



River Partnerships in London (RiPL)

The RiPL mission is to provide a collective voice for London's rivers, raising their profile at a strategic level to deliver catchment scale on the ground action and make London a global leader in the management and restoration of urban river catchments

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Agreed:

Review due:

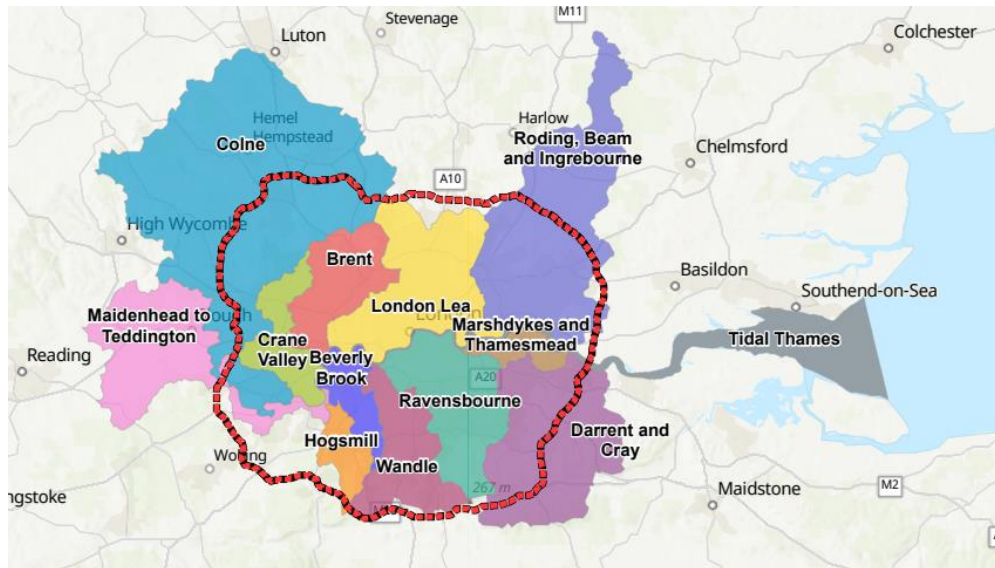
****Please note, this document has no formal legal status****

Version control

Version	Changes	Date
V1	First draft shared with working group	
V2	Second draft shared with working group	13/06/23
V3	Second draft shared with steering group	23/08/23
V4	Final draft shared with steering group (with steering group comments included)	24/10/2023
V5	ToR updated to update part 6.3 and clarify part 6.1	25/03/2024

1. Purpose and scope

- 1.1. The purpose of RiPL is to provide a collective voice for catchment hosting organisations that operate wholly or partially within the Greater London boundary; to increase influence and impact in addressing priority River Basin Management objectives affecting London's waterbodies, whilst linking into other related environmental strategies.
- 1.2. The RiPL area, constituent catchments, and listed host organisations (the M25 is shown as a red dotted line):



- **Beverly Brook Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by South East Rivers Trust)
- **Brent Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by Thames21)
- **Crane Valley Partnership** (Hosted by Crane Valley CiC)
- **Darrent and Cray Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by South East Rivers Trust)
- **Hogsmill Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by South East Rivers Trust)
- **London Lea Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by Thames21)
- **Maidenhead to Teddington (Lower Thames) Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by Thames21)
- **Marsh Dykes and Thamesmead Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by Thames21 and London Wildlife Trust)
- **Ravensbourne Catchment Improvement Group** (Hosted by Thames21)
- **River Colne Catchment Action Network** (Groundwork South and Chilterns Chalk Stream Project)
- **Roding, Beam and Ingrebourne Catchment Partnership** (Co-hosted by Thames21 and Thames Chase Trust)
- **Wandle Catchment Partnership** (Hosted by South East Rivers Trust)
- **Your Tidal Thames Catchment Partnership** (Co-hosted by Thames21 and Thames Estuary Partnership)

2. Vision

2.1. The RiPL vision is for:

“Healthy, free flowing rivers teeming with wildlife to be at the heart of a climate resilient London.”

3. Mission

3.1. The RiPL mission is to provide a collective voice for London's rivers, raising their profile at a strategic level to deliver catchment scale on the ground action and make London a global leader in the management and restoration of urban river catchments.

4. Objectives

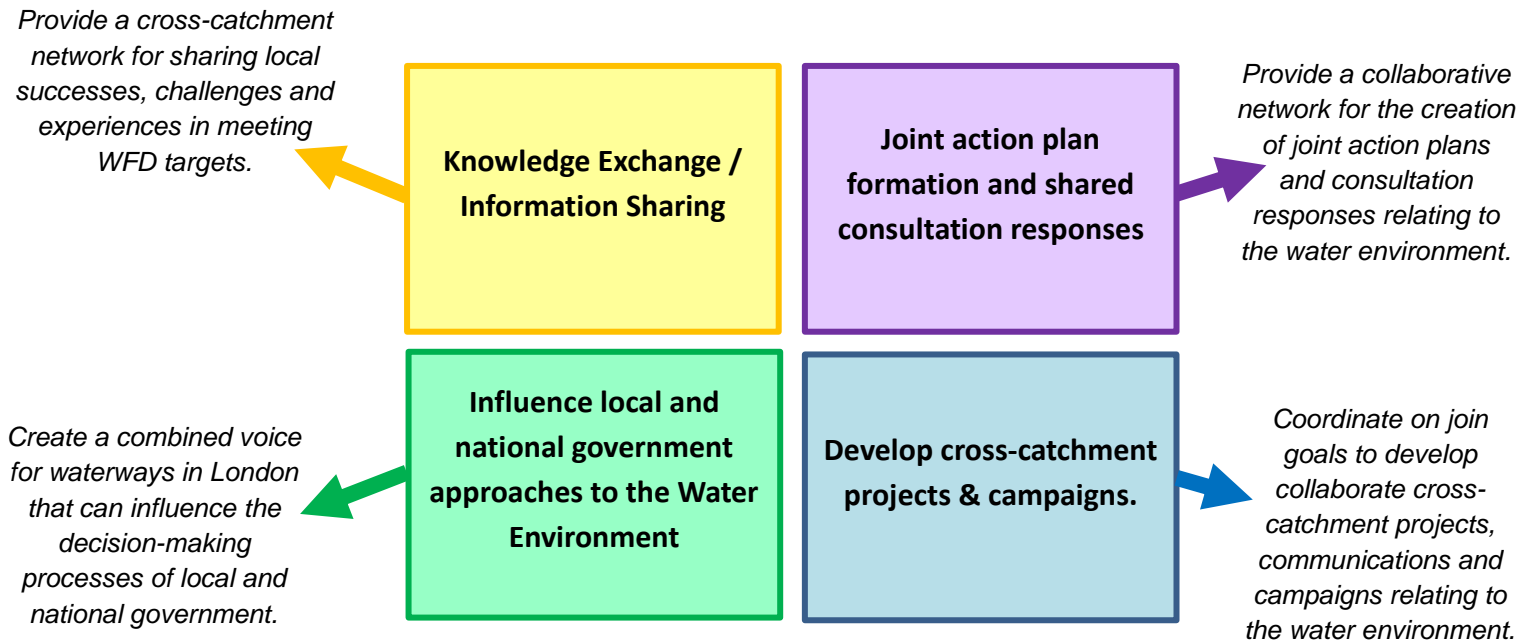
4.1. RiPL will:

- Share best practise between catchment partnership groups.
- Facilitate a co-ordinated approach to tackling and making progress on issues that are common to all catchments in London.
- Increase access to London-wide, national or international funds for local delivery within operational catchments.
- Achieve a more powerful combined voice to champion water quality, quantity and habitats than could be achieved by partnerships acting alone.
- Promote and encourage use of the London Rivers Action Plan to promote and report on delivery of river restoration and enhancement projects. Make available information on projects and plans in localities throughout London.
- Provide a London-wide point of contact for organisations and wider initiatives to facilitate communication and action.
- Provide a unified voice on national policy consultations that impact urban rivers and to strategically campaign, lobby and advocate for healthier urban rivers.
- RiPL acts as an independent partnership group that focuses solely on the improvement of London's river networks. The RiPL group sits separately to other nature, climate and environmental partnerships in London but will support these plans and targets where goals overlap.
- Pool resources to improve public engagement in issues and opportunities surrounding London's rivers.

Achieve these objectives by working in a co-operative cross-organisational way that avoids competition and builds positive collaborative relationships.

5. Methods

5.1. The objectives of RiPL stated in section 3 will be achieved through the following methods:



6. RiPL Working Group

6.1. The key decisions of RiPL will be made by the RiPL Steering Group. The RiPL steering group delegate authority to the RiPL Working Group to action these decisions through the most effective routes, decided during quarterly Working Group meetings. RiPL Working Group members will report back on progress against these decisions during bi-annual Steering Group meetings.

6.2. The Working Group and wider Steering Group will be administered and hosted by Thames21 (barring a situation where a new wider group chair is selected- see point 8.2) whose role it is to facilitate meetings and set agendas with assistance from the steering group.

6.3. The members of the Working Group are the signatories to the Terms of Reference:

- Thames21 (Host)
- Environment Agency
- South East Rivers Trust
- ZSL
- London Wildlife Trust
- Thames Water

A space on the Working Group is also reserved for a member of the GLA, should capacity in their team become available.

6.4. Each Working Group member organisation will nominate one or more representatives who will attend Working Group meetings, represent the views of the organisation as a whole, and have delegated authority to make decisions regarding RiPL on the organisation's behalf. They will represent RiPL to their organisation and will seek input from relevant colleagues and departments as necessary and appropriate.

6.5. The RiPL Working Group will act as the decision-making body, with the wider Steering Group feeding into the priorities and direction of the Working Group.

7. Wider Steering Group

7.1. The wider RiPL Steering Group consists of hosts of the catchment partnerships operating within the Greater London Boundary, and other interested organisations that operate on a London-wide or national basis. These organisations include (but are not limited to):

- Affinity Water
- Canal and Rivers Trust
- Chilterns Chalk Stream Project
- Crane Valley CiC
- Environment Agency
- Greater London Authority
- Groundwork South
- London Wildlife Trust
- Port of London Authority
- RSPB
- South East Rivers Trust
- Sutton and East Surrey Water
- Thames Chase Trust
- Thames Estuary Partnership
- Thames Landscape Strategy
- Thames Water

- Thames21
- The Rivers Trust
- Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
- ZSL

7.2 The views of the Stakeholder Group will be considered by the Working Group but are not bound to them.

8. Meetings

8.1. The wider Steering Group meeting will be held twice a year and announced two months in advance. The meetings will take the form of workshops to decide on the priorities the RiPL steering group will work on and update on progress against these. The wider stakeholder group will be kept up to date on progress against these actions via email communications and targeted meetings.

8.2. At the end of each second annual meeting, members of the wider group will be able to put themselves forward as to chair RiPL group for the next year (two full meetings). This will then be decided upon by a vote conducted by RiPL members. Thames21 will provide the elected chair with administrative support to organise these meetings.

8.3. The Working Group will meet quarterly to review priorities, agree on agendas and progress actions.

9. Communications

9.1. A shared cloud storage system will be established with access available to members of the Working Group and Steering Group. This will act as an online space to hold information of relevance to RiPL.

9.2. Minutes of the Working Group and wider Steering Group will be saved to the shared cloud storage space within a reasonable time of meetings.

9.3. Joint communications mentioning endorsement by RiPL must be agreed by Working Group consensus in advance of publication.

10. Finances

10.1 RiPL is not a separate legal entity and does not hold funds.

11. Amendments

11.1 Amendments to these Terms of Reference may be proposed by any two members in reasonable time in advance of a meeting.