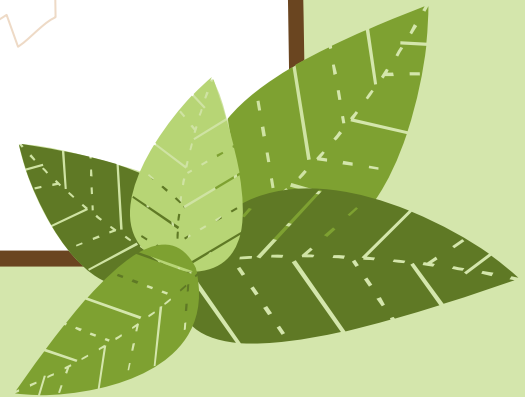


Nature Recovery Progress



Cheshire West
and Chester



Linking nature recovery to wider council objectives

- There are 6 main priorities in CWaC Local Plan:

1. Tackle the climate emergency

BNG/Env Act, LNRS

2. Grow our local economy and deliver good jobs with fair wages for our residents

Green jobs, Natural capital etc.

3. Support children and young people to make the best start in life and achieve their full potential

Access to nature (more urban habitats, planning consultation input), forest schools

4. Enable more adults to live longer, healthier and happier lives

Access to nature (more urban habitats, planning consultation input), health rangers volunteer programme

5. Make our neighbourhoods even better places to call home

Green neighbourhoods, LNRS, planning consultation input

6. An efficient and empowering Council

Volunteer programmes e.g. hedge planting scheme

...Plenty of opportunities to show how the Env Act feeds into and goes towards achieving many of the CWAC objectives already set out in our various plans.



Local Nature Recovery Strategy

- covering Cheshire West, Cheshire East and Warrington
- Call for Sites (400+ha pledged)

BNG

- CWaC has been delivering habitat units on own land for 2-3 years (pre-mandatory BNG)
- Hope to continue doing so but struggling with legal agreement approach!
- Exploring options of reciprocal discharge of BNG s106 related functions with other local authorities, responsible body application and SPV.
- BNG governance board has been set-up which consists of the following attendees:
 - Head of Planning
 - Natural Environment Officer x 2
 - Lawyer (Planning & Highways)
 - Green Infrastructure Team Leader
 - Senior Manager - Financial Resilience/Commercial Investment
 - Procurement Category Specialist
 - Principal Planning Obligations Monitoring Officer
 - Finance Officer

BNG

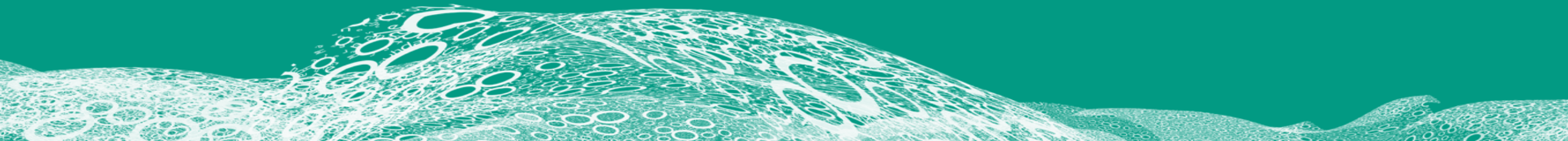
How we made the governance board happen:

- s106 monies from pre-mandatory BNG habitat units
- Reviewing burdens from other teams and how BNG could fund this
- Engaging and completing initial 'small wins' to build up the relationships
- Board will meet to discuss regulatory BNG and habitat delivery BNG separately
- Currently reviewing minimum information with submission to find a happy medium of more than the legislation but not too much to clash with the new planning guarantee
- Choosing BNG hab delivery sites that (where possible) can also benefit people and assists with tree planting and climate targets – domino positive effect.
- Highlighting our concerns if solutions are not found, planning apps will be delayed etc.!
- Combining BNG & LNRS objectives and tying that in to enhanced duty requirements and other relevant policies



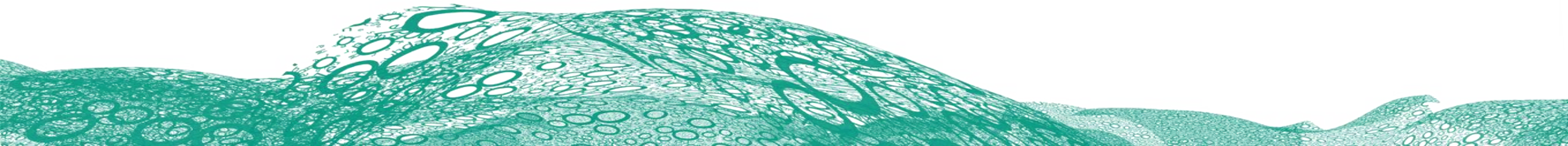
ROCHDALE
BOROUGH COUNCIL

Local Nature Recovery in Rochdale BC



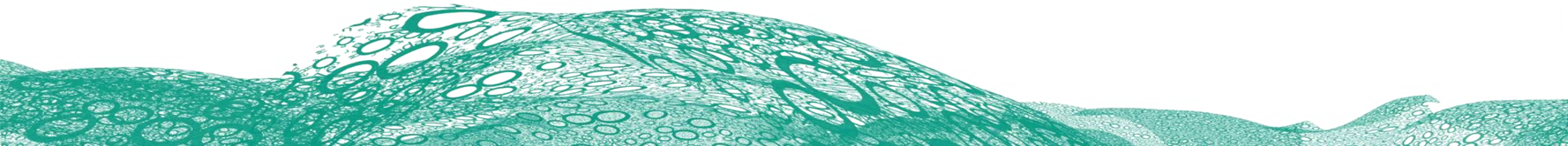
Headline Objectives

- Identify opportunities to deliver the Biodiversity Duty across the Council's operations and assets
- Inform how and where we can deliver BNG and nature recovery more widely
- Connect nature with wider plans, strategies and investment
- Identify the role of partners and stakeholders
- Support delivery of GM LNRS



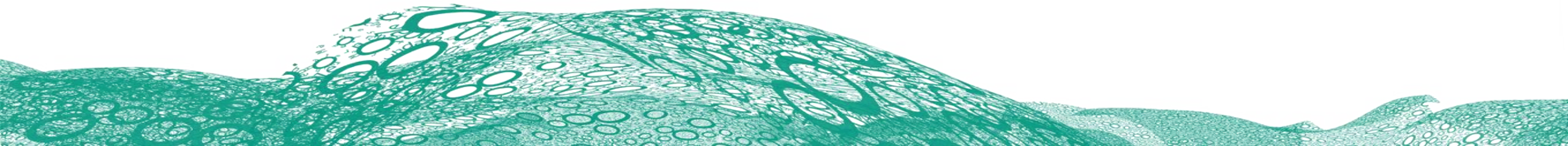
Governance

- Political leadership – climate portfolio
- Scrutiny task group
- Service lead – Planning (LLFA, Spatial Planning, Environmental Programmes e.g. woodland) and Corporate (Climate Strategy)
- Asset Management/delivery services – Environmental Management, Housing, Property Services



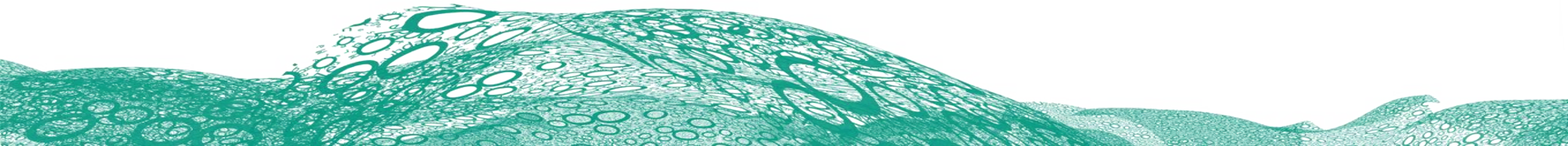
Strategic context/key local opportunities

- Spatial planning – growth and regeneration
- Flood Risk Management
- Climate Resilience
- GI Plans
- Integrated Water Management
- Estate management



Local Nature Recovery Action Plan

- Publish summer/autumn 2024
- A few larger projects and many smaller actions in context
- Supports GM LNRS delivery
- Monitoring delivery of Biodiversity Duty
- Evidence to support planning, BNG, funding bids, management plans
- Multiple benefits and integration of nature recovery
- Bringing stakeholder/partnership opportunities and associated timelines together
- Supports innovation and new ideas/approaches





NATURE RECOVERY

From a 'desire', to 'action', to 'evidence'

Engagement with other services

- Review of policies and input to ensure coherence and that the nature recovery theme is embedded within all.
- Production of our Natural Capital Strategy (internal dept liaison and meetings and is at public consultation currently) that sets out how we shall move forwards with and link with the other council services.
- Often enabled through pursued grants.

~ Noting it's not always easy and often we need funds available to do this. Grants often have a community focus too and may not always be applicable to specific measures required.

How to get other

ces interested

- Through an appreciation of Natural Capital, as we move through the process part of NC delivery.
- Arranging meetings with them – providing ‘time’ to discuss NC matters, which includes BNG, environmental issues e.g. flooding, pollution etc.
- Ecosystem services provided when all are involved.
- Identifying where nature recovery is needed through use of nature-based solutions.
- By showing the evidence we have of biodiversity loss and things not working in support of nature recovery.

~ to be more useful, this must be more than anecdotal evidence.

Who:

- Education
- Public Realm / recreation
- Forestry
- Drainage and flooding
- Air quality
- Health
- Strategic land
- Lighting
- Highways and travel
- Community Housing



Key priorities / challenges

1. NERC duties through planning.
2. BNG support and delivery.
3. LNRs support.
4. GI Strategy/ Mapping.
5. Funding e.g. use of WMCA LINC.
6. Local Plan adoption (draft currently).
7. Evidencing where we are at now (baseline), gaps and trends in terms of biodiversity loss / gains.

The first two take up a lot of time to do well, we need to do these well to support nature recovery that is sensitive and appropriate to guide the planning process to be the best it can be.

Concerns that no. 3 seems very time limited and too static as a process, really needs a lot of input and development as time goes on.

Economic development can be influential with either/both positive and negative outcomes.

Quick wins

- Ensuring all policies (for those other disciplines) have the word biodiversity in them!
- Building on success of ERDF work and providing legacies for the work already done – re-enforcing this in local community messaging and external communications.
- *About 1000 trees planted* - from outputs: 18304 trees and shrubs planted.
- *One kilometre of hedgerows planted* - from outputs: 1.74km of hedgerows
- *24 hectares of green corridors planted* - from outputs 24.25Ha delivered.
- *36 hectares of wildflower areas seeded* - from outputs: 68.75ha
- *59,000 m2 of wildflower turf laid* - 14780m2 of wildflower turf laid.
- *3 million bulbs planted* - always stated as over 3 million bulbs planted.
- *11 woodlands improved totalling 23 hectares* - from outputs: woodlands planted/ enhanced: 103.01 ha
- *One wetland improved totalling 1.2 hectares* - from outputs: wetlands across 12 sites 9.92ha created/ enhanced.

Toolkit and its use from our perspective

- Workshop planning tool is useful, likely we will use this alongside our Natural Capital Strategy, as we move to deliver the NCS by delving into the detail with all interested parties (internal and external).
- Other notes to support nature recovery: LNRS of adjacent areas and linkage between – functions of this.



Opportunities being delivered currently

- Arden free tree scheme (BHX funded) and Planting our Future tree planting.
- Support for conservation volunteers.
- Support for local farming groups e.g Arden Farm Wildlife Network.
- Support for river management (TVWP), LNP (Warwickshire and Bham – but likely need form links with Worcs too.), LNRS (WMCA and Warwick)
- Support for community groups (Parish Councils) and schools (time issues, always has to be funded).
- BNG test site – to show others what can be done and how nature recovery can work in a practical way.



- ERDF funded works:

Green travel footpaths and cycleways that linked areas of existing ecological value to other areas of ecological value by a series of habitat improvements!

Helped to improve:

- Improved perceptions of clean air
- Improved water quality and wetland connections
- Increased biodiversity (plants, invertebrates, amphibians and birds)
- Used resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
- Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Removal of invasive species and improved biosecurity
- Health benefits

Also

- Catalyst for further ecological works
- B lines in B lines areas!
- Changes to management procedures and re-education for others

Further thoughts

- How do we measure success through this process?
- Provide summary of the available grant offerings and what others have used it for.
- Webinar for the toolkit and how we can use it to our advantage, help to build it further.
- So much good baseline ecological survey information is received through planning applications, finding solutions to data transfer within this sphere would be worthwhile to input into nature recovery.





Greening The City

for

People, Biodiversity and Climate Change Adaptation

Simon Needle – Strategic lead Urban Forestry and Nature



The Challenges

- Population at 1.1 million and rising
- One of the youngest populations in Europe
- Significant number of wards in top 10 percentile IMD
- High levels YLL in certain quarters
- Air Pollution
- UHI
- Pluvial and Fluvial flooding
- Need for 89,000 additional homes by 2031; currently space identified for 51,000

COVID19 pandemic has brought to the fore the inequality of accessible green space. Minority ethnic communities more impacted by pandemic

Higher levels of minority ethnic communities in areas of low GI, poorer air quality and high UHI.

Liaison with other Departments such as Public Health are critical to understanding impacts and benefits.





Birmingham
City of Nature
Plan

May 2022

LOCALLY

The City of Nature Vision links to other key policies and strategies including:

Birmingham Development Plan

Birmingham Our Future City Plan-2040

Route to Zero

Transport Plan and Health and Wellbeing Strategy

Urban Forest Master Plan

Nature Recovery Network Plan

Commonwealth Games 2022 Legacy

REGIONALLY

We have:

West Midlands Combined Authority
Natural Capital Plan

West Midlands National Park

NATIONALLY

At a national level, this vision responds to:

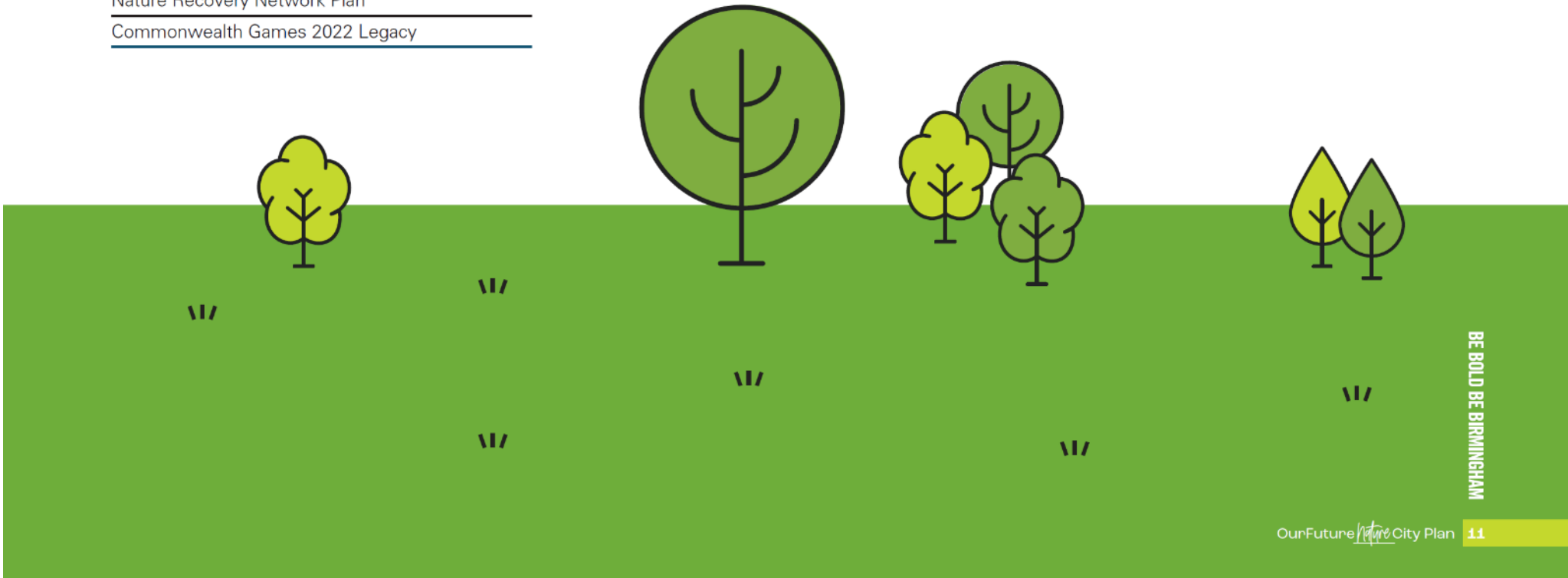
25 Year Environment Plan

The Environment Bill

Nature Recovery Network

Green Recovery

Levelling Up Agenda



Our Future City Plan



Our 2040 goals are to:

- Create a connected and diverse network of green and open spaces meeting a spectrum of community needs.
- Encourage children and young people to be connected to nature through education and play and provide opportunities to take part in sport and exercise that are accessible for all.
- Ensure delivery of nature-based solutions to support environmental, social and economic outcomes including improving citizen's health and well-being, reduced energy costs, improved drainage and water quality, and removing pollutants from the atmosphere.
- Deliver biodiverse landscapes that create new opportunities, protect and enhance existing habitats and support vulnerable species and their movements across the city.
- Restore urban waterways to become major destinations not only for development, but also for leisure and open space.

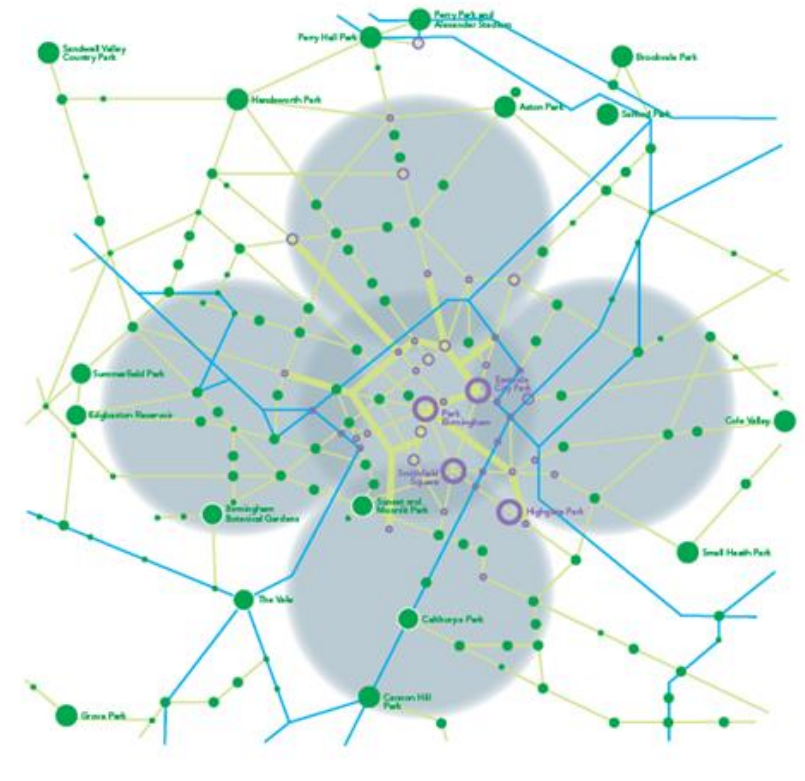
What actions could we take?

- **The Brummie urban forest**
Grow our Tree City status by expanding the urban canopy throughout the city environment creating a 'forest' of quality, well designed range of planting

within and beyond Central Birmingham linking to the city-wide and regional network. Children and young people will be involved to support education and ownership of these new green spaces. Diverse and sustainable tree planting will need to be both at ground level and atop buildings providing a multi-storey canopy and vertical and horizontal habitat connectivity.

- **City Greenways**
Identify opportunities to transform arterial routes and remodel highway infrastructure into linear 'Greenways' to connect communities with new open spaces, cycleways and walkways. These routes will be lined by trees and diverse range of plants attracting pollinators - supporting movement and access for people, insects and animals. Remodelling highway infrastructure will also reconnect under-used sites that have been severed and isolated for over 50 years - providing opportunities for new homes and commercial activity.
- **The park web**
Identify proposals for a network of new and improved green spaces throughout Central Birmingham. This will involve proposing a range of opportunities from courtyards within new development, local pocket parks and the improvement of existing parks and open spaces, to address the gaps in areas with low coverage of green spaces by proposing new and improved parks.

- **Edible Brum**
Give local people the opportunity to grow their own food in urban environments. Identify public and private spaces on walls, roofs and underutilised spaces for growing of edible fruit and vegetables, bee keeping, hydroponic crops, fish farming and brewing. This could be supported by building networks and supply chains to local businesses.
- **Reviving our waterways**
Support the ongoing renaissance and restoration of canals and rivers throughout Central Birmingham to ensure access to new and improved green and blue space, habitat creation, reduction of flood risk and improved drainage - as well as supporting viability and improving the setting of surrounding development where appropriate.
- **Building greener**
Promote opportunities to provide multifunctional green infrastructure and renewable energy as an integral part of new and existing building designs.
- **Green guardianship**
We need to address the challenges of how we look after open spaces by working together across a range of organisations - and not just those responsible for parks, canals, rivers and wildlife but also to include those involved in healthcare, education and skills, heritage and culture. Community involvement and 'ownership' of our green spaces shall be developed, and new ways to look after our natural environments explored.



By meeting our vision and aims we will ensure Birmingham becomes a healthier, walkable, liveable, thriving city and by 2040 we will aim to deliver across Central Birmingham:

30% GREEN SPACES

Doubling green space to 30%
Like Vienna!

200KM OF ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTES

100% increase in healthy transport infrastructure
Copenhagen has the same level

20,000 PP/KM²

250% increase in residential density
Closer to successful European cities

74,100 NEW JOBS

80% increase in employment capacity

Up to 35,000 new homes

Some Computer Generated images included in this document are conceptual and illustrative to demonstrate the overall vision. All future developments would be subject to planning.

What is the Urban Greening Factor and how does it work?

The “Green Space Factor” (GSF) is a planning policy tool that originated in Berlin and has been adopted and adapted in a number of other cities in Europe and North America to encourage urban greening. GSF schemes work by assigning a factor of between 0 and 1 for various surface cover types, with sealed surfaces given 0 and the most natural cover, 1.

To calculate a UGF for a site, the factor for a particular surface cover is multiplied by its area.

This is repeated for each surface cover type.

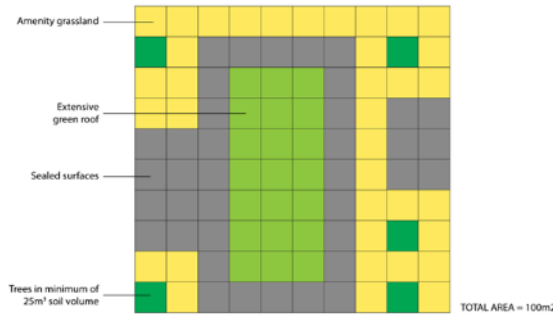
The multiplied sums are added together and then divided by the overall site area to give an overall GSF score for a site of between 0 and 1.

A planning authority can set a minimum target (typically 0.3, although this varies according to the type of development and class of land use). This can provide certainty to developers as to what is expected from new developments in terms of urban greening.

It can also identify planning proposals with insufficient quantity and functionality of greening in order to encourage improvements to a proposal.

It can also be useful in determining the scale and benefit of subsequent improvements to plans.

1. Measure site area, measure various surface cover types



2. Table showing areas of each cover type and factor assigned to each:

	Factor	Area (m ²)
Extensive green roof	0.7	21
Sealed surfaces	0.0	38
Amenity grassland	0.4	36

Table 1: Proposed surface cover type descriptions and factors

Surface Cover Type	Factor
Semi-natural vegetation (e.g. woodland, flower-rich grassland) created on site.	1
Wetland or open water (semi-natural; not chlorinated) created on site.	1
Intensive green roof or vegetation over structure. Vegetated sections only. Substrate minimum settled depth of 150mm – see livingroofs.org for descriptions ⁵ .	0.8
Standard trees planted in natural soils or with a minimum of 25 cubic metres soil volume per tree (preferably with load-bearing substrates and connected pits) – see Trees in Hard Landscapes for overview ⁷ .	0.8
Extensive green roof with substrate of minimum settled depth of 80mm (or 60mm beneath vegetation blanket) – meets the requirements of GRO Code (2014).	0.7
Flower-rich perennial planting – see Centre for Designed Ecology for case-studies ⁹ .	0.7
Rain gardens and other vegetated sustainable drainage elements – See CIRIA for case-studies ⁹ .	0.7
Hedges (line of mature shrubs one or two shrubs wide) – see RHS for guidance ¹⁰ .	0.6
Standard trees planted in individual pits with less than 25 cubic metres soil volume.-	0.6
Green wall –modular system or climbers rooted in soil – see NBS Guide to Façade Greening for overview ¹¹ .	0.6
Groundcover planting – see RHS Groundcover Plants for overview ¹² .	0.5
Amenity grassland (species-poor regularly mown lawn).	0.4
Extensive green roof of sedum mat without substrate or other systems that do not meet GRO Code (2014) ¹³ .	0.3
Water features (chlorinated) or unplanted detention basins.	0.2

Ornamental shrub planting
0.6

Tree in natural soils
0.8

Amenity grassland
0.4

Trees in natural soils
0.8

Trees in natural soils
0.8

Trees in pits with less than two thirds of projected canopy (assumed)
0.6

The main elements that need to be considered are:

- Source of water for irrigation;
- Reference habitat/s and focal species; and
- Management.

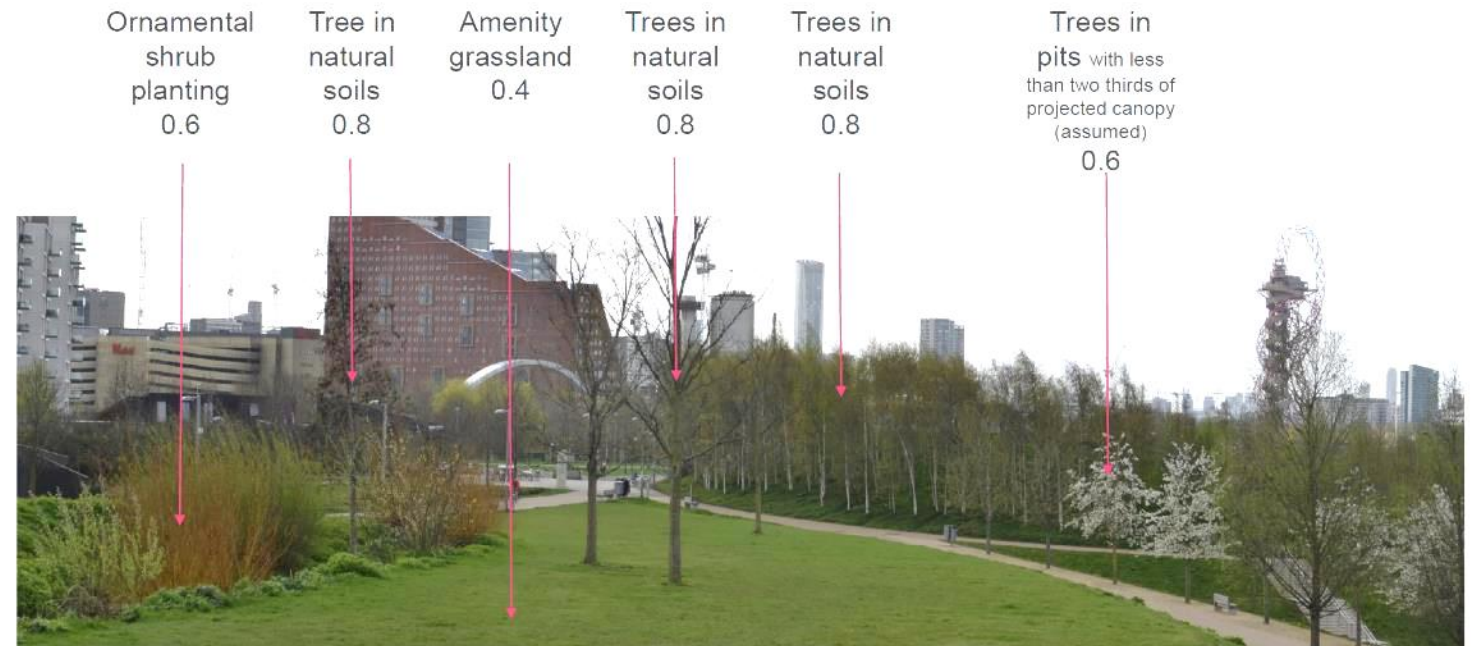
Any wall can be designed to have biodiversity value

Typology	Description	Notes
Modular green wall	System built structures with plants in pockets, troughs (soil based) or rooted in fabric (hydroponic).	Irrigation is typically needed and can be expensive. Can be costly to maintain. Some designs can provide nesting opportunities for birds.
Traditional climbing green wall	Climbing plants rooted in the ground and provided with support (e.g. trellis, steel cables etc.).	Irrigation not usually needed. Less able to provide nesting habitat until mature or well established.
Balcony planters	Planting space integrated into balcony architecture.	Less irrigation needed, so easier to maintain. Can be subject to windburn.
Window boxes	Often temporary planters installed by resident.	Regular watering needed due to desiccation and windburn.
Nest boxes	A range of bird and bat nest boxes can be integrated into facades and green walls.	Some species are territorial and will not use boxes close together. Aspect and height also matters.



The Athenaeum Hotel near Green Park, Mayfair, has a large and diverse living wall designed by Patrick Blanc in 2003. Its features include shrubs, climbers, grasses and mosses.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>Try to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use rainwater and/or grey water to irrigate the wall. • Add native grasses and herbs that provide homes as well as food for butterflies and moths. • Think about natural vertical habitats and mimic plant groupings and structure into wall design. • Provide artificial nesting and roosting sites for bats, birds and solitary bees. • Encourage residents' participation by providing balcony planters and window boxes on residential or office schemes. | <p>Avoid</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lighting green walls, which will deter nocturnal wildlife such as moths and bats. • Use of combustible materials. • Only using non-native plant species that are not able to provide homes or food for the early life-stages of most invertebrate species. |
|--|--|



Local Nature Recovery Networks

LNRN's identify areas that provide greatest benefit/opportunities for supporting ecological networks – established as part of the Environment Act 2021.

Using Climate vulnerability data and LNRN mapping can show delivery of multiple benefits.

NRN Core Habitat Zone: These are the areas that contain the most valuable habitat.

The strategic objectives for these areas are Protection, Restoration, Enhancement

NRN Core Expansion Zones: The purpose of these areas is to make the core areas bigger and better connected. Within this category, two zones are identified as follows:

Core Expansion Zone 1: Comprises those land parcels that are of lower ecological value than those in the Core Habitat Zone but due to inherent value or location have the most potential to contribute to a coherent ecological network.

Core Expansion Zone 2: Comprises all areas of green space that do not meet the criteria for inclusion in Zone 1. These provide an opportunity for the restoration and creation of new habitats but investment in these areas is a lower ecological priority than those areas in Zone 1 but may be higher priority from an environmental justice point of view.

The strategic objectives for these areas are Restoration, Enhancement, Creation

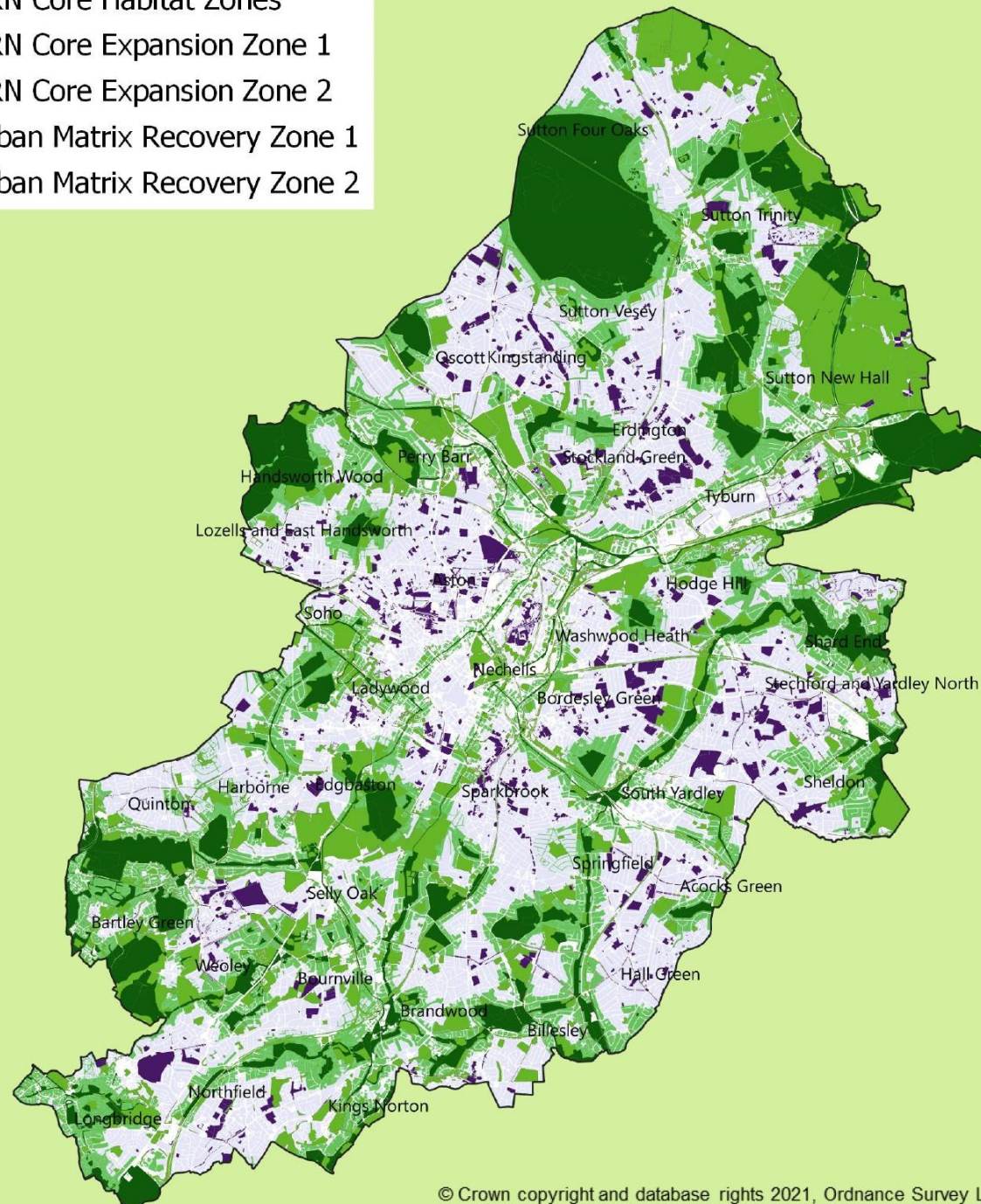
NRN Urban Matrix Recovery Zones: The remaining areas of the Urban Landscape Matrix form part of this category. Within this category, two zones were identified as follows:

Urban Matrix Recovery Zone 1: Comprises all features of the built environment within 100 meters of the Core Habitat Zones and may include residential and commercial properties, gardens, road verges, street trees and minor water courses.

The protection, enhancement, and creation of green infrastructure within these areas is a priority.

Urban Matrix Recovery Zone 2: Comprises all features of the built environment outside of Zone 1. These areas provide an opportunity for the protection, enhancement, and creation of green infrastructure.

- NRN Core Habitat Zones
- NRN Core Expansion Zone 1
- NRN Core Expansion Zone 2
- Urban Matrix Recovery Zone 1
- Urban Matrix Recovery Zone 2





An Urban Forest Masterplan for Birmingham 2021-2051

Executive Report



We are now facing the major challenges of climate change and where the majority of the global population live.

We are experiencing changes in our weather patterns that include prolonged periods of hotter weather and of intense rainfall.

For those living in cities that brings significant impacts such as the Urban Heat Island effect and risks to health and well-being.

With an expected 70% of the world's population living in cities by 2050 this could affect some 5.6 billion people worldwide.

The natural environment and trees especially can help adapt our living environment and mitigate some of the effects we experience from climate change.

We are already recognising the importance of trees to lock away carbon, a key component of greenhouse gases within their trunks, branches and leaves. However, trees also provide a calming visual aspect that aids mental health and wellbeing, can help in the absorption and interception of storm water and create air cooling effects amongst other benefits.

Knowing that trees play such an important part in ensuring cities remain habitable for the future we need to protect the trees we have and enhance the tree scape of Birmingham through continual planting and expansion of canopy cover.

But trees themselves are also susceptible to climate change and the rise in non-native pests and diseases.

So, to ensure we have a resilient tree scape that continues to deliver all these benefits there needs to be a comprehensive plan for the management of our Urban Forest.

We therefore have great pleasure in introducing this, Birmingham's Urban Forest Master Plan for 2021-2051.

Although the Vision has a city-wide scope, it is important to work at the neighbourhood level, together with local communities and stakeholders, to ensure the successful implementation of the plan.

This new Urban Forest Master Plan is championed by Birmingham City Council and Birmingham TreePeople, and was developed in a collaborative process with representatives of the local government; interest groups; and representatives of the community; and with the support of Treeconomics. The Plan outlines key topics, priorities, and actions under three central themes:

- 1) Trees and Forest Structure,
- 2) Community Framework,
- 3) Sustainable Resource Management Approach.

The Master Plan is structured around a comprehensive set of key performance indicators, informed by the current state of evidence and good practices, and developed in a collaborative process. For each of these performance indicators, an assessment of the current situation is made, ambitions are laid out, and priorities are identified. Moreover, specific actions and roles and responsibilities are defined.

This ambitious Urban Forest Master Plan is an important step forward. Its future implementation, with a coordination role for the new Birmingham Urban Tree Board and in collaboration with a wide range of local partners and members of the community, will make the city greener, healthier, and more resilient to climate and other challenges.



The overall Vision for Birmingham's urban forestry program is:

Having more trees for Birmingham, that deliver benefits for health, nature, and climate change, for all the communities within the city, now and in the future, as part of an inclusive and sustainable urban forest.

This Vision is delivered by:

- **Developing a diverse and resilient urban forest.**
- **Building meaningful relationships between trees and all members of Birmingham's diverse communities.**
- **Managing the urban forest in an evidence-based and highly professional way.**
- **Working collaboratively and in partnership, crossing communities, ownership, sectors, and scales.**

"Birmingham's treescape is a legacy of both city planning and the philanthropic work of notable residents who bequeathed land for public parks and open spaces. This history of joint working for the benefit of all is something we are continuing today with the Urban Forest Master Plan, it being a truly co-created document for the long-term protection and advancement of the urban forest."

Simon Needle, Principal Arboriculturist at BCC

03 Targets, Priorities and Actions

R4 Environmental Justice, Cultural Values and Equity

Birmingham is the UK's most diverse city, with around 50% of the population being of ethnic minority backgrounds. The urban forest should reflect the diversity of people and cultures at a neighbourhood level, and planting and management should respect the views and values of the many different communities it serves. Birmingham's Community Cohesion Strategy aims to progress equality in all spheres of social and economic life and empower and engage neighbourhoods.

Urban forests are connected to a range of socio-economic factors, with studies linking canopy cover to health, wealth, education, and crime. Typically, lower income areas have fewer trees, and this inequality should be addressed across Birmingham. Lack of tree canopy cover can also be linked to the level of urban intensification and lack of physical space to plant trees (low cost housing with small gardens are not always suitable for trees). Therefore utilising other aspects of the urban forest such as green walls/roofs may be a part of the solution. The benefits of trees should be made available to all people in all areas of the city. Tree planting should not always go hand in hand with new development and land re-purposing, as this can lead to those with lower income becoming priced out of areas as they develop. The city must recognise that trees and green space should be a right for all people, and environmental exclusion must be avoided.

This target aims to ensure that the planting and management of the urban forest can be focused in the areas where it will most benefit the local people, by increasing planting in the areas with the lowest canopy cover. Tree management plans in these areas should include community engagement and neighbourhood outreach to maximise the benefits of trees in the area. The multi-faceted meanings of trees to different people should be recognised.

Actions

1. Develop and monitor specific tools for assessing fair access to all;
2. Produce a 'Tree Equity map';
3. Ensure that new tree planting is linked to local need and involves local communities.

Priority	Responsibility for Action	For Review:
High	1-3. The Tree Board	April 2022 - Medium to long term project

Performance level	Performance Indicators			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Low	Tree planting and outreach is not determined equitably by canopy cover or need for benefits.	Planting and outreach includes attention to low canopy neighbourhoods or areas.	Planting and outreach targets neighbourhoods with low canopy and a high need for tree benefits.	Equitable planting and outreach at the neighbourhood level is guided by strong citizen engagement in those low-canopy/high-need areas.

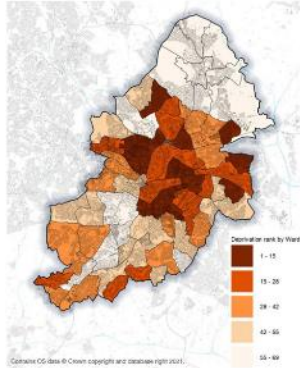
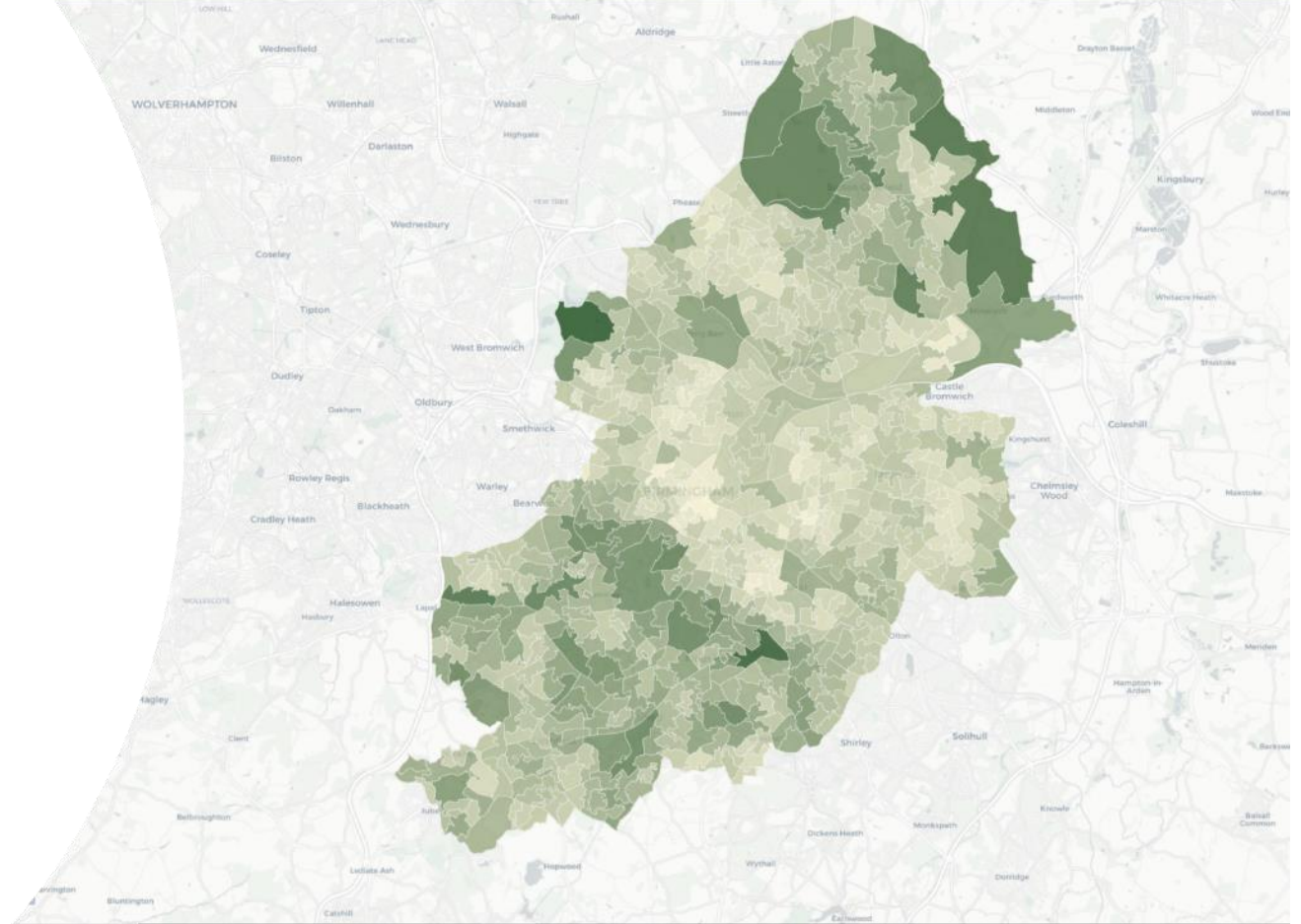


Figure 16: Indices of Multiple Deprivation Ranking by Ward (1=most deprived)

Sources and references:

BCMUSA, 2021. Policy and Planning Tools for Urban Green Justice: Fighting displacement and gentrification and expanding accessibility and inclusiveness to green amenities.

Newell, J., Malme, M.J., Shogren, S.R. and Gehrig, C., 2016. The dimensions of urban green equity: A framework for analysis. Urban forestry & urban greening, 34, pp.240-248.



03 Targets, Priorities and Actions

R3 Canopy Cover Assessment and Goals

Assessing canopy cover is vital, as this metric is used frequently as a figure which is clear and easy to compare with other areas. Whilst canopy cover is not a thorough study of the health and diversity and therefore overall benefit of the urban forest, it is an important aspect which should not be overlooked simply for its simplicity.

This target involves assessing the existing canopy cover in detail, and setting goals based on reasonable potential canopy cover and achievable steps to maximising cover. This leads into T1-Relative Tree Canopy Cover - and would provide the necessary baseline for achieving that target. It is important that any tree canopy target is achievable within a reasonable time frame, and considered within the wider context of the Master Plan.

Birmingham has set a target of Carbon net neutrality by 2030, and this increase in canopy cover would contribute immensely. It should also be noted that tree planting does not necessarily provide an instant increase to canopy cover: in an urban setting trees are constantly being felled for any number of reasons, so insufficient planting can contribute to making up the deficit without actually increasing canopy cover.

City	London	Bristol	Plymouth	Cambridge	Turkey
Existing Canopy Cover	27% (2018)	18% (2018)	18.5% (2017)	17% (2008)	12% (2011)
2050 Target	30%	30%	20%	19%	20%

Table 2: Comparable Cities' Canopy Cover Estimates and Goals



Figure 15: Tree Canopy Cover across Birmingham from National Tree Map (NTM) Satellite Data

Actions

1. Once a basic assessment has been done, then T1 canopy targets can be established and further analysis undertaken.

Priority	Responsibility for Action	For Review:
High	1. BCC	April 2022 - Medium to Long term project

Performance level	Performance Indicators			
	Low	Moderate	Good	Optimal
Low	No assessment or goals.	Low-resolution and/or point-based sampling of canopy cover using aerial photographs or satellite imagery – and limited or no goal-setting.	Complete, detailed, and spatially explicit, high-resolution Urban Tree Canopy (UTC) assessment based on enhanced data (such as LiDAR) – accompanied by comprehensive set of goals by land use and other parameters.	As described for "Good" rating – and all utilised effectively to drive urban forest policy and practice municipality-wide and at neighbourhood or smaller management level.

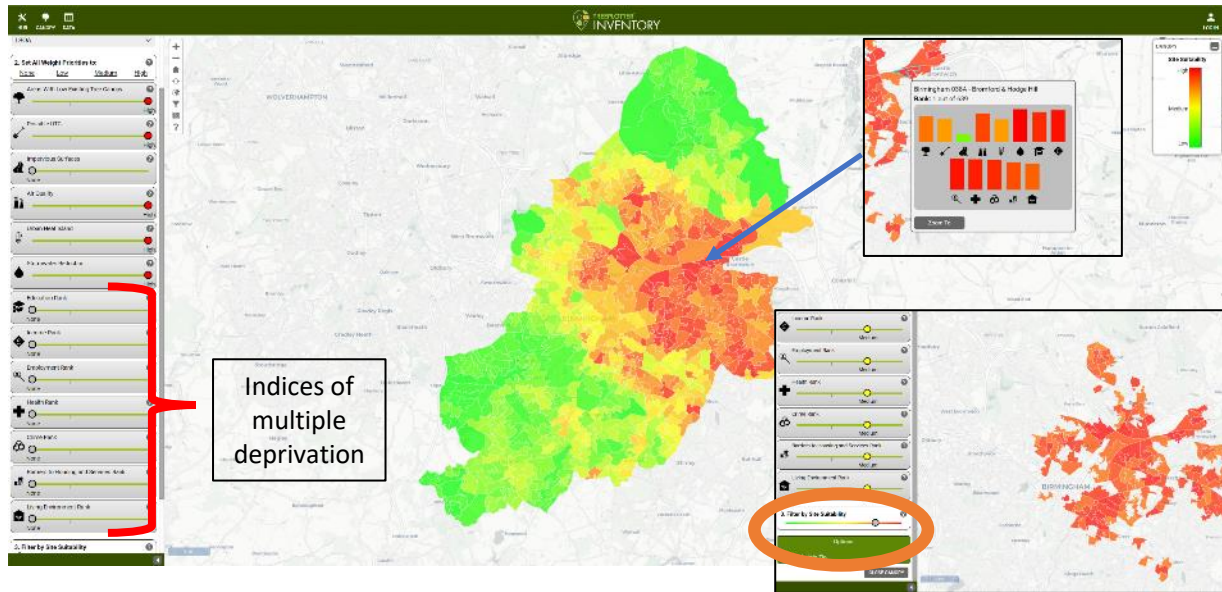
Establishing Canopy Cover levels in the City

- Canopy cover derived from UK National Tree Map (Blue Sky) and land area but factoring in area of exclusion such as water bodies, dedicated sporting areas (stadia, cricket, football, bowls etc.) and some designated nature conservation sites such as SSSI's.

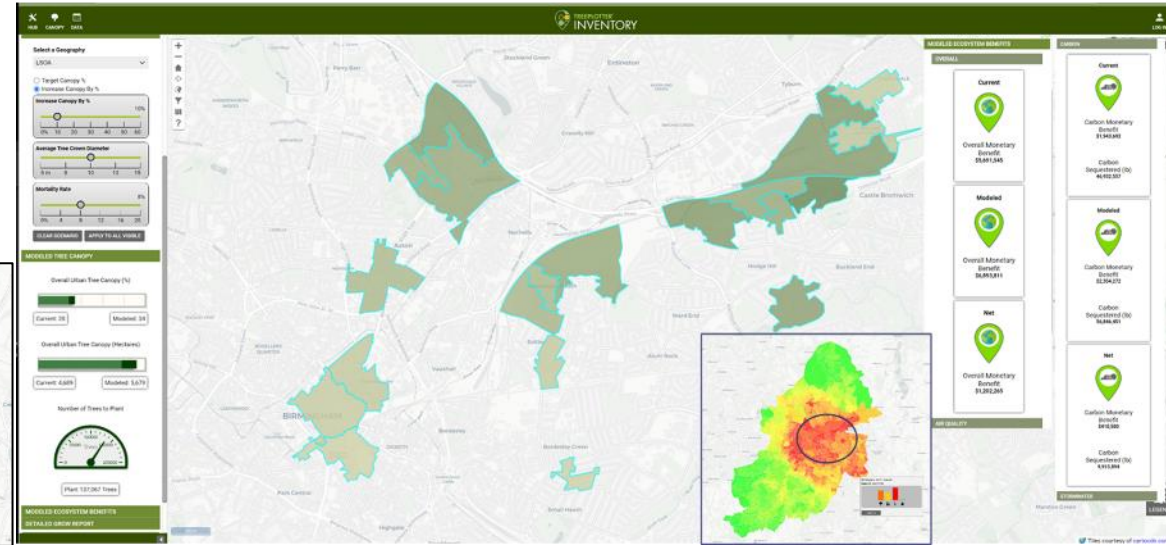
- Overall, approx. 18.6% CC by total area but with excluded areas that increases in to the low 20% range. Distribution uneven across the city.

Climate Risk and Vulnerability Risk, using trees for Climate Adaptation

Prioritising areas for action.



Modelling tree planting targets and delivery of Ecosystem Services





Biophilic Aims

- Access for all
- Proximity to nature
- Reduced Climate Risk

Better equitable access to nature - equity in distribution of urban nature to achieve nature on the doorstep;
 Reduced Climate Risk & Vulnerability

- Adaptive
- Climate Resilient
- Reduced Urban Heat Island Effect
- Reduced Flood Risk

Bettering the environmental quality and resilience of public realm, improving access to safer routes with better air quality, encouraging active travel, mitigating heat island and flooding impacts and reducing stress & vulnerability

- Community Involvement
- Stewardship

Co creation and care for nature, empowering communities to foster a sense of ownership and investment in their local green spaces with stewardship gains to aid long term maintenance and funding
 Diversifying range of greenspaces, improve awareness and education to increase engagement.



- Street greening
- Biodiversity Net Gain
- Connectivity

Improving quality, quantity and connectivity of green and blue infrastructure to strengthen urban ecosystems;
 Contribution to Birmingham’s urban forest masterplan;
 Enrich the diversity of greenspaces for a mosaic of habitats to aid local nature recovery networks;

- Increased external and local investment opportunities
- Promoting local Green Jobs & Green Businesses

Promoting circular economy opportunities out of the proposed development and local environmental enhancements
 Identifying local green and blue space based income generation initiatives

01 Alum Rock

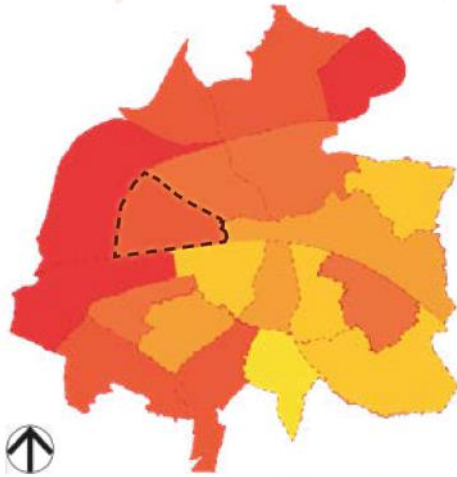


Fig 04: Ward Location Plan and CRVA Scoring

CLIMATE RISK VULNERABILITY SCORE



LANDSCAPE CHARACTER

The ward features an industrial area along its western edge, predominantly characterized by residential terraced housing. The central hub, situated along Alum Rock Road, serves as a local centre, housing various retail outlets, restaurants, and incorporating mixed-use development typically spanning 2 to 3 storeys. However, the area leans towards car dominance, leading to a somewhat congested and cramped public realm.

OPPORTUNITIES IN LINE WITH NATURE RECOVERY NETWORK (NRN)

Several opportunities align with the Nature Recovery Network (NRN) within the ward. These include the restoration of the Green/Blue link to the south of Ward End Park, which would help to revitalize natural habitats. Moreover, there's potential in reclaiming underutilized green spaces along Alum Rock Road, where restoration and enhancement could be facilitated through biophilic interventions, promoting ecological well-being. The concept of child-friendly streets and the restoration of open spaces in and around schools could contribute to nurturing a connection with nature for the community, enhancing both environmental and educational aspects.



Fig 05: Nature Recovery Network and Emerging/Existing EB Opportunities

KEY

- Emerging Green Infrastructure Opportunity
- Existing East Birmingham Opportunity
- Ward Boundary
- Core Landscape Zone
- Core Habitat Zone
- Priority Network Restoration Zone
- Core Expansion Zone 1
- Core Expansion Zone 2
- Urban Matrix Recovery Zone 1
- Urban Matrix Recovery Zone 2

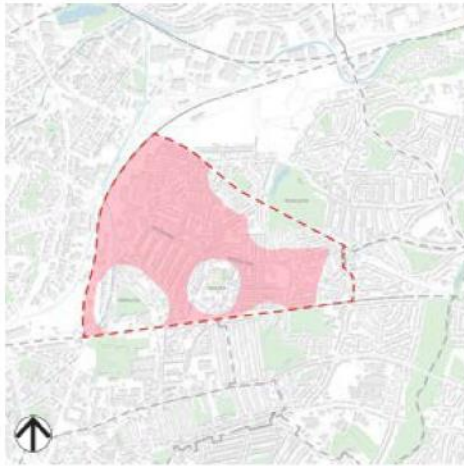


Fig 06: ANGst Analysis Plan

KEY

- Ward Boundary
- Combined Lack of Access to Natural Green Space



Fig 07: Active Travel Analysis Plan

KEY

- Ward Boundary
- Local Town Centre
- Public Rights of Way
- Existing Cycleway
- Proposed Cycleway
- Proposed Network Enhancement



Fig 08: Tree Canopy Cover Plan

KEY

- Ward Boundary
- Medium to High Tree Coverage
- Low to Medium Tree Coverage
- Area with Lack of Tree Coverage
- Existing Tree Corridors
- Opportunities for Tree Corridors



Fig 09: Green and Blue Connection Plan

KEY

- Ward Boundary
- Existing Watercourse
- Existing Wildlife Corridor
- Existing Tree Corridor
- Tree Corridor Opportunity
- Existing Blue Network
- Green Opportunity
- Existing Public Open Space
- Lack of Access to Green Space
- Flood Zone 2
- Flood Zone 3

ACCESSIBLE NATURAL GREEN SPACE STANDARD (ANGst)

A significant challenge in the area pertains to the lack of access to public open spaces, with particular emphasis on the under served northwestern corner.

ACTIVE TRAVEL

Active travel infrastructure faces notable gaps in the area. Both existing and planned cycle routes fail to adequately connect with the local centre. Furthermore, there is a notable absence of connectivity to the west of the site and to routes running along the River Cole, hindering the development of a comprehensive active travel network that could promote sustainable transportation options and enhance accessibility throughout the ward.

TREE CANOPY COVER

A substantial portion of the tree canopy is concentrated in the east, providing effective coverage along streets and connections to adjacent green spaces. Conversely, the western section of the ward experiences sparse groupings of trees, with noticeable gaps in the central and western areas. Key proposed tree corridors are aimed to link the both parts through the local centre as well as create a north-south connections.

GREEN AND BLUE CONNECTIONS

The central part of the ward lacks accessible public open green spaces. By considering the existing and planned tree corridors, we can pinpoint opportunities to bridge these gaps in green space, fostering connections between existing natural areas. These opportunities are primarily situated along the proposed central tree corridor route, encompassing the vacant green spaces that link existing green areas, and they may also manifest as part of future development initiatives at the western edge of the ward.

- EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES**
- 1 Alum Rock Mobility Hub
 - 2 Alum Rock Road Greening
 - 3 Alum Rock Community Gardens
 - 4 Bridge Road and Parkfield Road Child Friendly Streets and Schools Restoration
 - 5 Green Attenuation Link
 - 6 Green and Blue Roofs and Green Wall Opportunities as Part of HS2 Proposals
 - 7 Couchman Road and Alderson Road Green Street

- EXISTING EB OPPORTUNITIES**
- a Ward End Park
 - b Adderley Park

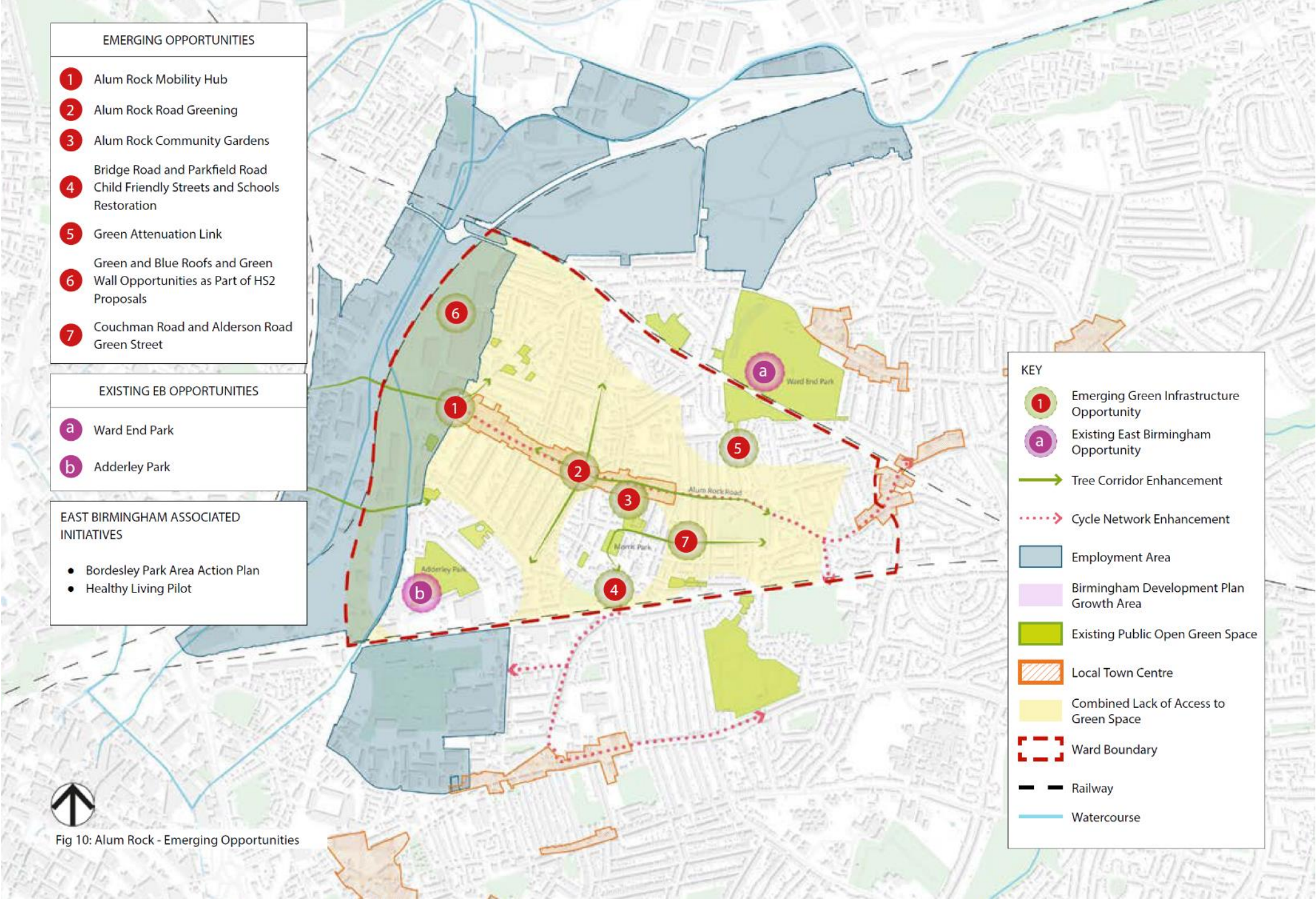
- EAST BIRMINGHAM ASSOCIATED INITIATIVES**
- Bordesley Park Area Action Plan
 - Healthy Living Pilot

KEY

- 1 Emerging Green Infrastructure Opportunity
- a Existing East Birmingham Opportunity
- Tree Corridor Enhancement
- Cycle Network Enhancement
- Employment Area
- Birmingham Development Plan Growth Area
- Existing Public Open Green Space
- Local Town Centre
- Combined Lack of Access to Green Space
- Ward Boundary
- Railway
- Watercourse



Fig 10: Alum Rock - Emerging Opportunities



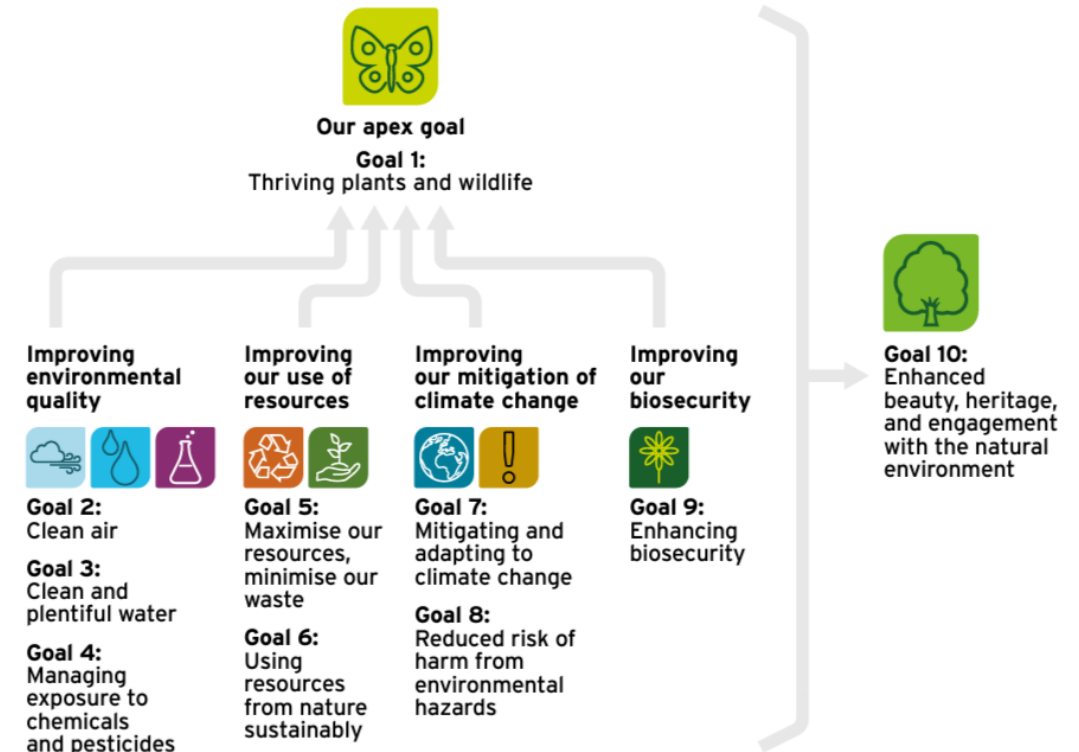
A grayscale photograph of a city street scene. In the foreground, a large, leafy tree stands on the left side of the frame. A black metal fence runs across the middle ground, with a double-decker bus visible on the right side. In the background, a multi-story building with arched windows and a balcony is visible. The text "Translation for senior leaders and elected members" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Translation for senior leaders and elected members

National Policy and Plans



Connections between our environmental goals



Statutory legislation

The action local authorities take for biodiversity will contribute to the achievement of national goals and targets on biodiversity.

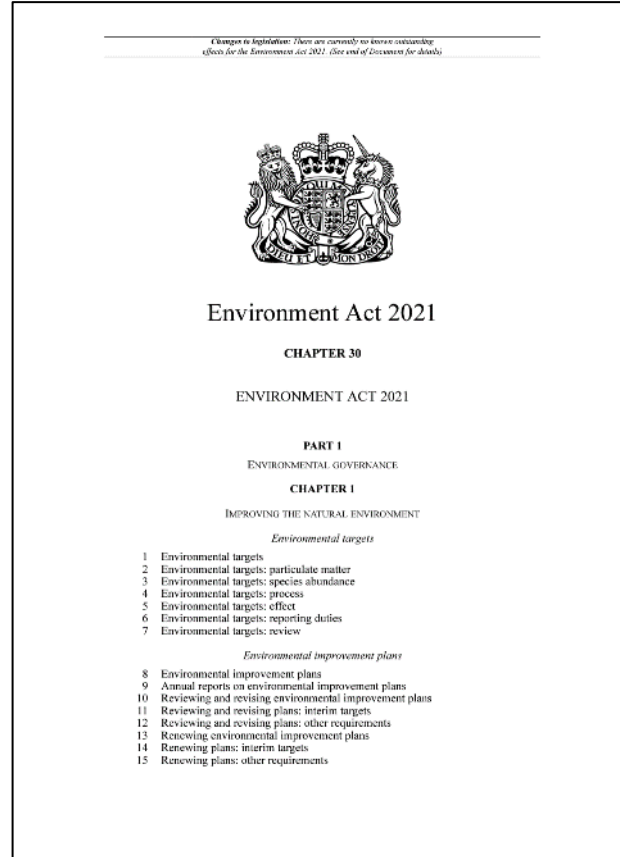
The [Environmental Improvement Plan \(EIP23\)](#), published in January 2023, sets out government plans for significantly improving the natural environment.

By 2030, the government has committed to:

- halt the decline in species abundance.
- protect 30% of UK land.

By 2042, the government has committed to:

- increase species abundance by at least 10% from 2030, surpassing 2022 levels.
- restore or create at least 500,000 ha of a range of wildlife rich habitats.
- reduce the risk of species extinction.
- restore 75% of our one million hectares of terrestrial and freshwater protected sites to favourable condition, securing their wildlife value for the long term.



Biodiversity Net Gain

Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) is providing a measurable increase in biodiversity value of a habitat or site against a previously measured value. The Environment Act 2021 has introduced a mandatory requirement that all developments (with just a few exceptions) **MUST** deliver a minimum of 10% net gain. This will be mandatory for all major developments from January 2024 and April 2024 for all other qualifying developments.

Increased duties under Section 40 of the NERC Act - Requirement for Local Authorities to report on actions to both consider and promote biodiversity through all actions.

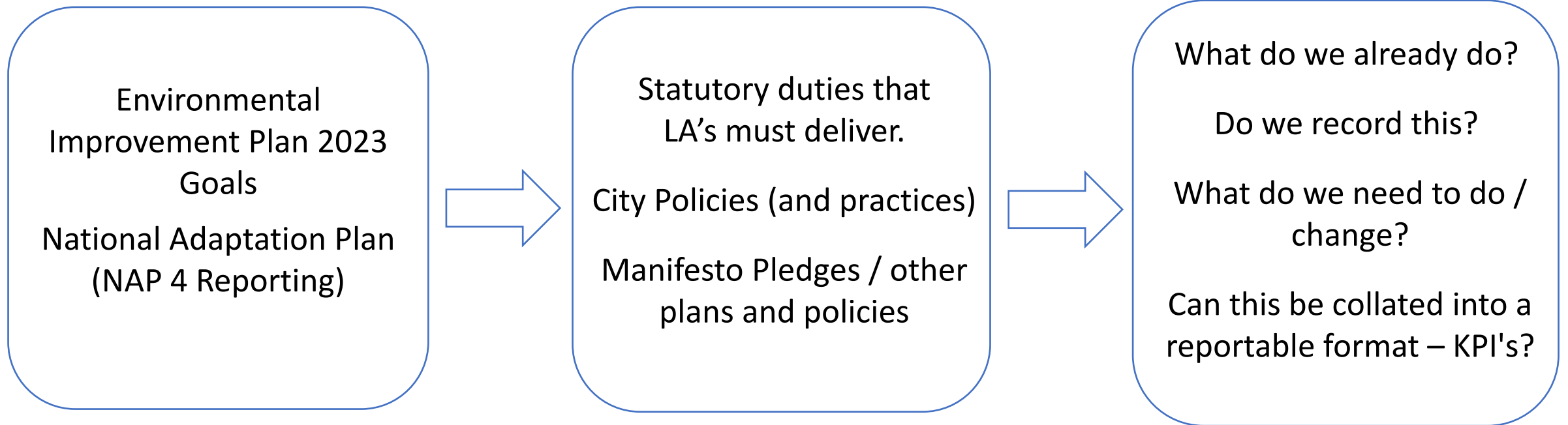
An amendment to the original Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC Act) section 40 duty, provided for in the Environment Act 2021, extends the biodiversity duty on public authorities to include the enhancement of biodiversity alongside conservation by way of creating “the general biodiversity objective”.

Under section 40(1A) (a) Local Authorities must take a strategic approach to determine policies and specific objectives for taking action to further the general biodiversity objective. Local Authorities must also (under section 40(1A) (b)) take action in light of these policies and objectives to further the general biodiversity objective.

This duty came into force in January 2023. By January 2024 Local Authorities are expected to have considered what action to take for biodiversity, and by March 2024 have reviewed existing, or plan to implement new, policies and practices in relation to the delivery of the “general biodiversity duty”. There is a statutory duty to publish our first report no later than March 2026 and then at 5 yearly intervals from that point.

Therefore, robust monitoring and recording in relation to this duty must take place from April 2026 onwards.

Relating National targets to Local Actions



Looks like this...

EIP Contributing Goals	Plan Goals	Statutory legislation/ regulation (this what we have to do)	Adopted City Policy/ Strategy/ Plan (This is how we do this)	Who will do/ lead this	Council manifesto pledge 2022 - 2026	WMCA Policy	Government Plan	Other	Notes:
Goal 1 - Thriving plants and wildlife	We will achieve a growing and resilient network of land, water and sea that is richer in plants and wildlife	<p>Environment Act 2021 (Biodiversity Net Gain, Local Nature Recovery Network)</p> <p>Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (increased duty on LA's to consider and report on Biodiversity Actions Section 40.)</p>	<p>City of Nature 25 Year Plan Biodiversity Net Gain Policy (being drafted).</p> <p>Local Nature Recovery Policy (Local Plan)</p> <p>Urban Forest Master Plan 2021 - 2051</p> <p>Local Plan (planning and development policies)</p>	Planning/ natural environment function or team , Parks Service,	Developing a 25-year plan to increase the number of parks and green spaces in Birmingham from 600 to 1,000, focusing on the least-green neighbourhoods. Birmingham can be the city of 1,000 trades and 1,000 green spaces.	Responsible body for Local Nature Recovery Network Strategy WMCA Natural Environment Plan 2021 - 2026	Protect 30% of our land and seas by 2030	BCC - Environmental Sustainability Assessment	Lawton Report - Making space for Nature Dasgupta review - economics of Biodiversity.

Enables translation of National Priorities to measurable actions

EIP Contributing Goals			Measure 1	Measure 2	Measure 3	Measure 4
Goal 1 - Thriving plants and wildlife	A functioning nature recovery network	Established Local Nature Recovery Network	Number of sites identified within the network (in each of the key zones)	Number of sites with local nature conservation designation (SINC/SLINC)	Number of sites with Potential Site of Interest designation	Number of sites designated in previous 12 months
		Sites in positive condition for Biodiversity	Number of designated sites recorded in positive management	Number of designated sites recorded not in positive management		
		Sites benefiting from Biodiversity Net Gain	Number of sites with secured delivery funding for Net Gain	Number of sites with up to date / quantifiable potential (up to date UKHAB and condition assessment)	Number of sites requiring survey for potential (UKHAB and condition assessment)	



Thank you for listening

NEIRF Green Finance for Islington Pocket Park Framework (R&D Programme)

PAS Nature Recovery Toolkit Roadshow

21 March 2024



NEIRF Green Finance for Islington Pocket Park Framework

- **Origin – Deliver Transformation Change**

There is a need to scale up urban greening for climate adaptation. Existing funding routes are not extensive for the coverage required. Opportunity for scale up as per manifesto commitment 1.5ha new green public realm

- **NEIRF**

DEFRA and Natural England awarded this initiative £100k for research and development. Idea is to create a readily investable pipeline of projects for private outcome investment buyers. The programme completes March 24

WSP UK are lead consultant.

Community-Led Highways Greening Programmes

- **Test and Learn Pipeline Programmes:** Phased, small scale, inclusive, low cost, no dig & low risk;
- **Capacity building:** community maintainer champions training programmes. Opportunities for revenue savings;
- **Additional Funding** for resourcing of individual project with boroughwide perspective and resourcing mobile teams;
- Islington Garden Parklet No. 1 **Stewardship Success Story**



Council's vision for re-imagined public spaces continues with launch of Islington Greener Together programme



Department for Environment Food & Rural Affairs



NATURAL ENGLAND

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT INVESTMENT READINESS FUND

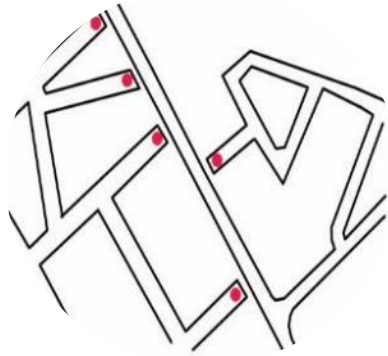
WSP

Landscape Institute

ISLINGTON For a more equal future



Pocket Park Framework origin



Greater London local authority led 'proof of concept' priority pipeline



@30% Islington £50m
6 ha/ 300 pocket parks



e.g Flood risk map

e.g Local green deficit map

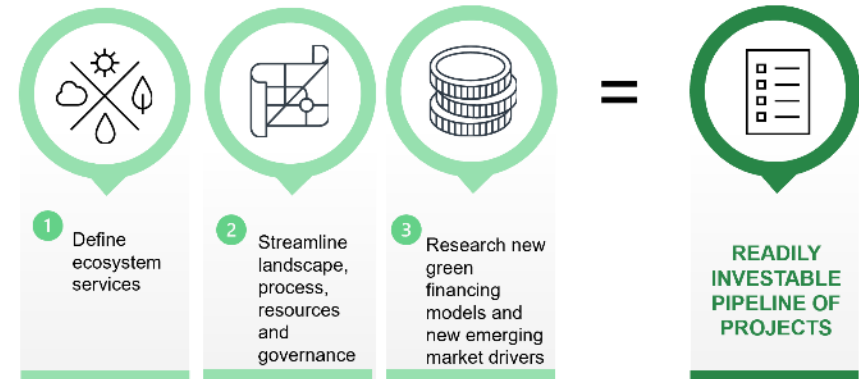
e.g Community driven



@30% Greater London, £1.6b
200 ha/ 9,600 pocket parks



Green Finance for Islington Pocket Park Framework



Pillars 1, 2 & 3

Bundling ecosystem benefits from pocket parks



Tangible

- Physical results
- Measurable benefits, e.g. Urban Greening Factor

Attainable

- Realistic timeline and budget based on constraints
- Well resourced

Impactful

- Meets expectations
- Desirable benefits
- Modelling capital, maintenance and resource

Community driven

- Demand and needs driven
- Maintained by community

Assessment of Site Potential – Site Audit

Pocket Park Site Potential			SITE INFORMATION
Green	Amber	Red	
Address			Site No.
Location Reference			Location Reference
Location Address			Location Address
Ward			Ward
Asset (to be built)			Asset (to be built)
Typology (for interim)			Typology (for interim)
Green Corridor/ Low pollution route			Green Corridor/ Low pollution route
Local Nature Recovery Consideration			Local Nature Recovery Consideration
Notes			POTENTIAL COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION
POTENTIAL ECO/STEWARDSHIP			Community Interest
YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	ICT Champion
YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	Maintenance and Sustainability opportunity
YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	Water Source
YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	Young People
YES/NO	YES/NO	YES/NO	Protected Space
SOCIO-ENVIRONMENTAL CONCEPTS SCORE			
Score	Score	Score	Score
Score	Score	Score	Score
POTENTIAL SPEC OUTCOMES IMPACT			

Emerging Pocket Park Design Framework



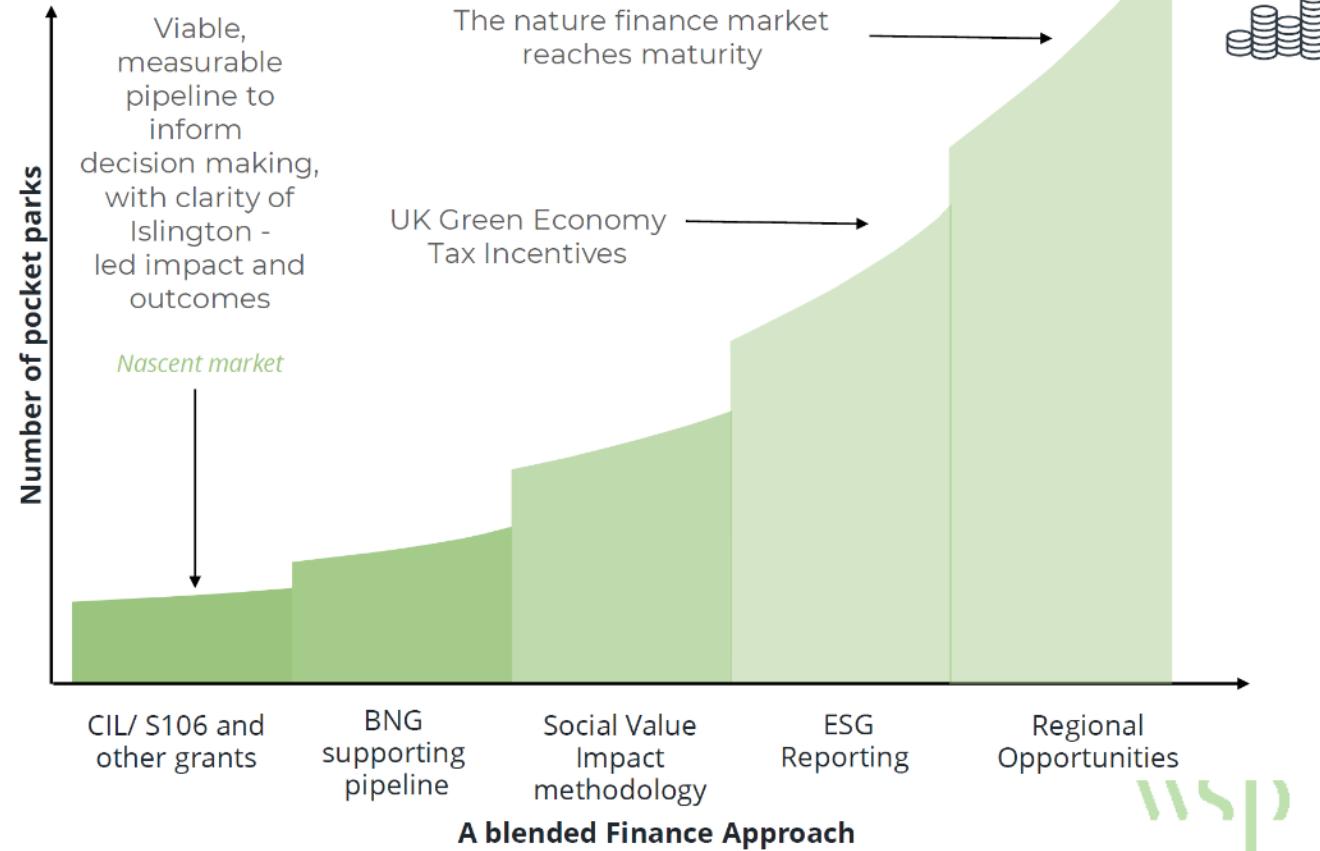
Who is going to invest?



Trajectory of the pocket park framework enablers

Principles

1. Operational from the get –go
2. A range of product outcomes are developed, dependent on the potential raising revenue source
3. Product development will evolve over time, yet the pipeline measurables will always be at the core.
4. Aggregation of evidence from site delivered will feed into developing the case for new financial instruments.



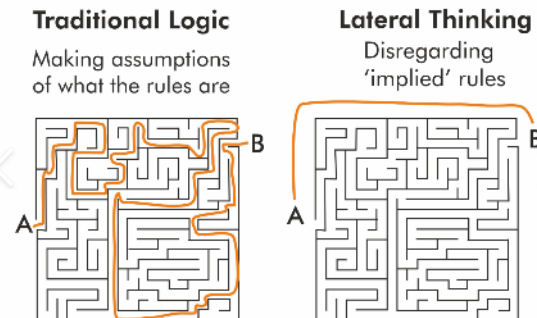
Challenges and Opportunities

Challenge	Opportunities
Funding	New private routes being identified
Resource	Build into the model. Not just capital
In-house expertise	Build on existing, cross dept approach.
Capacity	Best practice and streamline
Competing priorities	Test and Learn. Agile approach. New governance process, not based on key decisions
Robust policy	KPI's, Metrics, clarity UNSDGs to ESG drivers. Onus on council
Lack of consistent central Govt approach	Opportunities for local authorities to get ready and check internal blockages and opportunities.
Risk of not doing anything	Will change of the back of 1 or 2 more extreme weather events.
Land constraints	Neet to repurpose existing highway
Maintenance and revenue	New community participation neighbourhood stewardship models. Build into model. Not just capital

Role of departments

Highways and Transport	ASB
Planning	Conservation and Heritage
Public Health	S106/CIL
Green Space and Parks	Policy
Asset Management	Cleansing and Waste
Car parking	Youth Services
Net Zero Team	Community engagement
Inclusive Economies	Volunteering co-ordination
Housing	Affordable housing and regeneration
Legal	Finance

...and a healthy dose of lateral thinking!



Q&A

Thank you

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