



## **Our Vision:**

A healthy and wildlife-rich water environment within the Aire and Calder that is valued and enjoyed, bringing increasing social and economic benefits to all.

By 'Healthy' we mean: in terms of water quality, hydrology and ecological habitats, including ecological connectivity throughout the Aire and Calder, and resilience to future change.

By 'water environment' we mean: rivers, streams, canals, ponds, lakes, and wetlands, including areas of land that drain into them, or are affected by flows from them.

## **The Benefits we envisage will be environmental, economic and social:**

### **Environmental:**

The Rivers Aire and Calder and their wider water environment will form one connected ecosystem, of high ecological quality, sustainable into the long-term, and resilient to the impacts of climate change and human pressures. The improved quality and connectivity of habitats across the landscape will allow species to move over larger distances, forming robust wildlife populations for both aquatic and terrestrial species.

### **Economic:**

Our rivers and water environment will benefit economic growth and regeneration by providing an attractive, high quality environment for the setting of businesses, work places and homes. Tourists will be attracted to these high quality environments contributing to growth in the visitor economy of the region. Natural flood management through river, floodplain and catchment restoration will reduce flood risk, contributing to sustainable economic growth. The enhanced quality of the water environment will help secure the provision of ecosystem services such as flood defence and water resource management.

### **Social:**

The rivers and water environment in the Aire and Calder will be valued by the local community and will attract visitors to the area. There will be increased recreational opportunities for residents and visitors alike. People will have improved health and wellbeing from better access to a network of high value green spaces connecting the water environment via greenways and other people friendly routes.



## Our Strategic Objectives

<p><b>1. Habitats and Species (Biodiversity)</b></p> <p>1.1 Create a landscape scale ecological network of habitats, representative of location, along the river corridors by increasing the connectivity, diversity and quality of bankside habitat, and restoring fish passage and in-stream habitats to enable the recovery and sustainability of aquatic fauna and flora.</p> <p>1.2 Assess and carry out the conservation requirements of species that cannot be addressed through in channel and bankside habitat works e.g. White-clawed crayfish.</p>
<p><b>2. Water Management</b></p> <p>2.1 Improve water quality to meet Water Framework Directive Ecological Status (Potential) in the waterbodies within the catchment.</p> <p>2.2 Minimise flood risk and maximise water resources through the creation of floodplain habitat and the attenuation of water in the wider landscape.</p> <p>2.3 Engage with land managers across the wider catchment to encourage sensitive land management and land-use to maximise water attenuation, carbon sequestration and address the problems of both urban diffuse pollution and rural diffuse pollution.</p>
<p><b>3. Planning and Regeneration</b></p> <p>3.1 Work with key stakeholders, especially the LNP, to realise opportunities through the planning process and regeneration initiatives to achieve Catchment Objectives and sustainable waterways development which respects landscape character and the features within it.</p> <p>3.2 Ensure that improvements to rivers, habitats and landscape in the catchments support a healthy local economy and the well-being of local communities.</p> <p>3.3 Recommend and promote landscape management and land-use planning strategies to achieve conservation, restoration or enhancement.</p>
<p><b>4. Recreation and Leisure (including tourism and heritage)</b></p> <p>4.1 Improve peoples' access to the waterways in a strategic way which maximises the recreational resource and avoids detrimental impacts on wildlife.</p> <p>4.2 Develop the tourism potential of the waterways within the catchment.</p>
<p><b>5. Engagement and Education</b></p> <p>5.1 Facilitate the delivery of projects which help meet Catchment Partnership Objectives by empowering people to own local issues and promote and take action on local solutions, within the framework of the wider Catchment Objectives.</p> <p>5.2 Promote and help people understand the socio-economic benefits brought about by more environmentally sustainable management within the river corridors and wider catchment.</p> <p>5.3 Seek other peoples' views on how the rivers and catchments can be managed and developed in more sustainable ways.</p> <p>5.4 Coordinate existing monitoring programmes and seek to expand these geographically and thematically where relevant to meet Catchment Objectives.</p>