

<b>Title of Report:</b>  Green Infrastructure Framework	<b>Officer presenting</b>  Director of Environment & Regeneration  <b>Author:</b>  Biodiversity Officer
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To update Member's on the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan and the linkages between this Plan, Councils strategic growth Plan and the Local Development Plan 2032.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Members will recall approving the development of a Green Infrastructure Plan in May 2017 (ER97/17).
- 2.2 Green Infrastructure (GI) is an interconnected network of multi-functional natural and semi-natural areas, which provide multiple environmental, economic and social benefits, linked throughout the urban and rural landscape. It is mostly comprised of countryside, parks, natural habitats, allotments & green links (river corridors, pedestrian & cycle routes). These spaces provide a mix of functions including recreation, sustainable transport, education, wildlife habitat, flood risk management, local food production, energy production and ecosystem services.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 In taking this process forward officers are keen that the GI plan links with Councils Strategic Growth Plan and in particular reflects the mission statement as outlined in that document – *Our visions is a thriving, prosperous and sustainable City and District with equality of opportunity for all.*
- 3.2 Whilst these links already exist as several key outcomes and actions from the Strategic Growth Plan's three pillars (environment & regeneration; community & social and economic) are directly linked to the delivery of a GI Plan the officer team are keen to formalise these linkages through the development of a GI Framework.

- 3.3 In addition, Council's Local Development Plan (LDP) Preferred Options Paper, indicated that there was a need for a district wide assessment of Councils current open space provision. In support of this Planning Policy Statement 2: Natural Heritage states that LDP's should identify and promote GI. Therefore, in consideration of this, a green space audit has been conducted for the LDP process, to assess the current open space provision so as to help inform the formulation of policy and strategic designation of open space in the LDP 2032.
- 3.4 The GI Stakeholder Group recommended that a GI Framework should be developed demonstrating the linkage between the Strategic Growth Plan and the LDP with the open space audit assisting with the development of the GI Plan 2032, which will be launched at the end of 2018.
- 3.5 The GI Framework outlines the four key themes of the GI Plan 2032 and reflects the linkages between the strategic growth Plan and the LDP 2032 as follows:
- Biodiversity;
  - Climate change;
  - Accessibility, recreation, health & well-being; &
  - Sustainable economic development & investment.
- 3.6 Officers will now develop this framework and a further report will be brought to update Members in due course.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications**

- 4.1 No financial, equality, legal, HR or other implications arise.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report

#### **Background Papers**

**ER97/17**