

GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN – consultation draft



Summary leaflet

Deadline for comments: 9 December 2011

The Council is required to produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy to support existing and future policies in the local Development Plan. This consultation draft considers the multiple functions of green space and the opportunities to invest in a wider range of projects than has been possible under the Council's Supplementary Planning Document on the provision and funding of open space through development (adopted 2008).

What is Green Infrastructure (GI)?

'a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities'(Planning Policy Statement 12)

GI benefits

- Safeguarding and enhancing biodiversity
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change
- Improving economic prosperity through sustainable development, green tourism and local food production
- Creating a low carbon society
- Attractive and productive landscapes
- Health and wellbeing through improved access to GI

GIP Objectives

- 1 To promote sustainable growth and economic development
- 2 To encourage health and wellbeing
- 3 To adapt to and mitigate climate change
- 4 To improve biodiversity

Examples of GI

Parks and gardens – urban parks, country parks, private country estates, formal gardens

Green corridors – road and rail corridors/ verges, pedestrian paths and rights of way, cycle routes, river and canal walks, hedgerows, ditches

Natural and semi-natural greenspaces – nature reserves, grassland, heath or moor, woodland and scrub, bare rock habitats, wetlands, open water bodies and rivers, wastelands

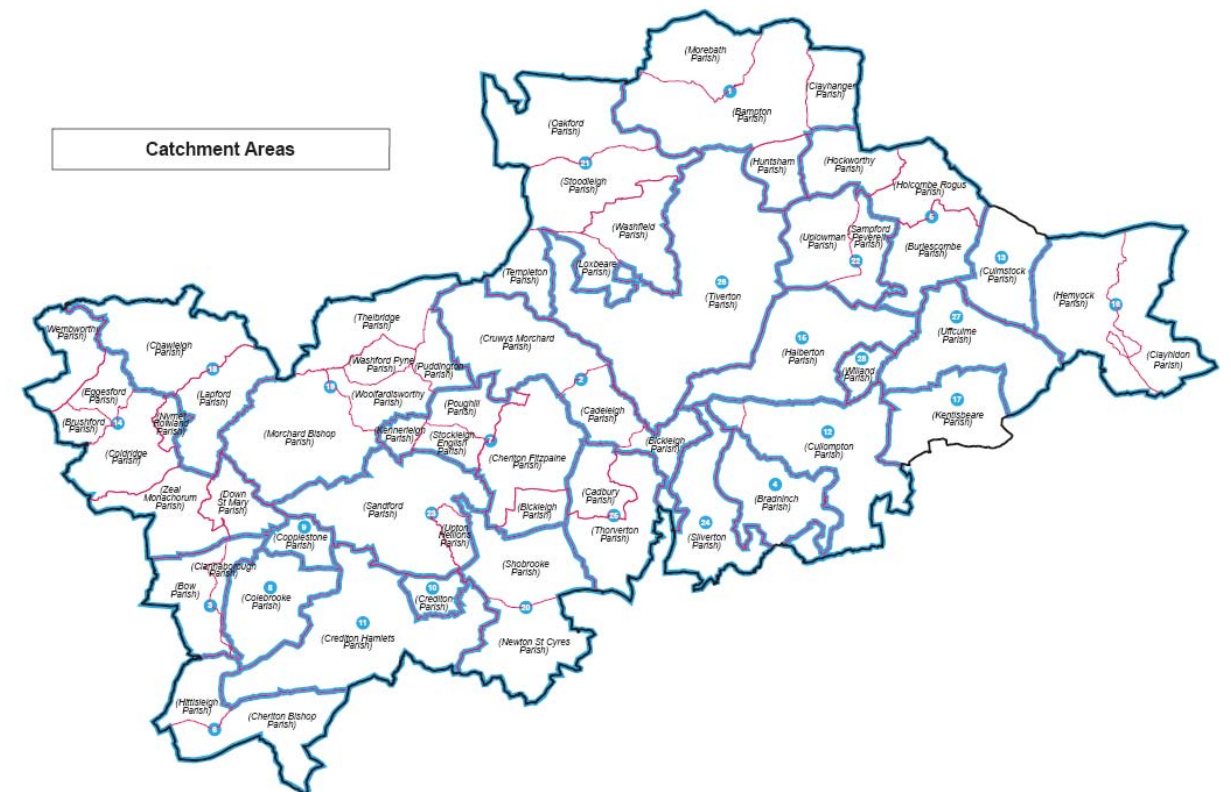
Amenity greenspace – children's play areas, village greens, community gardens, playing fields, informal recreation spaces, domestic gardens, green roofs, allotments, heritage sites, cemeteries, agricultural land

The Planning Act 2008 includes open space within the definition of infrastructure. Our natural green spaces are as essential to sustainable growth as other forms of infrastructure such as roads, schools and hospitals. GI often provides a range of environmental, social and economic services on a single site.

The draft GIP is split into four sections:

- i) Executive Summary
- ii) GI Assessment
- iii) Strategy to 2026 and Delivery Plan
- iv) Appendices

The GI Assessment (Section ii) divides the district into 28 catchment areas, made up of one or more parishes. This allows comparisons to be made about the amounts and types of different sorts of GI, helping us to identify where there is need for enhancement.



From the analysis within the GI Assessment (Section ii), the Strategy to 2026 (Section iii) prioritises the 28 catchment areas for investment as follows:

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| 1 Copplestone | 15 Silverton |
| 2 Bow | 16 Bradninch |
| 3 Colebrooke | 17 Cheriton Bishop |
| 4 Crediton Hamlets | 18 Uffculme |
| 5 Willand | 19 Thorverton |
| 6 Morchard Bishop | 20 Crediton |
| 7 Halberton | 21 Bampton |
| 8 Cheriton Fitzpaine | 22 Sandford |
| 9 Bickleigh | 23 Culmstock |
| 10 Burlescombe | 24 Lapford |
| 11 Cullompton | 25 Tiverton |
| 12 Kentisbeare | 26 Hemyock |
| 13 Down St Mary | 27 Newton St Cyres |
| 14 Sampford Peverell | 28 Oakford |

The draft Supplementary Planning Document (Section iii) proposes the following policies:

Policy	Title	Description
GI/1	Delivery of green infrastructure	Commits the Council to cross-boundary partnership working to deliver GI enhancements
GI/2	Priority catchment areas	Allocates resources according to the summary at Chart 1
GI/3	Biodiversity	Puts into effect the Government objective to increase biodiversity, focusing projects in appropriate locations
GI/4	Local Nature Reserves	Commits the Council to improved management and provision of LNRs
GI/5	Allotments	Lists villages where provision of allotments is proposed
GI/6	Integrating green infrastructure in development	Development Management policy to ensure GI is provided in major development
GI/7	Monitoring	Commits the Council to annual monitoring of GIP delivery, with policy review if necessary

The GIP considers a range of delivery and funding mechanisms, including the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL), the New Homes Bonus (NHB) and external grant funding.

Existing		Funding sources	Future		Funding sources
Sports	£11,500,000	NHB Grants	Sports	£1,000,000	CIL NHB Grants
Public open space maintenance	£19,500,000	MDDC	Play areas	£3,000,000	CIL NHB Grants
Biodiversity	£31,500,000	NHB Grants	Informal open space	£12,000,000	CIL NHB Grants
			Biodiversity	£5,500,000	CIL NHB Grants
			Carbon off-setting	£3,500,000	CIL NHB Grants
Totals	£62,500,000			£25,000,000	

Detailed information such as individual catchment area appraisals is contained in the Appendices.

- Appendix I:** Evidence base for the GIP
- Appendix II:** Methodology
- Appendix III:** Catchment appraisals, including scoring indicators and summary graphs and charts
- Appendix IV:** Background to GI cost tables in Section 3 Delivery Plan
- Appendix V:** Glossary and definitions