



Response to Cheshire & Warrington devolution consultation

April 10th, 2025

Question 6: To what extent do you agree or disagree that working across the proposed geography through a Mayoral Combined Authority will improve the local natural environment and overall national environment?

- Strongly agree

The Cheshire Wildlife Trust strongly agrees that the Mayoral Combined Authority will improve the local natural environment across Cheshire and Warrington. However, this is contingent on the authority not only taking “responsibility for coordinating delivery and monitoring of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy” but also taking responsibility for its implementation and ensuring positive outcomes. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are embedded in law through the Environment Act 2021. Cheshire’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy is in the process of being prepared with input from a large number of stakeholders to ensure it is robust and rigorous. It is essential that there is strong leadership in place to deliver the strategy and the Cheshire Wildlife Trust believes that a Mayoral Combined Authority could provide that role.

The strategy, which covers the same geographical area as the Mayoral Combined Authority, identifies the priorities for nature’s recovery mapping where actions are most needed for nature and wider environmental goals. This geographical alignment will allow for a more streamlined and comprehensive implementation of the strategy across Cheshire and Warrington as it will sit alongside other local strategies for growth, transport and development.

This strategic approach, which would take into account the opportunities and development needs of the whole region as well as locally, is key to providing the targeted delivery necessary for nature’s recovery. A Combined Authority should provide the oversight required by embedding nature’s recovery in other strategies, designing an implementation plan, organising the delivery, and ensuring monitoring and enforcement mechanisms are in place. It should also provide a regional infrastructure for conservation work and help direct funding to large-scale nature recovery projects, which will be key to addressing the biodiversity crisis and helping the transition to net zero.

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