

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 3

The Local Authority Area's green infrastructure network will be protected, maintained, enhanced and, where possible, extended, based on the principles set out below.

- A) Proposals will be supported which make an overall contribution to the green infrastructure network by:
- including measures, either on or off site, that are of an appropriate size, shape, scale and type and that have regard to the nature of the proposal and its potential impact;
 - contributing to the delivery of identified opportunities and priorities;
 - avoiding damage to or loss of green infrastructure assets or, where loss is unavoidable and the benefits of the development outweigh the loss, including appropriate compensation measures.
- B) Proposals will be supported which reduce, and help people and wildlife adapt to, the impacts of climate change; for example by promoting more naturalised forms of flood storage along the regionally important rivers and locally important watercourses; or incorporating tree planting within developments.
- C) Proposals will be supported which contribute to an attractive and connected environment by:
- creating and/or enhancing green corridors (potentially including footpaths) that link urban areas to the wider countryside and the public footpath and bridleway network;
 - creating and/or enhancing links from areas of growth to greenspaces and assets within existing urban areas;
 - incorporating assets that define and soften the edges of settlements to provide a high quality transition between urban and rural areas particularly at urban greenfield extensions; and;
 - preventing fragmentation of habitats, creating linkages and enabling wildlife to move around the ecological network.
- D) Proposals will be supported which have regard to local standards and opportunities, and help to address deficiencies, by making an appropriate contribution to sport, recreation and related community uses, including:
- providing well designed and accessible, sport, recreation and open space facilities (including children's play space and parks) that meet the needs of the proposal and the wider community; and;
 - providing suitable and appropriate, on-site open space (or an equivalent contribution towards off-site provision).

Green Infrastructure Policy 4

The LDF will conserve and enhance the Local Planning Authorities landscapes, geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environment, recognising the role of Green Infrastructure in supporting healthy communities, cultural value, a buoyant economy and aiding resilience to climate change. This will be achieved through the production of a Green Infrastructure Strategy, and by ensuring that development proposals relate to current and emerging guidance, and do not compromise the Local Planning Authorities Green Infrastructure network.

1. As a part of the LDF process, the Council will adopt a Green Infrastructure Strategy which addresses and incorporates the following:

- the findings of an up to date Biodiversity Audit and Action Plan;
- the findings of a Lower Derwent Valley Plan;
- management plans to describe, protect and enhance the biodiversity of Council owned sites, with priority given to those designated as Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs);
- protecting and enhancing existing open space, and seeking to increase provision in areas where a deficiency has been identified. This includes the provision of strategic open space in connection with areas of search for urban extensions, if urban extensions are required;
- delivering the aspirations of partner strategy documents and action plans, such as the Regional Biodiversity Strategy, Regional Forestry Strategy and Action Plan, River Basin Management Plans, Priority Woodland Habitat Management Plans;
- safeguarding, managing and enhancing existing tree and woodland resource in line with the current Regional Forestry Strategy, particularly urban tree planting and street trees;
- maintaining and enhancing the rivers, banks, floodplains and settings of the, and other smaller waterways for their biodiversity, cultural and historic landscapes, as well as recreational activities; and
- supporting allotments and productive land, to encourage local food production, and its benefits to education and healthy living.

2. The LDF will support development which:

- ensures the retention, enhancement and appropriate management of features of geological, geomorphological, paleoenvironmental or biological interest, and address the requirements of the current biodiversity audit and action plan; takes account of the potential need for a buffer zone around a wildlife site, to ensure the integrity of the site's interest is retained;
- supports the creation, integrity and management of the LPAs Green Infrastructure network, including its green corridors;
- results in no net loss to, and helps to improve, biodiversity (any unavoidable impacts must be appropriately mitigated or compensated for, and secured through the planning process);
- helps address current deficiencies in open, recreational and play space. Proposals should provide for the quantity, quality and accessibility of open space and ancillary facilities as set out in the current assessment of open space, and improve the provision where required. Development which results in the loss of open space will be refused; and
- protects and enhances existing rights of way, national trails and open access land.