What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

❑ Brought into legislation under the Environment Act 2021

❑ In Defra's words, they will...

...“identify locations to create or improve habitat most likely to provide the greatest benefit for nature and the wider environment”

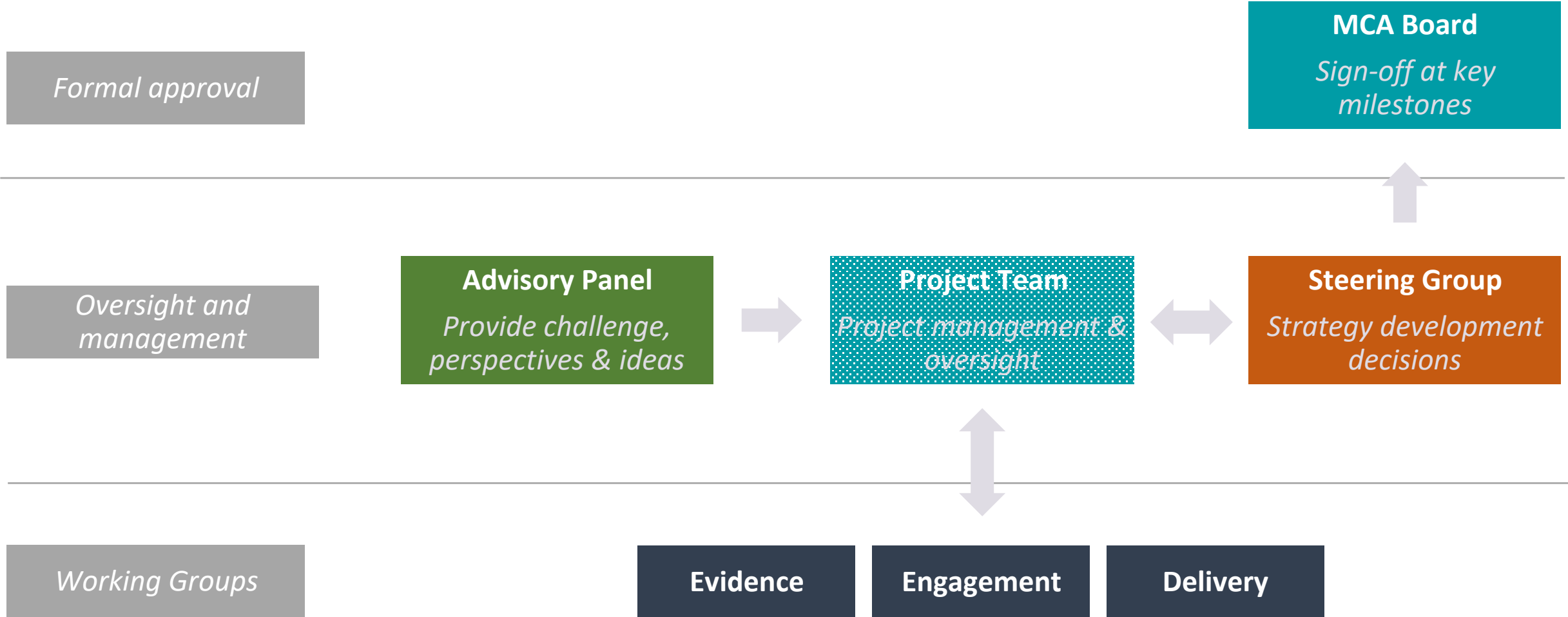
... “help communities map out the action needed in their area to restore nature, working closely with local stakeholders, from farmers to school children”

❑ South Yorkshire is one of 48 strategy areas in England. Each one will:

- ✓ agree priorities for nature's recovery
- ✓ map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- ✓ establish shared proposals for what action they should take to recover nature and where

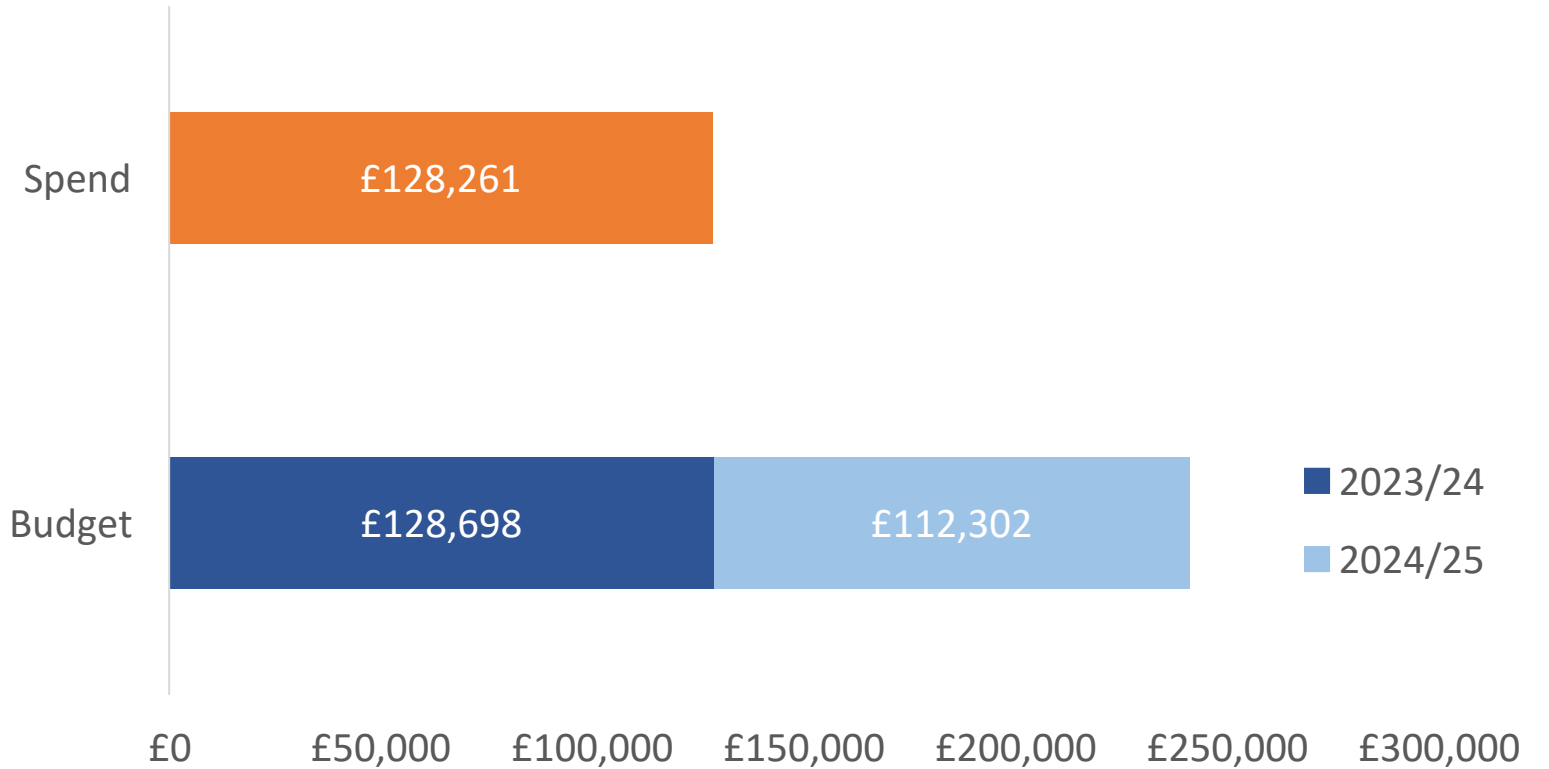
❑ Delivery mechanisms: Biodiversity Net Gain, direct funding streams, utilities, landowners (all sectors)

Overarching governance



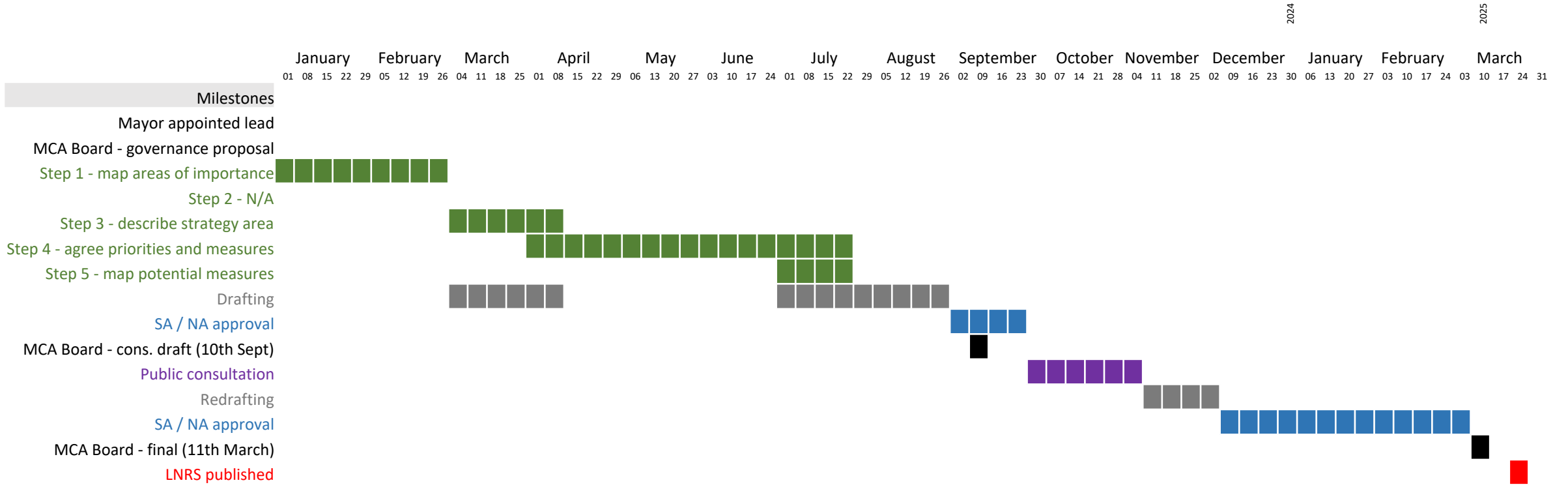
Budget and spend

- ❑ Section 31 Grant provided by Defra across two financial years
- ❑ Purpose of funding is for expenditure preparing strategy only i.e. not for projects or delivery



Project management

- Approvals process allows for full cabinet sign off for post- but not pre-consultation
- The timeline is consistent with a March '25 publication – not a requirement but expectation from Defra
- MCA Board will sign off ahead of consultation and publication



Working Groups

Evidence

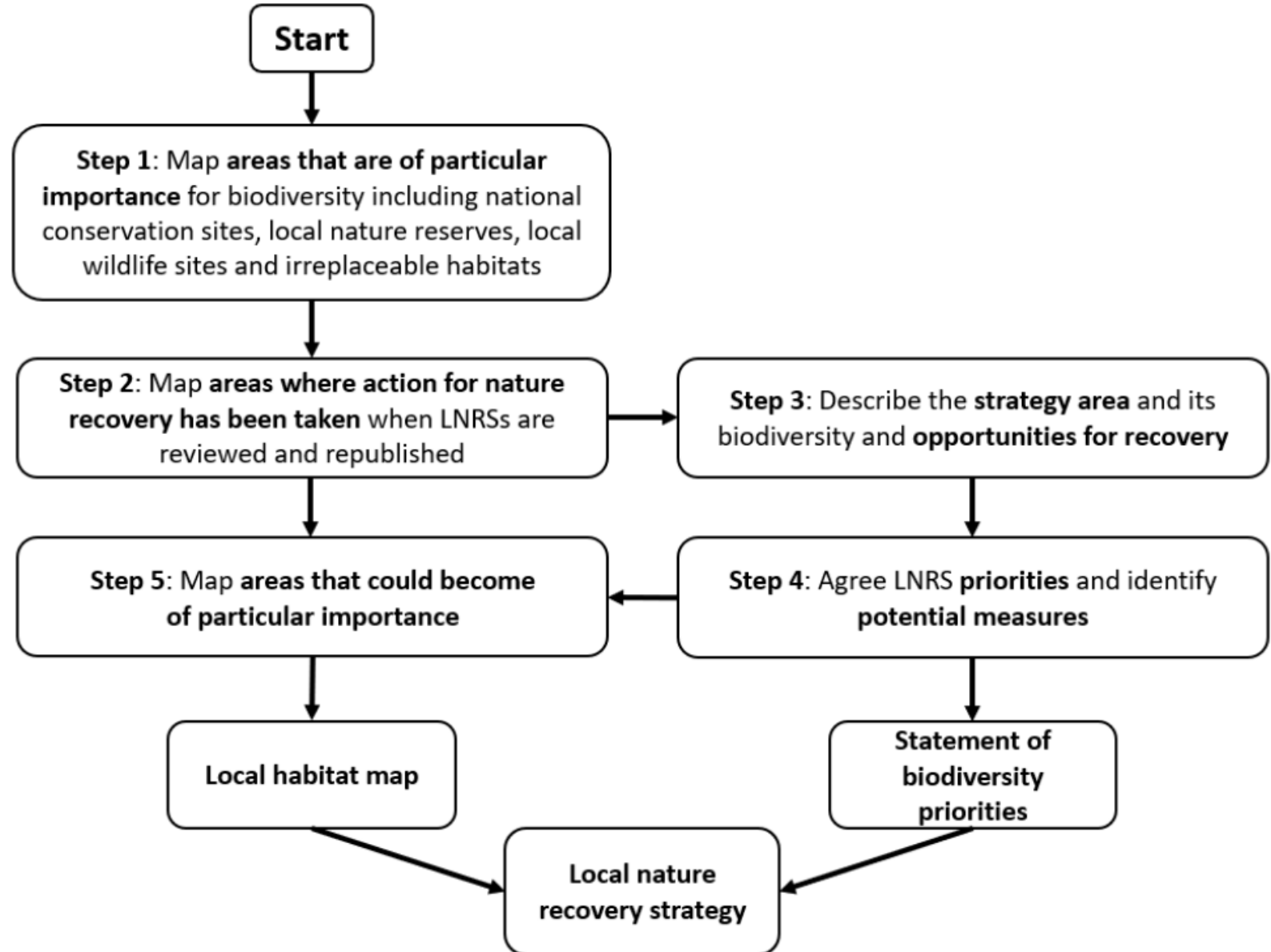
Engagement

Delivery

Update

- Mapping 'areas of particular importance' through submissions (SYMCA hosting portal)
- Commissioning additional capacity and expertise (March-July):
 - Undertaking call for evidence – looking beyond national/official datasets
 - Ecological expert advisory role – ongoing advice, curating engagement materials
 - Drafting descriptive sections of Strategy – drawing evidence together for a regional nature narrative
 - Place-based community engagement events – targeted to hear from wide variety of people and places
 - Facilitated workshop series – place-based in-depth discussions on nature priorities
 - Public survey – wide reach across the region
- Exploring delivery mechanisms – private funding models, community/household role, voluntary/conservation sector, discrete funding opportunities, interaction with planning system

Anticipated process





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