

Consultation and representation

- Where appropriate, inform the Partner Group when developing strategy, policy, best practice, and standards and procedures, and consider subsequent feedback.
- Provide an email facility by which Partner Groups can respond directly to Trustees on issues prior to Board of Trustee meetings.
- Provide an opportunity for Partner Groups to nominate individuals to sit on the Board of Trustees. (There may be up to four Partner Bat Group Nominated Trustees on the Board at any one time.)

Support

- Champion Partner Group activities, for example via the BCT website, Bat News, and local and national media, as appropriate opportunities arise.
- Keep a record of the group's training needs, and provide skills and training advice accordingly.
- Provide a Partner Group Support Fund: Project grant to which the Partner Group can apply to support their local activities.
- Provide a conference bursary to which the Partner Group can apply to help local members attend the National Bat Conference.
- Provide equipment on loan (see Appendix 3).
- Provide a password protected Partner Group section on the BCT website. www.bats.org.uk/pages/partnergrouppages.html, which hosts resources such as the Bat Group Development Guidelines, funding opportunities, an electronic copy of Bat News, and other relevant supporting information.
- Provide a BCT Partner Group logo for the group to display on their website, in publication or funding material, as relevant.

Insurance

- Provide third party liability insurance (see Appendix 4 for details).

What the Partner Group will bring to the Partnership

In addition to the bat group's own activities, the Partner Group will:

Communication

- Nominate a contact person to liaise with BCT on behalf of the group.
- Receive the bat worker bulletin; circulate information received from BCT to bat group members, and keep BCT up to date with bat group activities.
- Inform BCT of any press releases, television or radio interviews given by the group where these may result in BCT receiving additional calls from media contacts.
- Send a copy of the local newsletter (where the group has one) to the BCT contact.

Consultation

- Where bat group resources are available, engage with local BAP initiatives (for example, contribute to a local Biodiversity Action Plan).
- Where bat group resources are available, assist BCT with appropriate national consultations (for example, supplying data for BAP reporting).

Best Practice

- Be open to having new members who are interested in the activities of the group.
- Follow the Bats and Rabies Good Practice Guidelines during bat group activities.

- Within the confines of legal obligations and agreements about the supply of data to other parties, set up a Data Exchange Agreement with the local records centre and/or share data via the NBN Gateway.
- Where practical/relevant, share information with BCT.

Supporting BCT

- Whilst determining its own work programme, a Partner Group will aim to undertake an activity, or activities, to further one or more of BCT's strategic objectives (see Appendix 5). This may include taking part in the National Bat Monitoring Programme and/or holding education events, for example.
- Promote and encourage membership of BCT, for example by providing join leaflets at local events and/or by including BCT join leaflets in welcome packs.
- Provide opt-in tick boxes on bat group membership forms, allowing contact details to be shared with BCT.
- Consider making a financial contribution to BCT's annual request for donations towards projects such as the Investigations Project, linked to what the group thinks is appropriate and affordable to them.

Each year, BCT struggles to fund certain projects which, BCT considers, are of fundamental importance to bat conservation. The Investigations Project is one such project; the Investigations Project aims to prevent and investigate bat related crime, working closely with the police, the National Wildlife Crime Unit, the statutory nature conservation organisations, bat groups, bat workers and the public. For this reason, BCT asks that the Partner Group considers making a financial contribution to this project, linked to what the group thinks is appropriate and affordable to them.

Process for reviewing the relationship

BCT will contact the group annually, via email or post, to confirm the status of the Partner Group relationship. With this, BCT will provide information about alternative options (i.e. Network Group or no formal relationship with BCT) for the group to consider, as relevant. The bat group will be asked to respond within 28 days. (This time period may be extended, by prior agreement.)

Signatures

By signing this document, both BCT and the Partner Group are agreeing to live up to the expectations set out above, understanding that flexibility may be required in some circumstances, and that this is acceptable provided the need for that flexibility is discussed and agreed with the relevant contacts up front.

It is understood that both BCT and the bat group have the option to withdraw from this agreement at any time in the year by submitting written notification to the other party.

BCT representative (print name)	
Position in BCT	
Signature	
Date	

Bat Group representative (print name)	
Position in group (e.g. chair, contact etc)	
Signature	
Date	

NB Electronic agreements will be accepted with scanned signatures. If the name(s) above have been typed (rather than hand written or scanned) a copy of the email, with which the final version is sent, should be kept on file.