



**Environment and Infrastructure:  
UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man Steering Group  
Terms of Reference**

**Created by:**

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**Approved by:**

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## **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Steering Group is established under the direction of Environment and Infrastructure Committee Minute **021/12** for the purpose of developing and submitting an application to UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme the whole Isle of Man land and marine areas as a Biosphere Reserve.
- 1.2 The preparation of nomination papers and consultation stage prior to submission to UNESCO involves multiple government, private and third sector partners, with direction provided by a Steering Group. It is envisaged that this group, following the submission of the nomination papers, should evolve to become the steering group for the development of the future management plans for the Biosphere programme.
- 1.3 It can provide the IOM with a unique opportunity to show how our high quality environment, economy and community pride complement each other. The Isle of Man is unusual in that it has a remarkably diverse and robust functioning economy, unlike many Biosphere Reserve (BR) sites which have low population levels and low value economies based mainly on tourism, agriculture and fishing. Of particular relevance is the Isle of Man would be exceptional in that it is an entire jurisdiction as well as an independent economy, which has also been able to demonstrate very strong environmental, cultural and social credentials.

- 1.4 UNESCO and BR's have high brand and external reputational value for benefiting countries and businesses and groups actively associated with it, as has been seen in other locations, for example its sister programme UNESCO World Heritage Sites.
- 1.5 The implementation of BRs is flexible and how it is implemented is not prescribed. BRs are different from a binding international convention or treaty, so they do not need further regulation or any further wildlife designations, hence why it is more appropriately termed recognition or accolade not designation.

## **2 Membership**

- 2.1 Chair: Peter Longworth, DEFA,  
Vice-chair: Bernard Warden  
Biodiversity Officer Lead: Liz Charter  
MNH Representative: TBC  
DED Rep: Ken Milne  
DEC Rep: Jo Callister  
Commercial Sector Rep: tba  
General Secretary, Manx National Farmers Union  
Non-Govt Organisation Reps: EcoVannin  
Manx Wildlife Trust  
Friends of the Earth, Isle of Man  
Isle of Man Children's Centre
- 2.2 Further members may be invited onto the Group at the Groups discretion

## **3 Meetings and Minutes**

- 3.1 Formal meetings to be held regularly during nomination paper development, after which the group will move attention to Management Plans for the project, through Thematic Groups.
- 3.2 Secretarial services to be provided by DEFA.

## **4 Authority**

- 4.1 Authority for establishing this Steering Group is derived from the decision of the Environment and Infrastructure Committee, Minute Number **021/12**.

## **5 Roles and Responsibilities**

- 5.1 To act as Steering Group for submission of nomination papers (which will include data collection, consultation, drafting and final submission) and the development and oversight of management plans.
- 5.2 Reporting to E+I Cttee of any issues arising and problems experienced.

## **6 Funding**

- 6.1 No additional headcount or resources are expected or required as the programme is related to and complementary to current IoM Governmental work streams.

- 6.2 For specific activities, funding could be secured via a business case submitted to the Marketing Initiatives Fund, or Energy Initiatives Capital Fund, as per E+I Cttee Minute **021/12**.

## **7 Outcomes and Deliverables**

- 7.1 Completed submission of nomination papers following consultation and signed off by relevant Ministers, Chief Executives and Directors submitted to UNESCO by end of July 2015. Group to develop to provide ongoing steering group function and reporting structure to facilitate updates to E and I Committee and where applicable COMIN.