

The River Regeneration Trust

Strategic Plan 2014-2015

THE RIVER REGENERATION TRUST OBJECTS ARE:

To open up the river corridor and re-connect it with the local community; to promote and encourage leisure and sustainable development, creating homes, employment and lifestyle opportunities, whilst maintaining the heritage of the river; to bring about investment from the public and private sectors; to liaise with landowners and stakeholders to ensure their projects and aspirations reflect those of Bath and North East Somerset Council and its Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan; to meet the demands of Bath as a World Heritage Site; to assist in dealing with flood issues making the river corridor a safer place to live and invest; to protect biodiversity by maintaining and enhancing a healthy ecosystem.

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The River Regeneration Trust Strategic Plan 2014-2015

Aim

The overall aim of The River Regeneration Trust (TRRT) in 2014-2015 is to establish a presence in the Boathouse alongside Pulteney Weir in Bath and prioritise its activities to help facilitate and support the flood, safety and regeneration projects within Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES).

Objectives

TRRT will focus on seven key priorities in 2014-2015 in order to establish TRRT headquarters in a refurbished Boathouse, employ one administration staff, initiate TRRT Membership, facilitate opportunities of interest to B&NES and support existing regeneration and flood conveyance projects in Bath River Corridor. TRRT will use existing Trustees, Board Members and new staff as well as technical support and guidance from Council, Agencies and Stakeholders where required.

TRRT will continue to report to the Economic & Community Development Scrutiny Panel on TRRT Progress, B&NES River Strategy and support of John Wilkinson Major Projects and Economic Strategy. It will also contribute to the Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan to ensure riverside projects are informed of all things river including safety and visitor contributions. This will complement the WoE Local Enterprise Partnership and B&NES Sustainability Delivery Programmes.

TRRT will support Officers, Departments and Agencies secure regional, national and European funds for major projects and flood defence schemes, including state-of-the-art facilities for manufacturing and skilled employment associated with the Circular Economy, Payments for Ecosystem Services and Technology Strategy Board Innovation Awards.

Where we are, what we have done

TRRT has been incorporated as a Private Company Limited by Guarantee with an business account at Barclays and Legal Documents prepared by Jordans Limited and Bennetts Solicitors Attorneys & Notaries. We have seven Trustees and a growing number of Board Members who represent the key political standings, agencies and eventually other Stakeholders. We have delivered our first Scoping Study for B&NES on Broadmead Peninsula and are ready to procure refurbishment of the Boathouse at Pultney Weir using secured funds. We also contributed to the B&NES Task & Finish Group for Boat Dwellers and River Travelers'.

We have established key relationships with Richard Parry, CEO of the Canal & River Trust (CRT), and David Elliott Director of Environment & Assets for Wessex Water (WW) who along with the Environment Agency (EA) and Black & Veatch (B&V), we are planning major flood prevention and flood/drought management initiatives on behalf of B&NES Council. We have presented our B&NES River RoadMap to Cabinet, Councils, Officers and the peoples of Bath & Keynsham and have further plans to present to Saltford and other key Borough Councils. We are currently arranging with Mathew Smith and his Team establishment of a cobra-style panel of key Council and Agency representatives to respond to and facilitate a joined-up strategy for flood defence, flood conveyance and flood/drought prevention across the catchment. This will align with, not replace existing initiatives within and outside the Council and under the watchful and critical eye of B&NES Canal & River Champion and our Vice Chair, Councilor Dave Laming.

Strategic Priorities 2014-2015

TRRT will provide a 'pathfinder' Trust to complement the evolving Canal and River Trust and act as a demonstration 'flagship' for the B&NES River Strategy. It will direct best use of the River Avon catchment within B&NES through strategically placed, flood resilient, socially integrated, economically viable and environmentally beneficial projects for wildlife and river communities alike.

TRRT will assist B&NES and the core Agencies provide ways of living, working, resting and playing with flood risk and seek the creation of flood defence, flood conveyance and flood prevention assets in the Bath Avon catchment zone that are economically sustainable. It will also help the World Heritage City of Bath to adopt and fully connect with this immensely valuable river asset for current and future generations. Our current priorities for 2014-2015 are:

1. Establish the Boathouse as TRRT Headquarters
2. Employ one staff to administrate TRRT Headquarters and Memberships
3. Investigate Pulteney Weir lock gate, Bath Rugby & B&NES Moorings
4. Facilitate Bath East Marina & Waterside Sports Park/Meadowland
5. Facilitate Broadmead Environment Park and access road
6. Facilitate Avon Valley Marina, Constructed Wetlands & Water Ecology Park
7. Support Green Park Riverside flood conveyance scheme