



Job Title: Chair – Usk Catchment Partnership *Multi-Stakeholder Group on river and catchment health*

Location: Various within Usk catchment

Commitment: Part-time/Fixed term 6 month (likely potential for renewal)

Reports to: Core Group/Knowledge Hub

About the Usk Catchment Partnership

The Usk Catchment Partnership is a collaborative programme dedicated to conserving and enhancing the natural resources of the Usk Catchment area. Our diverse group of stakeholders works together to promote sustainable management practices, protect valuable habitats, and foster a thriving ecosystem for the benefit of nature and the wellbeing of the communities that live within and around the catchment.

Set up in 2023, the Partnership has led the way in holistic and innovative approaches towards understanding the complex interactions that have led to water quality failures in some of our most precious catchments. We are committed to listening, valuing and responding to both the voice of nature and to communities (past, current and future) in shaping and leading how we as guardians, decision makers and citizens work to protect and restore this living ecosystem.

Role Overview:

We are seeking an experienced and visionary **Chair** who has the confidence, drive and determination to help the partnership coalesce around an ambitious shared vision:

“By 2043 everyone will be able to enjoy a river full of thriving wildlife, sheltered by trees, bordered by a thriving mosaic of habitats where regenerative practices produce high quality foods, manage the flows of water whilst storing carbon and in doing so support a sustainable local economy”

The right person will steer this collaborative Partnership to deliver and develop our approaches to responding to the call of the river to improve **land management, river and catchment health**, and driving **systems change** in food and land use across the Usk Catchment in South Wales. The Chairperson will guide the group in adopting **catchment-based approaches** that integrate community, environmental, and agricultural priorities across landscapes, working in a way which embeds and demonstrates Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015) Goals and Sustainable Development Principles.



This role demands a strong leader with a **proven track record in project delivery**, participatory approaches that encourage collaboration and shared responsibility. The

Chairperson will ensure that the group remains inclusive, focused, accountable and aligned with the Vision, alongside wider environmental, social, and economic objectives.

This role will be supported by the Usk Catchment Project Manager and a secretariat provided via Bannau Brycheiniog National Park

Desirable skills and experience:

The Chair will provide a coordination role to the Partnership and will demonstrate the following qualities:

Leadership & Governance

- A passion and commitment to our vision and ambition to deliver a holistic and place-based approach which deliver multiple benefits through inclusive and equitable partnerships.
- Curiosity and boldness to explore, innovate, challenge (yourself and others) to explore and test the solutions needed, balancing short-medium and long-term needs and outcomes.
- Strategy and foresight – a demonstrable ability to look ahead and identify key issues for Freshwater Health in the Usk Catchment, through policy scanning, future trends analysis and conversations.
- Experience of working at Board level/holding a responsible position in a private, public or third sector organisation.
- Knowledge of relevant sectors which might include; Planning, Drinking Water Supply, Land Management and Wastewater Treatment.
- Experience of leading, monitoring and reporting on the performance of more complex organisations, ideally including partnerships.
- Sound judgment, sensitivity and political awareness and a proven track record in building effective relationships with a range of stakeholders and interest groups.
- An ability to understand complex issues and information and experience of convening challenging discussions and potential conflicts to support the Partnership members in reaching strategic decisions in relation to them.

Catchment-Based Systems Thinking

- Champion a missions led integrated catchment approach that considers upstream-downstream dynamics, land use and water quality in the context of future climate change trends
- Adopt a systems-based approach to consider and explore changes in food, land management and organisational interaction, which would support the local economy, regenerative practices, nature-based solutions, and sustainable



transitions that align with cultural and heritage priorities on a local and wider scale.

- Understand the catchment as a resource supporting communities locally with supplies of water, food and other materials beyond our boundaries
- Alongside data and evidence, use stories, culture and arts to engage, inspire and connect to nature and the river.

The role involves the following activities:

- Chair regular stakeholder meetings, ensuring inclusive and productive dialogue.
- Oversee the implementation of resolutions and directives.
- Oversee the ownership and delivery of actions and consideration of future governance models which might include 'Rights of the River.'
- Advise on reporting to funders and other communications as required
- Provide strategic direction and oversight to the project manager and partnership, ensuring alignment with Nutrient Management Plan objectives for delivery of Nature Based Solutions across catchment in line with regulatory frameworks.
- Foster a culture of transparency, collaboration, and accountability.
- Ensure that interventions are evidence-based, scalable, and aligned with long-term environmental resilience

Project Delivery

- Support the Project Manager to ensure the timely and effective delivery of actions and key projects and initiatives across the catchment by various partners.
- Monitor progress against milestones, budgets, and performance indicators.
- Identify risks and implement mitigation strategies to ensure successful outcomes.

Stakeholder Engagement and Involvement

- Act as a neutral and respected figurehead, balancing diverse interests across sectors (e.g., agriculture, conservation, local government, community groups).
- Build and maintain strong relationships with all partners and external stakeholders.
- Ensure the voice of the river, communities and future generations is heard and responded to.
- Work with partners to support and inform activities and communications that increase connectivity to nature, the river and the resources provided to increase and widen our engagement, connection and support inclusive participation.

Strategic Planning

- Guide the development and implementation of long-term strategies for land and water stewardship.



- Ensure that scientific evidence, community input, and policy considerations inform decision-making by working with the Chair of the Usk Catchment Partnership Knowledge

Reporting & Communication

- Oversee the preparation of reports, briefings, and communications to stakeholders and funders.
- Ensure clear, consistent messaging and promote the partnership's achievements.

Term & Remuneration:

Approximately Fixed term for 6 months, with likelihood of a one year extension
We invite submissions (to include your remuneration costs **to a maximum of £12,000**) based on approximately 12 days input per quarter. This equates to a consultancy rate of £500 a day. Expenses will be paid based on agreement at interview.

The UCP Secretariat will review submissions by interested parties and invite a shortlisted number for interview.

We welcome applications from individuals of all backgrounds, including those from underrepresented groups and people with disabilities. We're committed to inclusive, diverse, and representative leadership within our partnership.

How to Apply

Please submit a summary cv and statement of suitability (maximum 2 pages) which outline how you would apply your skills and experience in this role and your motivation in applying.

Deadline for application :25th September 2025 – please email your application to uskpartnership@beacons-npa.gov.uk – A short interview will be held on 3rd October 2025