

Module 5: Climate Change Planning for Green Infrastructure

Exercise 2: Discussion about Policy Formulation

The Task

The task is to consider 'What is an appropriate Green Infrastructure Policy?' Some examples are included on your table

Please discuss and agree on the following:

- Do the examples meet NPPF requirements?
- What sort of policies would be appropriate? A full policy on GI or a line as part of an overarching policy?
- How does it fit with your infrastructure plan? And CIL?
- Is there a role for any mapping / key diagram in the Local Plan?

Relevant National Planning Policy Framework GI policy

Green infrastructure: A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities.

58. Local and neighbourhood plans should develop robust and comprehensive policies that set out the quality of development that will be expected for the area. Such policies should be based on stated objectives for the future of the area and an understanding and evaluation of its defining characteristics.

Planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that developments:

- optimise the potential of the site to accommodate development, create and sustain an appropriate mix of uses (**including incorporation of green and other public space as part of developments**) and support local facilities and transport networks.

99. Local Plans should take account of climate change over the longer term, including factors such as flood risk, coastal change, water supply and changes to biodiversity and landscape. New development should be planned to avoid increased vulnerability to the range of impacts arising from climate change. **When new development is brought forward in areas which are vulnerable, care should be taken to ensure that risks can be managed through suitable adaptation measures, including through the planning of green infrastructure.**

114. Local planning authorities should:

- set out a strategic approach in their Local Plans, **planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure**; and
- maintain the character of the undeveloped coast, protecting and enhancing its distinctive landscapes, particularly in areas defined as Heritage Coast, and improve public access to and enjoyment of the coast.

Examples of Local Planning Policy

Green Infrastructure Policy 1

We will protect, maintain, enhance and create an integrated network of connected and multi functional Green Infrastructure assets that:

- provides attractive environments where people want to live, work, learn, play, visit and invest
- meets the environmental, social and economic needs of communities across the borough and the wider City Regions
- enhances the quality of life for present and future residents and visitors
- helps to meet the challenge of climate change
- enhances biodiversity and landscape character
- improves opportunities for recreation and tourism
- respects local distinctiveness and historical and cultural heritage
- maximises potential economic and social benefits

At a strategic level the LPAs Green Infrastructure network includes the following corridors:

- River X Valley Corridor
- Canal Link Corridor
- Historic Landscape Corridor

The network of Green Infrastructure will be secured by protecting open space, creating new open spaces as part of new development, and by using developer contributions to create and improve Green Infrastructure.

Green Infrastructure Policy 2

Open space

- Development on open space will only be allowed in exceptional circumstances and if an overriding justification can be demonstrated. In such cases it will be necessary to either provide new or improve existing open space. This should be within the locality and be of at least equivalent community benefit.
- Development that increases the demand for open space will be expected to address this demand in line with locally defined standards.

Green network

- Development proposals that weaken or fragment the green network will not be supported. Opportunities will be sought to improve, strengthen and expand the network, particularly where this would create longer continuous routes or improve links to the surrounding countryside.

Biodiversity

- Proposals will be supported that protect, restore or enhance habitats and species.
- Sites of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCIs) will be protected from development that would adversely affect their nature conservation value. The improvement of SNCIs will be supported.
- Local Nature Reserve status will be supported for sites that offer suitable conservation and educational opportunities.
- Schemes that promote an appreciation of nature, increase the planting of native tree species, and help join together sites of nature conservation value will be supported.

Green urban environment

- Proposals to 'green' the urban environment, including installation of green roofs and walls on buildings, the planting of trees, and the use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) will be supported.