GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY - DRAFT

VISION:"CREATE A GREENER, BETTER LINKED CITY, DELIVERING IMPROVEMENTS FOR OUR RESIDENTS' WELLBEING, ENSURING RESILIENT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT CAN CONTINUE TO DELIVER ECOSYSTEM SERVICE BENEFITS "

Foreword.

- Green Infrastructure (GI) is a network of natural and semi-natural areas capable of providing a suite of environmental benefits. GI which is linked together in urban settings creates a network, a Green Grid, which is able to provide multiple benefits including supporting a green economy, improving quality of life, protecting biodiversity and enhancing the ability of ecosystems to deliver services (Ecosystem Services) such as improving water and air quality, providing space for recreation/relaxation and climate change mitigation and adaption.
- In Southampton, GI includes open spaces (such as parks and gardens), greenways, allotments, woodlands, grassland, road verges, hedges, lakes, ponds, playing fields, coastal habitats, as well as footpaths, cycleways, railway corridors and streams and rivers.
- Southampton has long been known as a green city. With its diversity of parks, semi-natural spaces and two chalk rivers (Test and Itchen) flowing through it into the Solent; we have a wealth of GI for such an urban setting although much of our GI is fragmented rather than linked up.
- As in the vast majority of town and cities, benefits from GI are not well understood, let alone properly valued. This situation risks the loss of critical natural capital at a point in time when we need it most. With a backdrop of rapidly diminishing budgets, infrastructure that can provide a diverse range of benefits, simultaneously, is a vital resource.
- This Strategy is, quite naturally, incomplete; no matter how long we spend gathering information we can never know all there is to know about the natural environment. However, this is no reason to delay taking action.

Executive Summary.

"We may have distanced ourselves from nature, but we rely completely on the services it delivers."

Living Beyond Our Means: Natural Assets and Human Well-being. The Board of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (2005).

The simple statement above neatly sums up our current relationship to the natural world. However, as the information in this Strategy illustrates, this is a dangerous road to travel risking a loss of human wellbeing and prosperity.

The worst consequences are not inevitable; by adopting a new approach to the natural environment we can better understand the benefits we are receiving and ensure that safeguarding them is integrated into the City Council's policies and practices. In this way we can restore the health and wellbeing of our communities and achieve long term sustainable prosperity.

Our Approach.

- Following local and national activity, Southampton City Council declared a climate emergency in 2019 and published its Green City Charter, identifying key priorities to create a cleaner, greener, healthier and more sustainable city. Since then, we have gone on to demonstrate how we intend to deliver on this Charter through the Green City Plan. As part of our commitments, we are developing a robust, bigger, better, well linked network of GI, a Southampton Green Grid. This will help us recognise, record and safeguard existing GI in Southampton. It will identify how the best benefits can be achieved by introducing more, well designed GI to deliver much needed Ecosystem Services across our city. This well designed, well connected, robust Green Grid, will provide benefits for both the city's wildlife (much of which has decreased/deteriorated) and our increasing population. An increase in more, better linked GI will be imperative in helping the city meet its net zero goal by 2035.
- Developing our Green Grid started in January 2021. The first step was to produce a set of maps clearly identifying all of our existing green and blue spaces. Geodata (of Southampton University) analysed socio-economic data alongside other data sets, including priority habitats, designated sites, street trees and public rights of way. As part of the development of our Green Grid, we are identifying opportunities to utilise buildings and land to add to the Green Grid through the creation of green walls/facades and roofs, tree planting and wildflower areas. We will also be working with landowners across the city, assessing opportunities for forming links in the Green Grid on non-council land, encouraging the implementation of green infrastructure wherever we possibly can to create a resilient, healthy, climate change adaptable city.
- Policies and Supplementary Planning Documents within the Local Plan are being reviewed and will include guidance on GI standards we expect as part of any development. Our Green Grid map will show where this GI is most needed and we will provide guidance on what type of GI we expect to be delivered, ensuring it is good quality and suitable for our City setting. We will ensure our cityscape is well designed and high quality, ensuring the built environment meets the highest of standards.
- We are developing a Green Grid Implementation Plan. The Plan will include how GI will be delivered (ie. will it be in the form of reduced mowing of our grassland to increase sward height, more hedgerows, roadside planters etc), how, where and when this will be delivered and by whom. To create a well-connected and well-designed GI, will require input and energy from all city users and landowners. We can achieve a greener, better linked and healthier city if we all work together.
- We will find ways to quantify the Ecosystem Services delivered by good quality, well planned GI so investment can be based on sound business cases and to find innovative ways to use this to attract investment through insetting and social value schemes.

Focus.

We have identified seven priorities:

- Biodiversity. The city has a diverse range of species, with robust population levels and a connected network if habitats that are accessible to both people and wildlife.
- Flood Regulation. Southampton will develop a network of GI that reduces the risk of flooding across the city and has sufficient capacity to cope with all but the most extreme weather events.
- Temperature Regulation. There is sufficient GI with Southampton to moderate the effects of high temperatures and poor air quality caused by the urban heat island and as climate change.
- Air Quality Management. Effective use of GI has improved the city's air quality and reduced pollutant levels to below national thresholds.
- Health and Wellbeing. GI across the city is providing opportunities for residents to get outside and take more exercise. There are also tranquil places for people to relax and unwind.
- Recreation. Residents have access to a variety of GI, close to their homes, which provides opportunities for a range of recreation activities.
- Social Cohesion. Green spaces are at the heart of community activity, providing opportunities for friendship and collective action.
- Economic Value. A high quality green and blue environment in which to live and work that supports the prosperity of the city.
- Education and Skills and Training. Green spaces are a focal point for education and training, providing skills for employment and skills for life.
- Carbon Capture. Improving our green infrastructure will be integral to helping us achieve our net zero targets. Refer to our Net Zero Strategy.

Setting the Scene.

- Parks and greenspaces in England deliver an estimated £6.6 billion of health, climate change and environmental benefits every year. But with 80% of people now living in towns and cities, one third of people do not have access to good quality green and blue space within 15 minutes of their home (Natural England). In February 2023, Natural England launched their new GI Framework, including SCC's Green Space Factor (a tool developed by the council that score different types of surfaces based on water infiltration potential) as one of its case studies. A major new tool to help towns and cities turn greener, aimed at planners and developers. The new Natural England GI Framework will help increase the amount of green cover in England to 40% in urban residential areas; one of its priorities is to connect people to nature by creating accessible nature rich spaces close to where people live and work.
- The council will support this Framework by improving and increasing the greenspace across the city, playing its part in helping with the struggle to halt the loss of vegetated areas (habitat). We realise the importance of acting without delay; halting the decline and fragmentation of GI in the city needs to be addressed urgently. Making important changes now to how we deal with our natural environment will have lasting physical and mental health benefits for the city's population and make the city a more attractive place to work, live and visit. This strategy, along with our other Strategies (including Net Zero and our Public Realm Masterplan), details the key ways in which we will work together with our partners to make improvements in the quality and extent of green space across the city.
- The city has a large amount of green space. It has 49 parks and 1,140 hectares of opens spaces, including the Common which hosts over 17 million visitors each year. In total, 20% of the city is classified as green space. It neighbours the New Forest National Park, Southampton Water, the Solent and the range of protected habitats within them. The city supports a wide variety of habitats including coasts, mudflats, rivers, ponds, wet meadows and woodlands. Some of these habitats are of national and international importance, including our two chalk river systems.
- The main current drivers of GI loss in Southampton include climate change, pressure from increased development, absence of or poorly designed GI as part of development, pollution (both on the land and in our watercourses), increasing public pressure and inappropriate management of habitats. Over time, the city has become more and more fragmented. Small-scale, incremental encroachment on incidental spaces (including road verge loss and reduction of private gardens) is eroding the network for both people and wildlife.

Priority/ outcomes 1. Biodiversity

- The term 'biodiversity' is a shortened version of the phrase 'biological diversity' which can be defined very simply as the variety or life.
- Biodiversity forms the fabric of GI. This ranges from very common to extremely rare species. The strategy addresses the two different facets of biodiversity and its interaction with GI. Firstly, as the basis of GI there is a need to ensure the resilience of the species that are providing the Ecosystem Service benefits that we want delivered. Secondly, there is the issue of biodiversity conservation where we take specific actions to reverse the losses of species and improve the size and resilience of populations. This second aspect is covered in detail in the Biodiversity Strategy.
- Biodiversity has long been appreciated for the goods and services it provides and the way it enhances our quality of life however, this has not prevented significant losses occurring. Significant declines have been caused by human activities such as agriculture, urban development and pollution. Within Southampton, for example, intensification of the built environment through building on gardens and open spaces has led to further losses.
- Biodiversity plays a key functional role in ecosystems and hence the delivery of Ecosystem Services. Whilst the precise role it plays is not well understood, it appears that ecosystems are more stable with higher levels of biodiversity which means that maintenance of good levels of biodiversity is key to ensuring future provision of Ecosystem Services.
- Unfortunately, despite concerted efforts at both the national and local level, biodiversity is in decline which could result in a reduction or loss of ecosystem services. The consequences of this decline would be particularly noticeable in urban areas such as Southampton where large numbers of people, who benefit directly from Ecosystem Services, live.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
Ecosystems within the city are in good condition and Ecosystem Service provision is protected.	GI which is contains the right species and is made up of habitat types which are capable of coping with the environmental challenges, such as climate change. Offset some of our current carbon emissions through localised habitat creation.	- Monitor the biodiversity value of new GI including open spaces, green roofs and green walls/facades - Undertake research to establish bio value of ornamental species/cultivars - Continue to work with the city's universities to develop a better understanding of ecosystem service delivery within Southampton - Develop a natural capital asset register - Undertake a natural capital assessment to establish the financial value of Ecosystem Services being delivered in Southampton - Use results of natural capital assessment to create business case to attract investment in the GI - Undertake research into management of GI in the face of climate change

Priority/ outcome 2. Flood Protection

- Flooding is one of the most significant challenges faced by Southampton. It poses a risk to the health and well-being of residents; it damages homes and infrastructure and interrupts businesses causing losses to the local economy.
- The risk to the city is increasing. A rise in the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, linked to climate change, will result in more rainfall. Unfortunately, the fabric of the city, in common with most urban areas, is very poor at dealing with water. Extensive areas of impermeable surfaces on buildings, roads and pavements speeds water into the nearest drain leading to water, and in some cases sewage, overflowing onto roads and into property.
- Some areas of the city will fare better than others. Those areas with high levels of green infrastructure will benefit from the greater levels of water interception and infiltration provided by vegetation and natural soils. Features such as woodlands, wetlands and meadows and gardens all have an important role to play.
- Areas with little green infrastructure, for example the city centre, will be more at risk however, the inclusion of green roofs, green walls and street trees in new developments or retro–fitted into existing areas can help.
- The focus going forward will need to be on the protection and management of existing green infrastructure, including gardens, and the creation of new features to increase water storage capacity.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
A city-wide network of green infrastructure capable of delivering high levels of water interception and infiltration will have been identified. New developments will include green infrastructure leading to an increase in water storage capacity. Green roofs and green walls/facades will have been retro-fitted into city centre sites.	Southampton will develop a network of green and blue infrastructure that reduces the risk of flooding across the city and has sufficient capacity to cope with all but the most extreme weather events.	- Create additional water attenuation capacity across the city through widespread but small scale introductions of new landscape planting - Review land management practices adjacent to water courses to identify opportunities for increasing water interception capacity - Secure additional tree planting - Ensure new development uses sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) to minimise and slow the rate of runoff - Encourage greater use of green roofs and green walls/facades to improve water attenuation in areas with high levels of sealed surfaces - Map GI across the city to identify areas with good water management capacity - Map vegetation along transport corridors to increase understanding of current water attenuation capacity - Encourage local communities to identify places for new tree planting - Secure sponsorship for a community street tree project - Develop simple messages explaining the role that vegetation plays in reducing flood risk

Priority/ outcomes 3. Temperature Regulation

- Urban areas are generally warmer, often by a degree or two, than surrounding countryside due to the release of heat from buildings and man-made surfaces. This is termed the urban heat island effect.
- The main causes of the urban heat island effect are: the release of heat from buildings and other man made surfaces into the atmosphere at night which causes an increase in urban air temperature; and the loss of evaporative cooling from vegetation which has been replaced by built structures.
- Solar radiation is the principal source of heat being released from buildings and other surfaces however, this is often supplemented by waste heat from air conditioning and the effects of vehicles and industry.
- Climate change is increasing the incidence of heat waves and exacerbates the Urban Heat Island effect which has implications for health and the economy. Along with warming at the Earth's surface, many other changes in the climate are occurring including rising sea levels and more extreme weather events.
- Green infrastructure has been proposed as an effective tool for mitigating the adverse effects. It has been suggested that a 10% increase in tree cover in a dense urban area, would result in a cooling by up to 2.5°C.
- Green infrastructure reduces temperatures in a number of ways: moisture is released into the atmosphere by evapotranspiration and reduces the ambient air temperature around vegetation, large plants such as trees and shrubs provide direct protection from both heat and UV radiation by shading buildings and outdoor space, lower temperatures as a result of evapotranspiration and shading lead to a reduction in the amount of heat absorbed by man-made urban surfaces.
- Many areas in Southampton benefit from good levels of green infrastructure and will not be at risk from the Urban Heat Island effect. However, the high density of population and lower levels of green infrastructure within the City Centre increases the risk of Urban Heat Island.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
The severity of the Urban Heat Island effect has been reduced through the creation of new GI. Shade spaces have been created to provide cool spots which enable residents to gain relief from high temperatures. Residents have access to shade spaces which allow them to safely enjoy time outdoors.	Ensure there is sufficient GI within Southampton to moderate the effects of high temperatures and poor air quality caused by the Urban Heat Island.	- Implement our Net Zero Strategy - Identify opportunities for new street tree planting to create shady routes - Encourage the installation of green roofs/green walls/green facades on new buildings within the City Centre (with reference to our Public Realm Framework) - Develop a better understanding of how urban heat could affect the Southampton - Identify areas at risk of the Urban Heat Island effect - Encourage residents in areas of low green infrastructure to green their neighbourhoods - Make the population aware of the need to take exercise in the shade of trees or woodlands during very hot weather

Priority/ outcomes 4. Air Quality Management

- Poor air quality is caused by a variety of pollutants including chemicals such as nitrogen dioxides (NOx), sulphur dioxide (SO2) and ozone (O3) and tiny particles of un-burnt carbon.
- Much of the pollution originates from road traffic, although energy generation, aviation and industry all contribute. Not surprisingly, in Southampton the poorest air quality is found around road junctions that experience regular traffic congestion.
- To date, the main focus of air quality improvement work has been on improving engine efficiency and improving traffic flows. However, where this proves to be insufficient, vegetation can provide additional support.
- Vegetation can help to improve air quality both directly and indirectly. Plants, particularly trees, are able to absorb pollutants such as NOx, SO2 and ozone from the air. The large surface area and roughness of leaves, stems and branches is also very effective at intercepting tiny particles.
- Indirect benefits come from reduced energy usage where vegetation provides insulation and shading. Cooling of the air through evapotranspiration can also lower the production of pollutants such as ozone.
- Whilst trees and shrubs provide the greatest benefits, they are not suitable in all locations. On narrow urban streets or roof tops, green walls/facades and green roofs provide an effective alternative.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
Improved air quality within Air Quality Management Areas. Improved background air quality.	Effective use of green infrastructure has improved the city's air quality and reduced pollutant levels to below national thresholds.	- Implement our Air Quality Strategy - Seek opportunities to increase the number of street trees - Maintain shrub beds close to roads - Seek provision of green walls and green roofs in new developments close to major roads. - Secure the inclusion of trees and shrubs within landscape planting schemes - Map trees and other vegetation within and adjacent to all Air Quality Management Areas and assess its suitability for air quality management. - Identify potential sites for additional tree planting within Air Quality Management Areas - Encourage local communities to identify places for new tree planting - Secure sponsorship for a community street tree project - Encourage householders to plant trees and shrubs in front gardens - Encourage communities to adopt areas of shrub planting and help with its maintenance - Develop simple messages explaining the role that vegetation plays in improving air quality

Priority/ outcomes 5. Mental Health and Wellbeing

- Ecosystems provide some obvious benefits for health including food, clean water, clean air and resources for industry. They also provide places for contact with nature leading to improved physical and mental wellbeing. Beyond this, ecosystems regulate many environmental processes which can be harmful to health for example management of water, moderation of extreme temperatures and reduction of air pollution.
- The idea of parks and green space being good for health can be traced back to Victorian times. Many of the parks in Southampton were established under the Public Health Acts of 1875 – 1925. Research has since shown that access to green space benefits both physical and mental wellbeing. Parks are particularly important in urban areas where populations tend to have higher levels of physical and mental ill health than their rural counterparts. Parks provide opportunities for physical exercise, which would combat the problem of growing inactivity and associated medical conditions such obesity, Type 2 Diabetes and Cardio-Vascular Disease however, they need to be located close to where people live.
- Not everyone is able to take vigorous exercise however, gentle exercise can still provide benefits. The critical factor is contact with the green environment.
- Access to the natural environment also has indirect benefits through greater social contact and the development of good habits, e.g. better diet, that go with being active. It is particularly important for children enabling them to develop self-confidence and important social skills.
- In general, deprived areas have less green space which is of poorer quality than more affluent areas. This is a significant health issue as deprived communities tend to experience higher levels of ill health and, whilst the health of all members of society benefits from improved access to greenspace, the health of individuals in the lowest socio-economic groups benefits the most.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
The general health and wellbeing of the city's residents has improved as people spend more time out and about in parks and green places. A range of different green infrastructure is meeting the needs of residents; whether they want to engage in vigorous exercise or to simply sit and unwind.	Green infrastructure across the city is providing opportunities for residents get outside and take more exercise. There are also tranquil places for people to relax and unwind.	- Implement our Health and Wellbeing Strategy - Establish a joint project between the Parks Service and Public Health Team to encourage people to make greater use of parks and green spaces - Ensure footpath network is accessible - Ensure developments increase the level of green infrastructure enabling people to walk or cycle from home to local park along tree-lined streets - Identify areas of low green infrastructure provision and high levels of ill health to enable targeting of greening initiatives. - Get out and about campaign - Get people to post details of their favourite walks in the city - Provide information about walking routes around parks - Provide a map of all the footpaths, public and permissive across the city

Priority/ outcomes 6. Physical Wellbeing (Recreation)

- Physical inactivity is a growing problem which is thought to be at the route of many common health problems including obesity and heart disease and is a major concern for general health and wellbeing. There is a growing need to reverse the trend of increasing inactivity in order to improve the health of residents and reduce costs for the National Health Service.
- Green infrastructure provides a diverse range of opportunities for activity including, walking, cycling and gardening. In addition, recreation within green spaces has been shown to be more beneficial than equivalent exercise indoors as a consequence of the body's positive response to natural places.
- Not all green spaces will be able to accommodate the full range of activities whilst some activities, for example cycling and play areas for small children, may conflict. The challenge will be to maximise the range of activities that can be provided by each green space without damaging the sites' features or detracting from the quality of experience.
- Education material and supported activities such as guided walks, green gyms or Park Runs, may be helpful in encouraging more people to become more active.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
There has been an increase is the number of people taking regular exercise. A range of opportunities for physical exercise within green space is available and meets the needs of all members of society, 'something for everyone' Health problems related to inactivity are (reducing) declining in prevalence.	Residents have access to a variety of green infrastructure, close to their homes, which provides opportunities for a wide range of recreation activities.	• Implement our Health and Wellbeing Strategy • Maintain green spaces so that residents and visitors feel safe and keen to use them, making sure they contain well-maintained infrastructure (ie. seating/ way markers, interpretation signs) • Ensure that appropriate protection is afforded to public open space • Work with University of Southampton students to gain a better understanding of recreational use of the city's green spaces • Develop a programme of activities across the seasons, such as guided walks, volunteering opportunities • Develop material, accessible through mobile phone apps that, provides people with information about the facilities and wildlife they can expect find at different greenspaces

Priority/ outcomes 7. Social Cohesion

- Access to good quality green space can play a significant role in community cohesion which is closely linked to health and quality of life benefits for individuals.
- The presence of green space has been shown to draw people outside which provides opportunities for social interaction and helps to break-down barriers. This can be especially helpful when trying to tackle mental health problems. Improved access to green space can be particularly helpful for groups such as seniors, children, ethnic minorities and disabled people which tend to experience higher levels of social exclusion.
- The presence of community 'Friends of' groups provide people with an opportunity to come together to share a common interest. Events and activities such as guided walks organised by community groups can encourage people to be more active whilst conservation projects result in positive improvements to the local environment and generate a sense of achievement.
- Higher levels of social interaction are thought to be the reason why good quality green space has been found to reduce crime and violence levels.

Outcome/focus	What do we want to achieve?	How will we achieve this?
There is an increase in the number and range of park centred community activities providing opportunities for all residents to get involved. There is an increase in residents' feeling of safety when visiting their local park. There is a reduction in crime levels within communities surrounding parks.	Sufficient good quality green space which provide opportunities for residents to meet their neighbours and engage in community projects.	- Identify tasks that are suitable for community conservation projects - Provide training and support to enable communities to undertake practical action - Work with communities to identify their aspirations for their local green spaces and the barriers to achieving those aspirations - Provide support to communities that either run or would like to set up 'Friends of' groups - Help 'Friends of' groups to develop information packs about their local green space for dissemination to the local community

What Do Our Residents Say?

- Consultation with residents and city users over their thoughts on existing GI in the city resulted in one of the most well responded to consultations that the council has ever run, with over 2,500 responses
- The most important priorities in local areas and the city centre are parks, open spaces, nature and conservation and better access to the coast/shoreline. Concern about the environment and climate change were sighted as the most important challenged faced by the city (City Vision 2020)
- 98% of people would like more nature and wildlife in the city
- 84% of people enhance their outside space for wildlife, the majority of people do this by planting wildlife friendly plants, having a pond and not mowing to encourage insects, hedgehogs and birds
- The majority of the city's residents are involved in improving the city's wildlife, with just 18% of people not taking any measures to make any improvements
- 89% of residents feel that using native species (local and natural) for planting is important for encouraging wildlife and improving habitats and that plants and trees used in landscaping, should be chosen to be of benefit to wildlife
- 91% of residents say that street tree planting improves the character of an area
- Nearly half of residents mentioned The Common as being their favourite green space in the city due to its close proximity to where they live and being able to walk there. Riverside Park was cited as the next most visited green space. St James Park received an overwhelming amount of positive comments (85% of residents said they felt positive about this park). Mayflower Park received the largest number of negative comments.
- 91% of residents said they would like to see more green spaces in the city and that they would like the green spaces to be better maintained, providing better access but also better facilities (such as seating, toilets, interpretation signs, way markers) and more information to be available to advertise those spaces and how to get to them, especially the smaller ones
- Asked about what would encourage people to make use of their green space more, the majority of people cited more wildlife, peace and tranquillity, biodiversity and better management
- People feel that as a city near to the sea, access to the waterfront should be improved, particularly on the west side of the city. People said they felt the rivers and coast were almost "ignored"
- Many people have concerns about safety and lack of any apparent management of green spaces, resulting in them feeling run down, neglected and therefore more prone to vandalism

Delivering our strategy.

<u>Green Grid</u>

GI needs to be provided across the city. However, to ensure it is resilient, it needs to form a network. A network of the key GI in the city has been identified through work with Geodata; this network is called the Green Grid. The Green Grid pulls together delivery of all the priorities listed in this Strategy and the Biodiversity Strategy. The Green Grid is where the two strategies meet; it is most important GI and biodiversity sites. It is our key recreational network and our key connections. There will be a standalone document describing the Green Grid.

- We will ensure that all of the council's activities are in line with this Strategy. Irrespective of what portfolio the land falls within, schools, housing, corporate etc, we will ensure our land management practices are consistent and designed to build a network of good quality, linked green infrastructure across the city.
- Development design, including green and blue infrastructure, will be guided by the Green Grid map and adopt the Public Realm and Green Space Factor toolkits, delivering green areas and providing links where needed.
- Working with neighbouring LPA's, we will protect and enhance green links between Southampton, Eastleigh, the New Forest and Test Valley.
- Partners involved, including: Southampton National Park City, Southampton Common and Parks Protection Society, Southampton Natural History Society, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, SO18 Big Local, Pollinating Peartree, Sholing Valley Study Centre, Green Volunteer Network, Friends of Groups, Natural England, adjoining Local Planning Authorities, Environment Agency, officers within the council, residents and the commercial sector.
- Explanation of data to be gathered or used to assess progress.
- Reporting, monitoring, updating process to be in place.
- Produce Ward-level maps to show where green infrastructure is needed to "fill in the gaps" and Ward-level green infrastructure Action Plans of how and when that will be achieved. These maps and Action Plans will be developed in partnership with the community to ensure residents feel engaged in the process and have a feeling of ownership.
- Working collaboratively, we will create and manage sustainably by reducing our use of pesticides and plastic. We will reduce unnecessary reliance on resources such as water, chemicals or machinery where possible. We will reduce our CO2 emissions (becoming net zero in 2035) and embed a culture of "sustainability" in all council actions across all of our service areas.

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