

6. Strategy Themes, Goals & Objectives

The vision of a vital, productive and attractive green network becomes more powerful, meaningful and influential when expressed as a series of clear goals for the future.



Economy

Provide for an enhanced quality of place for both new and existing communities and for new economic investment. Stimulate and sustain economic growth through innovation.



Community

Create and extend opportunities for access and recreation, joining up communities, maintaining and providing employment opportunities, and supporting social cohesion. Use the green network to support mental and physical health.



Climate Change

Adapt to the anticipated effects of climate change, and mitigate that projected by UKCP09.



Biodiversity

Enhance, conserve, appreciate and respect the unique functions of biodiversity, which enable all life and success in South Yorkshire.

6.1

These goals have been derived from consultation with local stakeholders and engagement with potential delivery partners, (the results of which are presented in Appendix A) providing details of datasets analysed, area assessments covering specific locations and identification of strategic objectives that apply across the sub-region. Table 4 also identifies objectives for the future, highlighting how the four strategy themes can be delivered through improvements to South Yorkshire's green infrastructure network.

6.2

GI is an investment tool. Some actions will contribute to more than one theme – for example, generating biomass has benefits for the economy through local energy markets, climate change through carbon neutral energy, and biodiversity through the creation of habitat and mitigation of climate change.

6.3

All four themes are of equal importance to the vision. All projects will pursue funding to make things happen. The “economy” goal is specifically focussed

on growth and investment, which can come full circle to fund GI, but it is not an *overriding goal* over the goals for biodiversity, climate and community.

6.4

Phase 2 of this strategy will address the question of how these objectives will be prioritised for action in the future, through the creation of a delivery programme (outlined in Appendix B).

Table 4: Objectives for the Green Infrastructure Strategy

This table is expanded in Appendix A

<p> Economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stimulate sustainable economic growth, jobs and investment. Create opportunities for private sector enterprises, through investment, events and increased footfall. • Plan for the growth of South Yorkshire's green network and its improvement as a key consideration in development discussions and broader planning processes. • Create attractive, well designed and cared-for green spaces, where people can invest, work, live and visit. • Promote the right image of South Yorkshire as a great place with great natural assets – the forests, woodlands, parks, moorlands, national park, wetlands and waterways etc. – that together represent our unique selling point. • Support locally-grown food production, by safeguarding the capacity and integrity of farmland, allotments and private gardens as imported food becomes more expensive and energy-intensive. • Generate biomass, including wood fuel, as a renewable energy resource, from well managed local sources. • Support innovation by researchers and local businesses in the environmental technology, manufacturing and creative industry sectors, e.g. by promoting the use of green energy, wood products and green roofs. • Save money by reducing discolouration and diffuse pollution of rainwater on moorlands by reducing water purification costs. 	<p> Community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage communities to use, improve and manage their local green spaces and wider environment. • Make it possible for people to use their local green networks for recreation, healthy activity and travel. • Build up from the existing high-quality spaces by investing in areas where provision is poor and where there is little open or green space near where people live and work. • Apply best practices in engaging local people in improving their own environment, building on the best examples from around South Yorkshire and beyond. • Provide new places where all people, young and old, can take exercise, practise sports and learn about the natural environment. • Create new and improved cycling and walking routes for recreation and getting to/from work and school. • Bring people together and celebrate our natural assets – at local festivals and events, and by involving people in direct activities to manage their own environments.
<p> Climate Change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build improved resilience to future change, adapting to and mitigating against climate change. • Reduce our reliance on fossil fuels by generating renewable energy from biomass, hydro-power and wind-power. • Harness the capacity of our woods and peatlands to store carbon. Destroying these assets releases harmful carbon dioxide; growing new woodlands captures carbon already in the atmosphere. • Ameliorate the urban heat island effect by creating and restoring green spaces as an integral part of the urban fabric. These assets can provide cost efficient and sustainable cooling in dense urban areas. • Manage our rivers and drainage systems in a holistic way to minimise flood risks and droughts – coupling localised responses with the need to manage water flows across whole catchments. • Introduce sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDS) and green roofs to slow run-off in developed areas. • Re-naturalise rivers to reintroduce washlands, and removing culverts which are liable to blockage. 	<p> Biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance natural habitats, conserve ecological diversity and manage valuable natural resources. • Advocate understanding of the need to manage biodiversity as being essential to society's wellbeing. • Protect and enhance the diversity of different animal and plant species and habitats. • Focus on species and habitats shown to be particularly vulnerable or important locally and globally. • Manage and monitor our wildlife habitats in the light of climate change, the damaging effects of pollution, inappropriate development and neglect. • Develop robust management plans which help to use resources in the most effective way. • Restore, link and buffer existing natural places. • Connect habitats, to build a more resilient network. • Consider the biodiversity potential of every part of that network.