

The Development and Use of a GI Policy Assessment Methodology

Max Hislop

Glasgow Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership

Sarah Jackson

Bath & North East Somerset Council/
West of England Combined Authority

Professor Alister Scott

NERC GI Knowledge Exchange Fellow/
Northumbria University

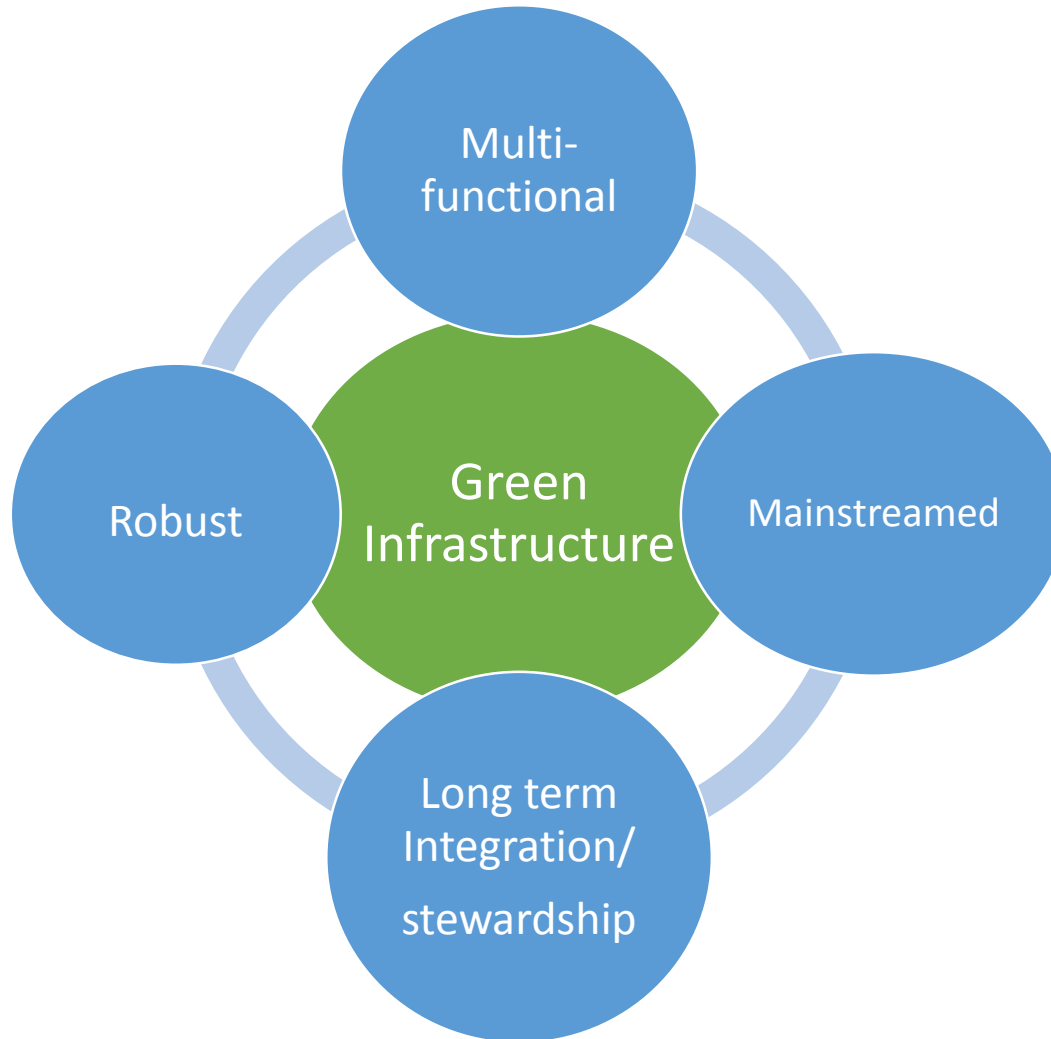


Plan

1. **Principles** of the GI policy tool
2. **Origins:** The CSGN Study
3. **Co-Developing** the Assessment Tool
4. **Testing:** NPPF (England) and PPW10 (Wales)
5. **Using the Tool:** Reflections from the West of England



Policy Principles of the Tool



1. Search plan for policies



2. Assess policies against Criteria



3. Enter scores for coverage + strength in the Matrix



- ### Assessment Criteria
- A. The value of GI is explicitly recognised & justified within the Plan's vision, principles, or objectives
 - B. GI benefits are explicitly stated within economic, social, health & climate change policies
 - C. The extent to which GI policy (criteria D-Z) is mainstreamed outside the environmental policies
 - D. GI is an integral design component considered at pre-planning stage of the development**
 - E. Designers of GI engage with all key stakeholders at preplanning stage of the development
 - F. GI delivers multiple functions and benefits on the same land parcel
 - G. GI enhances natural capital and delivery of environment net gains
 - H. The development setting is appraised for multiple GI functions and benefits
 - I. The development site is appraised for multiple GI functions and benefits
 - J. GI is designed to deliver a wider landscape scale GI network
 - K. GI delivers on site habitat enhancements resulting in biodiversity net gain
 - L. GI is designed to retain and expand habitat networks including nature recovery networks
 - M. Watercourses and coastal areas are explicitly referenced as GI in the design of the development
 - N. SuDS are explicitly referenced in developments as multi-functional GI
 - O. Watercourses and SuDS have a naturalised design enhancing natural capital
 - P. Watercourses and SuDS are designed to provide safe public access
 - Q. Watercourses and SuDS enhance the aesthetic and amenity value of the development
 - R. GI is designed to improve air quality issues
 - S. GI enhances opportunities for active and healthy travel
 - T. GI links to wider path and public access networks where they exist
 - U. GI is designed to provide local recreational walking and cycling opportunities
 - V. GI meets the Council's accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space**
 - W. GI is designed to provide recreational facilities for different user & age groups
 - X. Long-term Management & maintenance arrangements is documented & agreed
 - Y. Documentation states the function and benefits of all GI components and their maintenance regimes
 - Z. Mechanisms to fund the management & maintenance regime are identified & agreed

Local Development Plan	Green Infrastructure Design Elements																										
	Open Space Standards						Watercourses & SuDS						Habitat & Biodiversity						Recreation & Health						Other		
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
Policy CP2																											
Policy GI2																											
Policy ENV1																											
Highest Scores																											

Legend

	None	Some	Most or dispersed	Full
Coverage				
Strength				
Score	0	1	2	3

Policy CP2
Green Infrastructure
Developments are required to create high quality places people can enjoy living and working in and which contribute to healthy lifestyles and wellbeing by delivering green infrastructure that contributes to the development and enhancement of a multi-functional green network. All developments shall demonstrate that green infrastructure has been integrated into the design and layout of the development.

4) Green Infrastructure Design Requirements: Development shall contribute to the green network through the integration of multi-functional green infrastructure into the design and layout of the development. This shall be demonstrated to be more appropriate, through delivery of enhancements or expansion of the green network through off-site delivery, in accordance with the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance. Proposals should take account of the existing on-site green infrastructure assets and enhancements should demonstrate how the design and layout has been informed by and developed in response to these assets.

5) Water Management: Development proposals are required to integrate well-designed and naturalised Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) features, to manage drainage and water quality, as set out in Policy ENV 5: Water Environment, and in line with the current SuDS Code for Scotland. Applicants are expected to integrate active travel routes with green infrastructure, where integration is not proposed, applicants must provide evidence as to why it is not possible. Proposals must demonstrate that the needs of all users have been provided for throughout the year.

6) Open Space: Development proposals are required to meet local accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space, addressing existing deficiencies in provision, and be designed to cater for the needs of the whole community year-round, as set out in Policy GI2: Open Space Standards and the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance.

7) Water Management: Development proposals are required to integrate well-designed and naturalised Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) features, to manage drainage and water quality, as set out in Policy ENV 5: Water Environment, and in line with the current SuDS Code for Scotland. Applicants should demonstrate how the design and layout of SuDS reflects and responds to the site circumstance and local landscape character. Applicants are expected to integrate SuDS proposals with green infrastructure and active travel proposals, as part of a multi-functional approach, which should be delivered and integrated as part of a green network. Where integration of SuDS is not proposed, applicants must provide evidence as to why it is not possible. Where SuDS are part of open space obligations, they should be safe and accessible whilst creating an enhancement to local destinations.

8) Opportunities for improving the conservation status of priority species and the inclusion of ecological features where the local environment should be considered.

9) Stewardship: Developers must consider the long-term management and maintenance of green infrastructure and should demonstrate how these considerations have informed site proposals. Details of maintenance requirements and arrangements must be included, including who is responsible for these requirements. Funding arrangements for delivery of the long-term maintenance requirements should be demonstrated to the local authority before construction starts, including means to secure biodiversity through all phases and stages of the development.

10) Further guidance and examples on the criteria contained above.

Note: Until such times as the Green Infrastructure and Creating Places Supplementary Guidance is adopted by the Council, the Local Green Network and Residential Development: Principles for Good Design Planning Guidance, which are non-statutory, should continue to be referred to by landowners and developers.

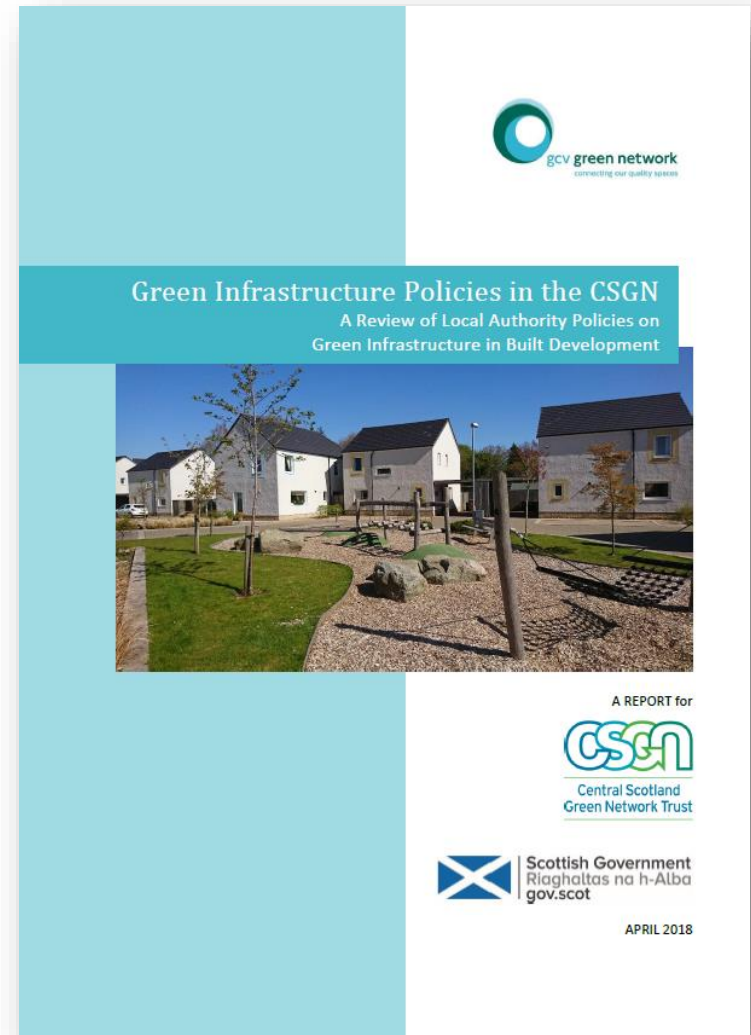
Policy ENV1
Nature Conservation
Development proposals should conserve and enhance onsite biodiversity and habitat networks within and adjacent to sites of special designation.

Policy GI2
Open Space Standards
The Council will require new development to meet with the open space standards set out in Table 0 below. These standards should form part of the overall integrated green infrastructure design approach as required by Policy CP2: Green Infrastructure. Where a development has already providing these standards on site, or where a relaxation of the standards can be justified, developers will require to accord with Policy GI4 and provide a contribution towards the types of projects outlined within Table 7 and detailed in the Green Infrastructure Supplementary Guidance.

The Methodology

Origins of the methodology

- To assess the quality of current GI policies in 19 local authorities in Central Scotland
- Used GI standards from:
 - Building with Nature
 - GCVGNP's IGI Approach



Conclusion: GI Policy in the CSGN is like...

Coverage:
Swiss Cheese



Strength:
Feta Cheese

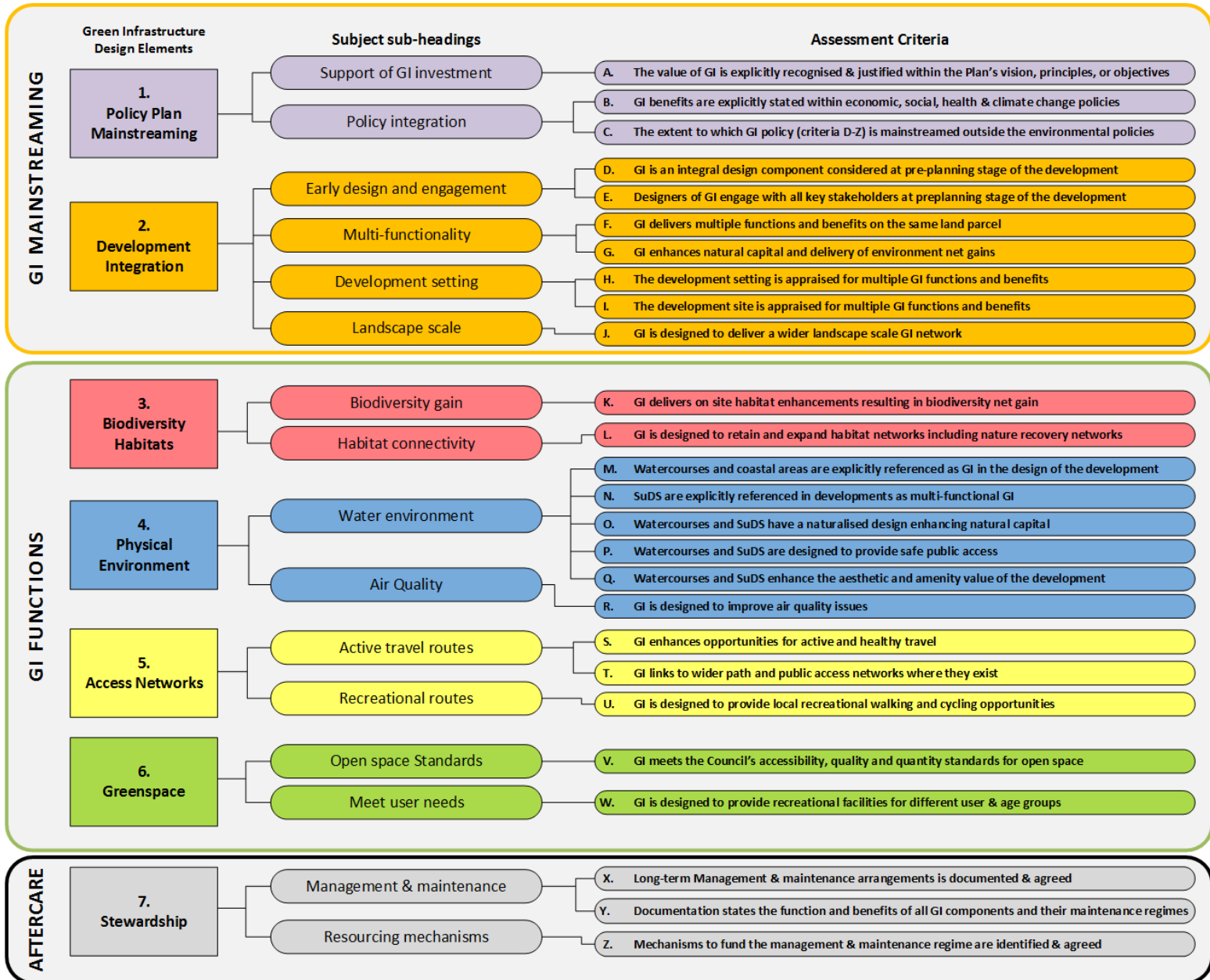


Methodological Evolution

- Building on CSGN study
- Using Mainstreaming GI project outputs to strengthen function, stewardship and mainstreaming functions.
- Co-design with West of England Combined Authority and Green Infrastructure Partnership in workshops.
- National and local planning case studies undertaken
- Tool evolution in light of assessor experience and user feedback
- Version 3 today.



Assessment Criteria



Scoring

Policy Plan Mainstreaming
investment
policy areas
Env. Policy

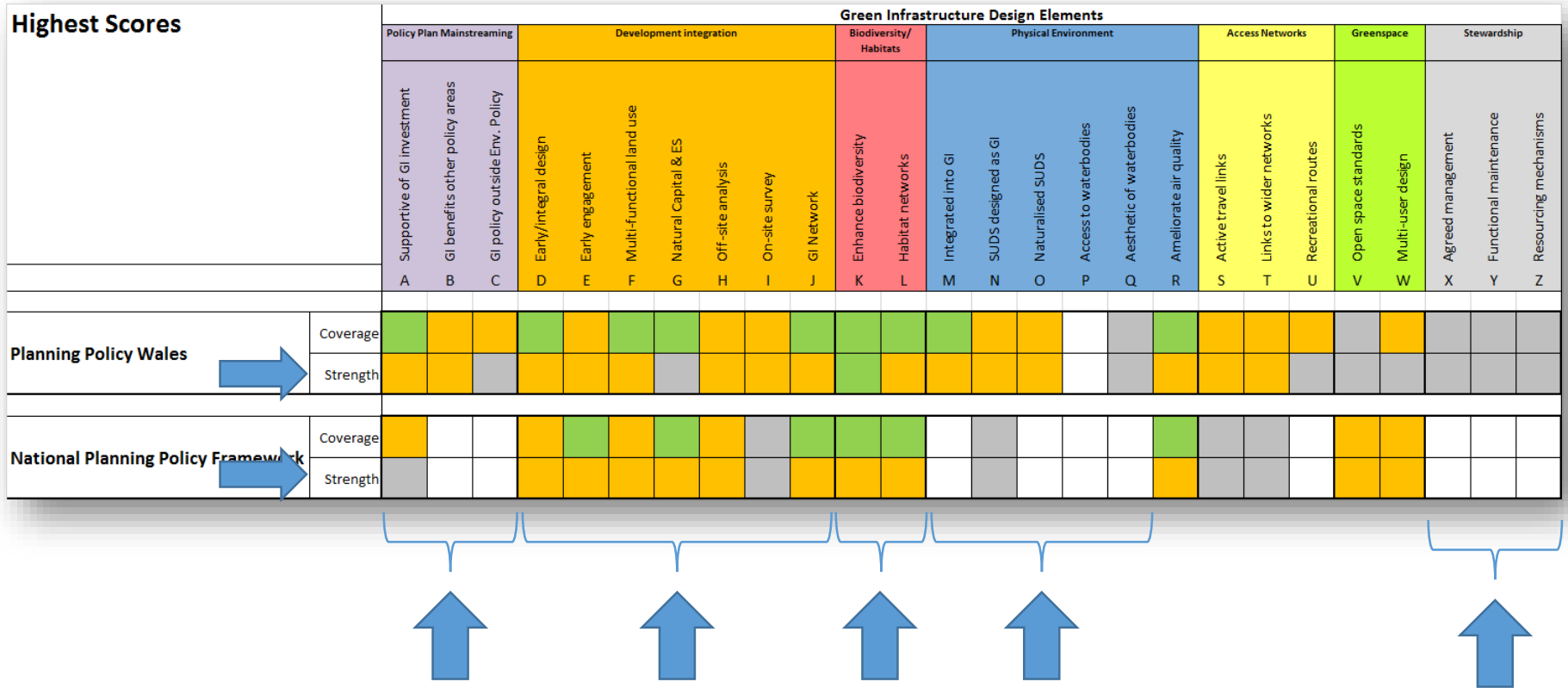
Assessment criteria

Policies

Plan Name (+ year of publication)		Green Infrastructure Design Elements																										
		Policy Plan Mainstreaming			Development integration							Biodiversity/ Habitats		Physical Environment					Access Networks			Greenspace		Stewardship				
		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
Chapter, Policy Name or Reference	Coverage																											
	Strength																											
Chapter, Policy Name or Reference	Coverage																											
	Strength																											
Chapter, Policy Name or Reference	Coverage																											
	Strength																											
Supplementary Guidance																												
Supp. Guidance Name	Coverage																											
	Strength																											
Highest Scores	Coverage																											
	Strength																											

Coverage of criteria	Score	Strength of policy wording
Some coverage	1	Weak phrasing
Reasonable coverage	2	Average phrasing
Full coverage	3	Strong phrasing

Summary scores: PPW10 & NPPF



Lessons so far



- Free to use policy support tool
- Flexible and adaptable
(insert your own options for other criteria)
- Potential uses at national, regional, local and neighbourhood plans and GI strategies
- <https://mainstreaminggreeninfrastructure.com/project-page.php?green-infrastructure-planning-policy-assessment-tool>

Using the Tool:

Reflections from the West of England

1. Context:

- WoE Joint Spatial Plan,
- WoE Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Local Plans

2. GI Policy assessment:

- Engagement
- Future use

WoE Joint Spatial Plan

- The 2016 -2036 Plan:
 - Covers 4 UAs areas
 - Is the **strategic development framework** for Local Plans
- Focused in scope:
 - Housing, employment and infrastructure needs
 - Does not allocate sites
- Supported by
 - a Joint Local Transport Plan
- Produced by
 - the West of England Combined Authority and the four West of England local authorities

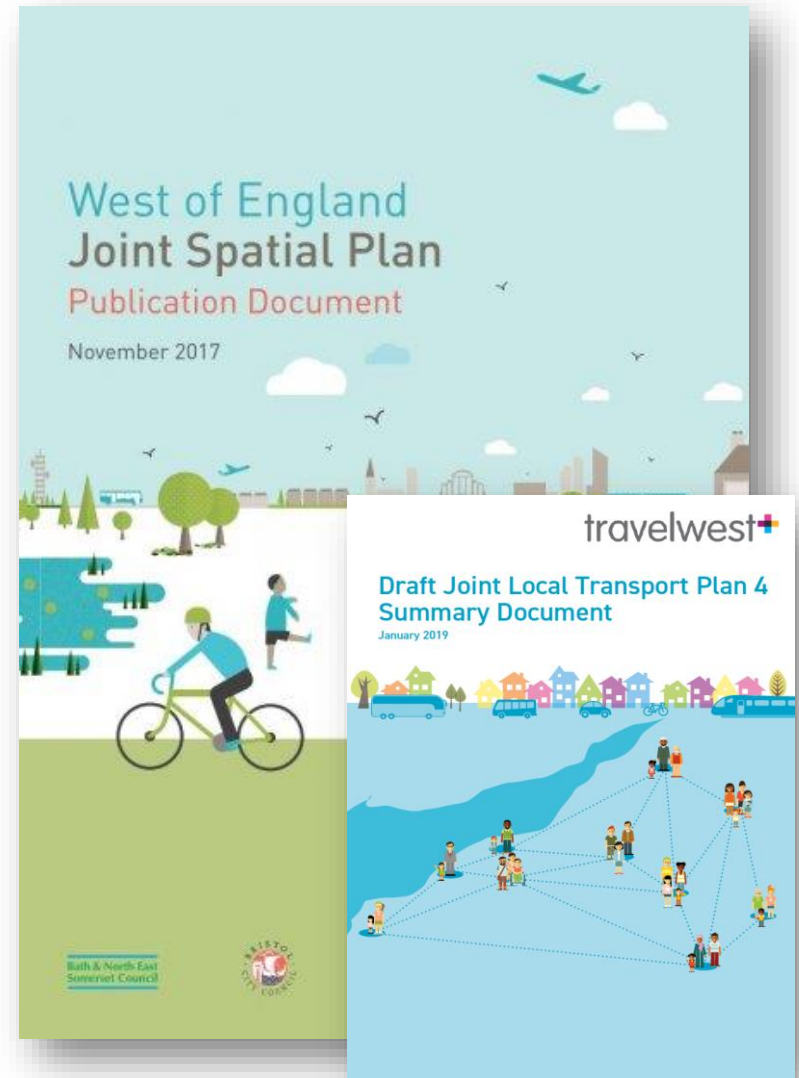


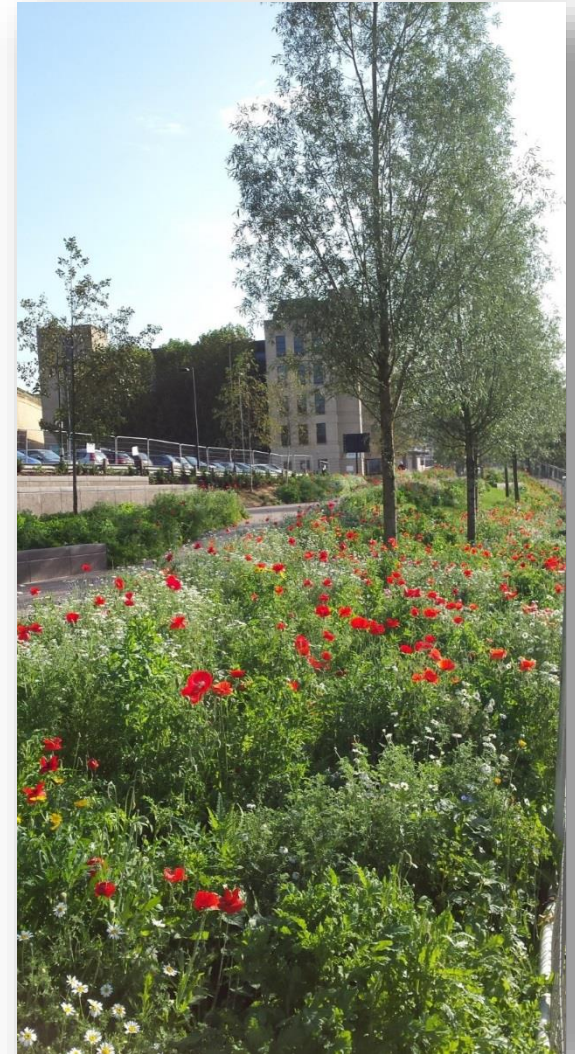
Figure 7: Appendix A: JSP Key Diagram



WoE GI Strategy

GI Strategy purposes include:

- a GI evidence base for Local Plan development and other joint or local plans
- framework and tools for consistent approach to GI across the 4 UAs
- prioritise the planning, development of investment and monitoring of GI
- **the framework to ensure strong and consistent Local Plan policies**



GI Policy assessment: WoE engagement

On going, two way liaison with Alister and Max

Initial comments included:

'Good methodological process. Need to consider how climate change adaptation incorporated'

'Very useful approach but needs consistent application by experienced individual'

'Important opportunity to use in all our local plan reviews and GI Strategy'

Feedback Response:

- Score card amended
- Scoring guide
- Need to add additional functions

Key learning:

- assessment by at least two people
- assessment is essentially subjective
- Scoring/scores should provoke a discussion about the policies across policy teams

Emerging GI Policy

REVISED 9.10.18

- Maintaining and enhancing the integrity, multi-functionality, quality and connectivity of the strategic green infrastructure network and the multiple benefits it provides is integral to creating sustainable places. Therefore **green infrastructure must be part of the design process from the outset** to enable the provision of green infrastructure functions: water management, access networks, habitat enhancements and open space.
- **Development proposals must appraise the site context for green infrastructure functions**, both existing and potential opportunities, and demonstrate how these have influenced the design of the scheme and will achieve multi-functionality by bringing green infrastructure functions together.

Emerging GI Policy

REVISED 9.10.18

To achieve this, proposals should:

- Integrate naturalised SuDs features into the design of green infrastructure, which should be safe and accessible, creating an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.
- Conserve and enhance on-site biodiversity, and habitat networks within and adjacent to the site.
- Maintain and enhance the quality and connectivity of access networks: integrating active travel routes (such as linking work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs) and recreational routes into green infrastructure.
- Meet local accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space which should be designed to cater for the needs of all sectors of the community.
- Where appropriate developers must provide details of the maintenance proposals for the scheme's green infrastructure functions, the party responsible for these and demonstrate funding arrangements for their long term delivery to the satisfaction of the local authority before construction starts.

GI Policy assessment – Future use

- Applied to Joint Spatial Plan and review of Bristol City Council Plan.
- Use as a tool to compare and contrast across the 4 UA's Local Plans
- Use to identify /share exemplar policies
- Use as a tool to create discussion within UAs across services (infrastructure delivery plan; climate emergency)



Thank You



Max Hislop

max.hislop@gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk

Sarah Jackson

sarah_jackson@bathnes.gov.uk

Professor Alister Scott

alister.scott@northumbria.ac.uk

