



PUSH Green Infrastructure Implementation Framework

October 2012

Foreword

The Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) is committed to protecting and enhancing the natural environment of South Hampshire. The area's Green Infrastructure, which includes its rivers and streams, woodlands, coastline and public open spaces is important for a number of reasons. It has a key role to play in addressing the impact of a changing climate, it helps shape the character of the area, contributes to the wellbeing of residents and supports biodiversity. Having an attractive and accessible environment is also important to the economic wellbeing of South Hampshire and will help support the PUSH's ambitions for a successful economy.

This document sets out those projects which PUSH considers should be delivered because of their importance to the sub region. I of course recognise these schemes are being brought forward in difficult and uncertain economic circumstances which will no doubt have an impact on timing and pace of delivery. Such an ambitious programme will have to have regard to affordability with progress linked to when funding sources have been secured. However this document is a framework to support delivery and PUSH will assist the organisations who will lead on each one. I am sure that together with our partners they will be successful and I look forward to working with them on behalf of PUSH.

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Chairman of the PUSH Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Panel

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1 Introduction

- 1.1** South Hampshire is home to almost one million people within a complex grouping of large and small settlements, focused on the two cities of Portsmouth and Southampton. It has a highly valued natural environment including many sites and features which have statutory protection. At the same time its people create considerable demands for recreational opportunities, demands which will increase as the population grows. It is therefore vital to conserve and enhance its Green Infrastructure; its network of green spaces, water and other environmental features in both the urban and rural parts of South Hampshire.
- 1.2** Green space is an important part of the environment. It provides places for people to enjoy themselves, it has a role to play as a wildlife habitat and it can assist in moderating the impact of a changing climate. It is an integral part of the infrastructure which supports our way of life. How the existing green space or Green Infrastructure (GI) is retained and improved and new areas created within South Hampshire is a major challenge for PUSH.
- 1.3** This Framework has been prepared to support the development of the areas existing GI, the delivery of a number of key strategic projects and to assist partner authorities develop their own mitigation strategies where new development is being considered.
- 1.4** The document comprises several sections. Sections two and three provide the context for the Framework's proposals with reference to earlier work undertaken by PUSH. Section four provides the framework for the strategic projects set out in Section five, with Section six outlining the approach PUSH proposes to take in respect of delivering the Framework.

2 Why is Green Infrastructure Important?

2.1 The importance of Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity has been recognised and is reflected in a number of Government policy statements, guidance and research. The National Planning Policy Framework (2012) (NPPF) looks to Local Planning Authorities to set out a “strategic approach in their Local Plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and green infrastructure” (para 114).

2.2 South Hampshire benefits from a wide variety of GI such as rivers, country parks, the coast and large tracts of woodland. It also includes smaller scale features such as parks, play areas and a network of landscape features such as hedgerows. Together they make a positive contribution to the area for a number of reasons as set out below:

Biodiversity

2.3 Green Infrastructure is important for biodiversity. Natural green spaces such as woodlands, rivers and streams provide habitats for plants and animals, and features such as hedgerows and river corridors provide important corridors for wildlife. Managed public open spaces such as parks and play spaces can also benefit wildlife as well as having a recreation role.

Adapting to a changing climate and extremes of weather

2.4 Adapting to climate change and making towns and cities more resilient to extremes of weather is a key aim of the Government. Green spaces have an important part to play in mitigating the impact of extreme weather changes. Well designed flexible public spaces offer a range of opportunities to store water and modify urban temperatures. Green spaces with a generous planting of trees linked together to form networks can offer cooler cleaner air. Well designed and managed GI can encourage people to travel in a more sustainable way, such as walking and cycling. The use of sustainable drainage systems to manage surface water run off not only supports our response to extremes of weather but they can also be an important part of a wider GI network.

Health and wellbeing

2.5 The benefits of the availability of open spaces as places for recreation and healthy exercise are well established. Research has shown that there is a link between enhancing and protecting our environment and improving the quality of life and health of our communities. People feel better and behave differently when they have access to green spaces. The provision of strong networks of GI which include a variety of safe and open green spaces can encourage and enable healthier lifestyles.

Economic development

2.6 Quality green space can have a major impact on the landscape and townscape of an area. Creating an attractive environment can have a positive impact on land and property values, act as a catalyst for regeneration projects and attract people to live and work in an area. Enhancing the existing GI network in South Hampshire can help realise the benefits of its high quality natural environment and heritage assets for residents, visitors and employees.

3 Background to the Implementation Framework

3.1 This Framework builds on earlier work undertaken by PUSH. In 2009 it commissioned consultants UE Associates Ltd to translate early baseline work into a Green Infrastructure Strategy.

3.2 The preparation of the Strategy was supported by a number of organisations in addition to the PUSH local authority partners, including the Environment Agency and Natural England. It was adopted by PUSH in June 2010. The vision for the Strategy is:

To provide a long term framework(to 2026) to shape and enhance an integrated and multifunctional green network of South Hampshire's distinctive local environments to ensure they can adapt to climate change and are managed and valued as part of sustainable, prosperous and healthy lifestyles.

3.3 The Strategy provides the framework for more detailed proposals to enhance the areas GI. The aims of the Strategy are to:

- Identify sub-regional strategic initiatives and projects to provide a high quality of life for the people who live and work in the sub-region.
- Seek to maximise multifunctional use of open space and natural spaces for a range of benefits.
- Promote connectivity of all types of greenspace at a range of scales.
- Provide a key element of the sub-regions mitigation strategy in relation to the Habitats Regulations.

3.4 The Strategy identified 8 key themes and 17 objectives which are set out in Appendix Three. These have formed the basis for the assessment of the merits of the projects which are set out in the later sections of this document.

3.5 The Strategy examined the sub region in considerable detail in respect of the existing GI and the potential to enhance it. It identified four distinct areas and for each area identified a number of potential projects. In total 46 projects (see Appendix Two) were proposed under five headings of:

- The Green Grid
- Coast for People, Wildlife and Improved Water
- The Forest of Bere Land Management Initiative
- Country Parks and Woodlands
- Greener Urban Design

3.6 The Strategy did not examine in detail how the projects could be delivered and did not propose an order of priority. It also recognised that there would be other projects which could come forward. To support the delivery of the Strategy, PUSH commissioned the preparation of this Implementation Framework.

4 The Framework

- 4.1** The purpose of this Implementation Framework is to identify a number of key strategic projects which PUSH and its partners can focus on. It will also help inform the plans and proposals of the individual PUSH local authorities in respect of GI and their approach to mitigating the impact proposed development may have on the environment.
- 4.2** This section outlines the projects that have been selected to deliver the strategic requirements of South Hampshire. It is accepted that these are not the only projects that can help deliver GI. Partner authorities will need to assess the need for additional local GI projects to support proposed growth and development in their administrative areas as part of their delivery plans for Core Strategies, Local Plans and other DPDs.
- 4.3** The 46 projects identified in the Strategy formed the starting point in a detailed exercise to identify and develop a suite of strategic GI delivery projects. In addition, a further 20 projects were brought forward by partners for consideration, see Appendix Three. All 66 potential projects were then evaluated to identify those that were considered to be of strategic importance against the themes and objectives of the Strategy and the following criteria:
- Projects whose large scale or mass meant that they would have a wide influence/effect.
 - Projects which deal with recognised strategic/sub regional issues e.g. HRA issues, coastal squeeze, flood risk management, etc.
 - Projects that make a significant contribution to one or more of the key strategic initiatives in the approved GI Strategy i.e.
 - a) The Green Grid
 - b) Coast for People and Wildlife
 - c) Forest of Bere
 - d) Country Parks and Woodlands
 - e) Greener Urban Design
 - Infrastructure projects that are needed to support major development areas in the sub region.
 - Projects that cross local authority boundaries.
- 4.4** Following the assessment of their merits, a number of projects were identified as being of sub regional importance and ones which PUSH together with its partners would focus their resources to bring forward. These are:
- The Strategic Countryside Recreation Network
 - Woodfuel Renewable Energy Project
 - Local Sustainable Food Production
 - Horsea Island Country Park
 - Alver Valley Country Park
 - South West Hampshire Forest Park
 - Manor Farm Country Park
 - Royal Victoria Country Park
 - Southsea Seafront

- Forest of Bere
- Havant Thicket
- Solent Disturbance Project
- Marine and Coastal Initiative

4.5 These projects are detailed in Section 5 alongside the themes and objectives of the GI Strategy they would contribute to. In addition to these, PUSH is involved in a number of other initiatives which are aimed at supporting the development of a green economy. They are seen as complementary to these GI projects.

The Green Grid

4.6 The Green Grid describes the network of Green Infrastructure components (including green spaces, corridors/links and features) brought together. The aim of the Green Grid approach is to provide a network of interconnected corridors which provide a range of benefits consistent with the Themes set out in the GI Strategy.

4.7 Connecting the various elements of GI both for the public and for wildlife is central to the success of the GI Strategy. The components of GI brought together are seen as creating a Green Grid for the area. By seeing individual elements as part of a comprehensive approach to the provision of GI it will emphasise the importance of joint working by a range of organisations and give individual projects extra value by contributing to the wider strategy.

4.8 The key elements of the South Hampshire Green Grid are:

1. All statutorily protected landscapes and sites including:
 - Special Areas of Conservation
 - Special Protection Areas
 - Ramsar Sites
 - Sites of Special Scientific Interest
 - Scheduled Ancient Monuments
 - Sites on the National Register of Parks and Gardens
2. All Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA's) as identified by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBiC). There are 11 in total in South Hampshire*:
 - Itchen Valley
 - Test Valley
 - Meon Valley
 - The Forest of Bere
 - Ampfield - Baddesley - Chilworth – Lordswood
 - Hamble Valley
 - Portsdown Hill
 - Chichester/Langstone Harbours & Hayling Island
 - Portsmouth Harbour
 - The Solent
 - New Forest Coast

*It should be noted that some of these BOAs extend beyond the PUSH boundary.

3. Other main rivers not included within BOA's e.g. River Wallington, Hermitage Stream
4. Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation
5. Important Gaps between settlements
6. All strategic public open spaces including:
 - country parks
 - Local Nature Reserves and other publicly accessible nature reserves
 - major parks and green spaces e.g. Southampton Common, Southsea Seafront
7. Strategic rights of way network
8. PUSH GI Strategy Project sites
9. Major transport corridors e.g. the rail network, canals and motorway corridors

- 4.9** The Framework focuses on those elements of GI which are of strategic importance within South Hampshire. The contribution of other elements of GI such as local areas of open space and features such as ponds, hedgerows and woodlands are important to the area in which they are located and for the contribution they make to the wider PUSH area. That contribution can be more properly recognised in the GI strategies and plans produced by partner authorities.
- 4.10** The Green Grid will be developed by a combination of organisations working individually and collectively on a range of strategic and local projects. It provides a framework for projects whose primary purpose may not necessarily be to provide Green Infrastructure but can make a significant contribution. For example, plans and proposals to improve river corridors for drainage purposes should seek to explore the contribution they could make to GI. New pedestrian/cycle links could be designed such that they do more than just provides a transport route. The Grid is about an approach rather than specific projects and is intended to promote partnership working and exploring opportunities.
- 4.11** The Green Grid will also provide important links into GI projects beyond the South Hampshire area, such as the South Downs Way Ahead Nature Improvement Area.

How will the Green Grid be delivered?

- 4.12** It is intended that the delivery of the Green Grid will be achieved through partnership working between the PUSH partners, the relevant public agencies, wildlife and heritage organisations, private landowners, developers, Town and Parish Councils and community groups. Funding for specific projects would come from a number a sources including; Government funding via the Defra, individual partner authorities, landowners and developers and help and support in kind from landowners, community groups and volunteers.

Greener Urban Design

- 4.13** This initiative was included in the PUSH GI Strategy to represent smaller scale local green infrastructure delivery in and around the built environment. The initiative is targeted in particular at the larger developments proposed within the PUSH area and other planned new development. It will help to deliver Themes I, V and VI of the Strategy.
- 4.14** To implement this approach, PUSH has separately produced a Quality Places model Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) regarding GI in urban design and planning which has been adopted by a number of PUSH authorities.

5 The Strategic Projects

The Strategic Countryside Recreation Network

Brief Description

- 5.1 The Countryside Recreation Network is identified in the PUSH GI Strategy as a network of high quality, multifunctional routes linking communities to countryside and other green space. The CRN aims to address deficiencies in access to green space by providing a coherent network of linear access for walking, cycling and horse riding, providing and promoting opportunities for recreational activities and play along the network.
- 5.2 This forms a key part of an ambitious project to create a network across the County of Hampshire that will be highly accessible and easily navigable; an attractive, mainly traffic-free and family-friendly recreational facility providing access to nature, heritage and landscape. This network will include local linkages to transport hubs, local amenities and areas of interest to encourage car-free travel.
- 5.3 This project will contribute significantly to the implementation of the Hampshire Countryside Access Plan (CAP), which forms the Rights of Way (ROW) Improvement Plan (ROWIP) for the county of Hampshire.
- 5.4 Opportunities will be taken to enhance biodiversity, providing green corridors for wildlife and increasing the value of paths as linear green space. In areas close to population centres there will be scope for additional enhancements, e.g. information and learning facilities, play areas and benches.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.5

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2	✓	3	
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6		7			
iv	8	✓	9	✓		
v	10		11	✓		
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14		15			
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

Desired Outcomes

5.6 The desired outcomes of this project are:

- A 'premier' rights of way network that is accessible and easy to navigate, with benches, art and play opportunities
- Increased user confidence in using the RoW network and increased levels of use
- A walking and cycling network that provides useful links for recreation and active, carbon-free travel
- Improved infrastructure to support the development of sustainable tourism in the sub-region
- A network of green corridors that link habitats and act as wildlife corridors
- Involvement of individuals, local communities and stakeholders in delivering the CRN through the provision of volunteering opportunities.

How will the project be delivered?

5.7 The CRN will be developed as opportunities are identified. Within the PUSH area, the following three improvements have been identified as initial CRN projects. These have been prioritised due to their proximity to proposed housing, the network links that they would provide, and the opportunities that exist to deliver them.

a) Botley to Bishops Waltham Multi-User Trail

5.8 This project looks to deliver the Botley to Bishops Waltham multi-user trail, along the 6.1km length of the disused railway line linking the two settlements for countryside access, recreation, health and wellbeing. In addition, this route provides an off-road utility route, linking Bishops Waltham to the railway network at Botley and providing a gateway link from the urban fringe to the South Downs National Park, thereby encouraging active travel and promoting more sustainable transport choices.

b) Round of Bere Multi-User Trail

5.9 This project looks to create 30km multi-user circular route linking the West of Waterlooville MDA, Creech Wood, West Walk, Fareham SDA and Portsdown Hill and provide links to the wider recreational network, including the Meon Valley Rail Path, Wayfarer's Walk and Pilgrim's Trail, for countryside access, recreation, health and wellbeing. The route will also provide a wildlife corridor between Creech Woods and West Walk.

5.10 Importantly, this route provides a multi-user off-road link between the Solent conurbation and the South Downs National Park, thereby encouraging active travel and promoting sustainable tourism

c) Extension to the Meon Valley Trail

5.11 This project looks to deliver a 1km extension of the Meon Valley Trail, providing a link between the existing route of the Trail (Wickham 501) and the bridleway network to the south of Knowle (Wickham 515 and Fareham 515). This will complete the MVT route providing an off-road multi-user route from Fareham to the South Downs, thereby encouraging active travel and promoting more sustainable transport choices.

Who needs to be involved?

- 5.12** Hampshire County Council (lead organisation), District and Borough Councils, National Park Authority, Parish Councils local community groups, the Ramblers Association, Cyclists Touring Club and British Horse Society.

How much is it likely to cost?

- 5.13** Since delivery of the whole CRN will be achieved as opportunities arise it is not possible at this stage to provide a realistic estimate of costs for the whole network.

Estimates for the 3 priority projects identified above are:

- a) Botley to Bishops Waltham - £423k
- b) Round of Bere Multi-User Trail - £410k
- c) Meon Valley Trail - £125k

Where are the funds likely to come from?

- 5.14** There are no specific allocated funds for this project, which will be delivered as opportunities arise. It is envisaged that, as an identified component of sustainable transport and green infrastructure delivery, this project is most likely to be developed through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). There will also be funding opportunities through community-led initiatives such as the Hampshire Small Grants Scheme.

Woodfuel Renewable Energy Project

Brief Description

- 5.15** Woodfuel has a potentially major contribution towards renewable energy generation.
- 5.16** A study undertaken for PUSH has confirmed the feasibility of using woodfuel as an energy source (Biomass Supply Chains in South Hampshire, CEN Services, July 2009). The report stated that the potentially available sustainable resource from wood streams in the PUSH area and a 10km buffer zone is around 550 GWh per annum. It is important to recognise that 550 GWh is not the currently available resource but the potential resource as demand grows and as supply chains mature. The 550 GWh potential wood fuel resource identified is only around 3.5% of the PUSH region's energy demand.
- 5.17** The report further identifies that up to 30,000 tonnes a year of wood chips may be available through sawmills and a further 5,000 tonnes from the collected arisings of local authority arboricultural operations.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.18

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2		3	✓
ii	4		5			
iii	6		7			
iv	8		9			
v	10		11			
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14	✓	15	✓		
viii	16		17			

What are the desired outcomes?

5.19 The primary outcomes are intended to be:

- Increased demand for/use of woodfuel as a significant renewable energy source, especially as part of new developments in South Hampshire;
- Increased supply of woodfuel to keep pace with growing demand from:
- More green businesses established to provide the capital equipment and ongoing supplies needed to deliver points 1 and 2 above and therefore the creation of more jobs in the green economy.
- Existing derelict woodlands brought into positive management and generating an income for their owners;
- New plantations grown specifically to help provide for future growth in demand;

How will the project be delivered?

5.20 The project will be delivered through partnership working focussing on three key areas:

1. Stimulate demand for woodfuel use – by influencing LPAs and developers to choose woodfuel. Need to demonstrate/build confidence in the technology and in the security/quality of supplies of wood. Therefore need demonstration projects;
2. Stimulate supply – work with the Forestry Commission and landowners and managers to identify wood sources in existing woods and encourage planting of new woods to secure future supplies. Therefore need to map out and measure existing supplies in sub region and surrounding area.
3. Help establish markets and distribution systems - to link supply and demand;

Who will need to be involved?

5.21 PUSH (as lead organisation), PUSH partner authorities; Forestry Commission; South Downs National Park; New Forest National Park; LEADER RDPE – Fieldfare; Ministry of Defence – defence estates; CLA

How much is it likely to cost?

5.22 The cost of this project has not yet been estimated.

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.23 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified.

Local Sustainable Food Production

Brief Description of Project

5.24 This project seeks to develop a local economy for integrated food production and consumption. This will allow the sub region to benefit from increased self reliance on food and to provide an increased awareness and market for locally produced food.

What GI themes and objectives will the project support?

5.25

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2		3	✓
ii	4		5			
iii	6		7			
iv	8		9	✓		
v	10		11			
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14	✓	15			
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?

5.26

- Increasing the proportion of food consumed locally that is produced locally;
- Reduced food miles
- Increasing proportion of land within PUSH sub region used for the production of food (and a decline therefore in disused and unproductive land)
- Reconnect urban communities with the land and with growing food
- Production of healthy food in a sustainable way
- Generate more jobs and trade in the local production of healthy, high quality food
- Improved health and wellbeing of communities

How will the project be delivered?

5.27 The main approach will be for PUSH acting as a catalyst and bringing together community groups and those organisations – national and regional – which have specialist expertise and experience in supporting community food production and management. This will include developing relevant existing national initiatives in the sub region.

Who will need to be involved?

5.28 PUSH (as lead organisation) PUSH partner authorities; Town and Parish Councils; Local farmers and landowners; CLA; Hampshire Fare; Farmers Markets and community groups.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.29 The cost of this project has yet to be estimated.

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.30 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified.

Horsea Island Country Park

Brief Description

5.31 Portsmouth is extremely short of land and so the best use must be made of that which it does have. Until 2008, this site was used as a landfill but it is now being restored and will shortly open as a country park. This will result in 52ha of new green infrastructure for the people of South Hampshire to enjoy. Most of the site will be semi-natural with extensive tree planting and grass meadows, providing opportunities for informal recreation and biodiversity improvements.

What GI themes and objectives will the project support?

5.32

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1	✓	2	✓	3	
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7	✓		
iv	8	✓	9	✓		
v	10		11			
vi	12	✓	13			
vii	14		15			
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?

5.33 The creation of 52ha of new semi-natural green space will have the following benefits:

- Maintaining or improving the level of greenspace per head of population in Portsmouth (without such a large new space the level would fall due to population rise)
- Helping to deliver development and regeneration at Port Solent and Horsea Island
- Improving health and increased participation in informal sports such as jogging and cycling
- A wider range of biodiversity at the site
- Diversion of recreational activity to the country park that otherwise may have gone to European designated nature conservation sites.

How will the project be delivered?

Phase one - restoring the site and opening the park

5.34 A condition of the planning permission to use the site as a landfill was that once tipping finished, there would be a phased restoration of the site to a country park. Whilst Veolia will be putting in place extensive planting, meadows and amenity grass areas and a network of paths and a cycleway, there are many measures that would increase the site's potential which are not being put in place by Veolia.

5.35 Veolia is contractually obligated to restore the site. They will retain responsibility and liability for the site until it is handed over to the City Council.

Phase two – further improvements to the park

5.36 After Veolia complete the structure planting, there needs to be an establishment period to ensure that the plants take to the ground, survive and flourish.

5.37 Once the park is open to the public, a maintenance regime should be put in place to ensure that it develops into a high quality facility for people to enjoy. The landfill underneath the country park will also have to be continuously monitored (gas and leachate). At this point, funding has not been identified for these on-going maintenance costs. The intention is that the park is a semi-natural space with a high proportion of woodland and meadow planting. A mowing regime will need to be put in place for amenity grass areas and around path edges and litter picks would be required, particularly close to the motorway. Woodland, meadow and gorse management would be needed to promote increased use of the site by wildlife.

5.38 This is a large site at a gateway to the City. As a result, it is able to accommodate a wide range of activities. There is currently no funding to allow additional facilities to be set up. However if funding were to become available, either through PUSH or other sources, facilities such as natural play sites, seats and picnic tables and a viewpoint feature for the top of the pyramids would be ideal additions to the country park. In addition to this, measures could be put in place to improve the site's security, including anti-traveller and anti-motorbike fencing.

Who will need to be involved?

5.39 Portsmouth City Council (lead organisation). Veolia is also involved in the scheme.

How much is it likely to cost?**5.40 Capital Costs**

Estimated costs £250,000

Revenue Costs

Estimated costs £150,000 pa

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.41 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified.

Alver Valley Country Park***Brief Description of Project***

- 5.42** The Alver Valley forms a significant undeveloped gap between Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent. Part of the Alver Valley has been used for gravel extraction and subsequent restoration works have largely been completed. The area encompasses a great diversity of habitats and landscapes including a range of wetlands, woodlands and grasslands. It is an important corridor linking the open land to the north with the coast.
- 5.43** The Borough Council's long term aim is to create a Country Park within the Alver Valley with a range of formal and informal opportunities. Proposals were originally set out in the Alver Valley Masterplan (2003) which was prepared in liaison with Groundwork Solent following significant public consultation.
- 5.44** The proposed recreational uses include picnic areas, trails, footpaths, cycleways, bridleways and interpretative facilities which will be supported by a visitor's centre and other appropriate country park facilities. The provision of formal recreation facilities, primarily in the form of sports pitches will also form part of the park.
- 5.45** A number of facilities have already been created including a range of trails, fishing lake, a BMX track and adventure playground as well as various habitat creation initiatives .

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.46

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2	✓	3	
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7	✓		
iv	8	✓	9	✓		
v	10	✓	11	✓		
vi	12	✓	13			
vii	14		15			
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?

5.47 The Alver Valley County Park has a number of significant benefits both to residents in Gosport and South Hampshire as well as the local environment. Key benefits include:

- It will represent a significant multifunctional green infrastructure facility in close proximity to a dense urban area providing a wide range of recreational activities appropriate for a sensitive rural/urban fringe location.
- It will protect and create a variety of habitats.
- The Park (in combination with Stokes Bay and the Lee Clifflands) has the potential to deflect recreational pressure from very sensitive internationally important habitats, particularly on the coast.
- It will protect the function of a gap between Gosport and Lee-on-the Solent and forms part of a wider gap between these settlements and Stubbington, Fareham and Titchfield.
- It will provide an important link in the green network between coastal areas such as Browdown, Lee Clifflands and Stokes Bay with the countryside to the north.
- It will provide a wide range of outdoor formal and informal activities which will have physical and mental health benefits to local residents.
- It will provide a range of activities to suit people of all ages including young people .
- It will restore a landscape previously used for gravel extraction and landfill and result in management of an urban fringe location.
- It will help enhance cycle links across the Borough.
- It will create an attractive place for recreational activities which will help enhance the Borough's appeal for new business investment (including regeneration of the nearby Daedalus site which has been identified by PUSH as a strategic employment area).
- It will provide a green lung to a dense urban area and be a place where residents can enjoy woodland areas. This will help ameliorate some of the temperature impacts of climate changes and the significant on-going tree planting programmes will help absorb CO2 emissions.
- It will help reduce the need to travel by car and provide opportunities to access a large area of

green infrastructure by foot or cycle rather than using facilities off the Peninsula.

- It will create a greater sense of local identity and community pride.
- It will incorporate measures which improve the water quality of the River Alver.

How will the project be delivered?

- 5.48** The project will be delivered along the lines of a new Masterplan which has yet to be completed for the site. Proposals will complement and enhance the elements of the proposed park that have already been established.
- 5.49** Specific habitat management will be undertaken in accordance with the HLS Agreement with Natural England and measures will be taken to improve water quality of the River Alver in association with the Environment Agency.

Who will need to be involved?

- 5.50** Gosport Borough Council (lead organisation); Hampshire County Council; Environment Agency; Natural England; Defence Estates; Private Landowner; businesses.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.51 Capital

Further work will be undertaken by Gosport Borough Council to update the costs originally set out in the Alver Valley Masterplan (2003).

Revenue

Most elements to be determined as part of the revised Masterplan.

Habitat creation/management costs £16,000 per annum for 10 years which started in July 2011 (HLS funding).

Where are the funds likely to come from?

- 5.52** Developers (Section 106 Agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy) Gosport Borough Council (Alver Valley Capital Fund), Natural England (Higher Level Stewardship Fund), Environment Agency (River Alver initiatives).

South West Hampshire Forest Park

Brief Description of the Project

- 5.53** The Forest Park comprises over 400 hectares of woodland in Southern Test Valley which borders Southampton City and Eastleigh. The woodlands are close to a large number of residents but who currently have limited public access. Increasing the ability of local residents to access this resource would greatly enhance the provision of GI in the western part of South Hampshire.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?**5.54**

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1	✓	2	✓	3	✓
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7	✓		
iv	8	✓	9	✓		
v	10	✓	11	✓		
vi	12	✓	13	✓		
vii	14	✓	15	✓		
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?**5.55** The desired outcomes are:

1. The delivery of public access routes within the woodland. The provision of circular routes linked with key accesses and wider provision will significantly raise the recreational opportunities for local residents.
2. The nature conservation value of the woodlands would be positively managed to enhance biodiversity interest.
3. The delivery of this project should allow local residents to enjoy informal recreation close to their homes and reduce the need to travel to existing provision which may be more environmentally sensitive, such as the New Forest, which is a strategic issue for PUSH.

5.56 The project is a key element of providing alternative public recreation space close to existing and future development. This would assist in demonstrating that the delivery of PUSH's housing and economic growth aspirations would not significantly increase disturbance in more sensitive recreation locations, such as the New Forest. The Forest Park is likely to be included in TVBC's forthcoming Local Plan. The proposal would deliver public recreation benefits, and recreational mitigation, to Eastleigh Borough and Southampton City Councils and therefore has significant sub regional value in the western half of PUSH.

5.57 The risk of not providing additional recreation land in the western half of PUSH (of which this the most significant element) would be increased uncertainty of delivery of PUSH's development aspirations and the potential delay in provision of housing within Test Valley Borough, Southampton City and Eastleigh Borough.

How will the project be delivered?

5.58 The Forestry Commission has produced a feasibility study for PUSH which provides a framework for discussions with landowners regarding securing delivery of the proposal. Test Valley Borough Council, as lead organisation has identified a number of actions it will progress:

- Look to include a proposal in its Local Plan (October 2012) and progress to adoption in 2013
- In parallel, enter into more detailed discussions with the respective landowners
- Establish the principal sources of funding
- Commence consultation process with the key partners and residents

Who will need to be involved?

5.59 Test Valley BC (lead authority); Eastleigh BC; Southampton CC; Forestry Commission; Landowners; Natural England; Hampshire County Council; Environment Agency; Parish Councils; Community Groups.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.60 The Forestry Commission has produced a Feasibility Study for PUSH which provides a range of options for facilities within the Park. The figures below represent a summary of the preferred option.

Capital

£4,964,450

Revenue

£202,134 per year

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.61 Test Valley Borough Council is exploring a number of potential sources of funding including developer contributions and government funding programmes.

Manor Farm Country Park

Brief Description

5.62 The unique selling point of Manor Farm & Country Park is the combination of historic working farm and country park that offers 'a family attraction that allows escape from modern life in an authentic rural setting'.

5.63 Whilst the Farm and Park are well loved and have good visitor numbers, there are areas of the park and times of the year where the facilities and features are underused. The site forms a significant part of the Green Infrastructure of the area, but gains can be made in increasing the capacity of the current site. This can be achieved whilst still maintaining the important biodiversity and heritage of the site, without impacting its inherent rural qualities.

5.64 Part of the site, which was formerly let with no public access, is to be planted as accessible Diamond Wood during 2012/13.

5.65 New themed play equipment has been installed, allowing multi-generational groups to play together.

5.66 The BBC “Wartime Farm” series was filmed on-site.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.67

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2		3	✓
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7			
iv	8	✓	9			
v	10		11			
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14		15	✓		
viii	16	✓	17			

Desired Outcomes

5.68 The vision for Manor Farm & Country Park is to become the most visited heritage farm attraction in the South East within the next 5 years.

- Capitalise on the filming of the BBC “Wartime Farm” series at Manor farm to increase the visitor numbers and heritage interpretation.
- Increase the visitor capacity of the current holdings.
- Reduce seasonal influences on visitor capacity.
- Increase participation and the volunteer offer.
- Enhance the biodiversity within the Country Park.
- Increase awareness of the natural environment and heritage value of the site.

How will the project be delivered?

5.69

- Increase capacity of the Manor Farm attraction by development of an indoor interpretive play space, improved farm attractions and learning activities related to a “field to fork” theme.
- Volunteer development pilot in partnership with The Conservation Volunteers.
- Planting of a 14.7ha, accessible woodland as part of the Hampshire Diamond Wood project. Restoring the native woodland of Kings Copse under a Woodland Creation Grant.
- Entering new Higher Level Stewardship and English Woodland Grant Scheme agreements to maintain and enhance the Country Parks important biodiversity.

- Improved infrastructure and signage to link Manor Farm to the Country Park, and encourage exploration of away from current honey pots.
- Improved play equipment and themed sculpture trails, linked to the site's shipbuilding and maritime heritage.

Who will need to be involved?

5.70 Hampshire County Council (lead organisation), The Conservation Volunteers, QEII jubilee Activity Centre

How much is it likely to cost

5.71 Likely total costs will be circa £2,000,000, delivered in several projects, e.g.

- Kings Copse Diamond Wood setup cost £63,000. Woodland Creation Grant income over 15 years £98,000
- Outdoor play equipment cost circa £200,000
- Indoor play space cost circa £350,000

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.72

- Income from visitors
- Higher Level Stewardship
- English Woodland Grant Scheme
- Woodland Creation Grant
- Heritage Lottery Fund

Royal Victoria Country Park

Brief Description

5.73 This project will interpret the fascinating heritage associated with the UK's largest ever military hospital, surrounding grounds and associated war cemetery. Much of the evidence of the formal splendour of the hospital and grounds is no longer clearly visible but through a combination of community activity, engaging interpretation, new learning opportunities, access improvements and a programme of restoration works the project will re-engage people with their heritage and allow them to learn about the international significance of the site in the pioneering of modern medical science, and its valuable service to the wider British Empire.

5.74 Whilst the Country Park is well loved and has good visitor numbers, there are areas of the park and times of the year where the facilities and features are underused. The site forms a significant part of the Green Infrastructure on the area, but gains can be made in increasing the capacity of the current site. This can be achieved whilst still maintaining the important heritage of the site, without impacting its inherent special qualities.

- 5.75 An HLF application has been made, but recently rejected.
- 5.76 Stronger links have been made with the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC) as managers of the Military Cemetery, an intrinsic part of the Registered Park and Garden.
- 5.77 Replacement, hand etched, glass panels have been commissioned to restore the widows in the Grade II* Listed Chapel. This is awaiting funding.
- 5.78 The popular path along the sea wall remains closed for safety reasons.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.79

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2		3	✓
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7			
iv	8	✓	9			
v	10		11			
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14		15	✓		
viii	16	✓	17			

Desired Outcomes

5.80 The project will restore and conserve key heritage features of this nationally important site, provide new interpretation, improved access and community participation opportunities. This will enable local people to re-connect with the hidden heritage of the park, explore and enjoy the natural environment whilst utilising the park to benefit their health and wellbeing.

- Return the Chapel as the main focus of the site through improved heritage interpretation and increased access provision.
- Improve access provision and signage to connect visitors to the important heritage features of the Grade II Registered Park and Garden.
- Increase the visitor capacity of the current holdings.
- Reduce seasonal influences on visitor capacity.
- Increase participation and the volunteer offer, including working in partnership with CWGC.
- Enhance the biodiversity within the Country Park.
- Increase awareness of the heritage value of the site.

How will the project be delivered?**5.81**

- Restoration and improved access to the Chapel.
- Increase the use of the Chapel, Empire Building and associated buildings.
- Enhanced volunteer offer in partnership with CWGC.
- Seeking options on resubmitting the HLF application.
- Improved infrastructure and signage to link and interpret the important features of the site.
- Restoration of the SINC woodlands on the site with improved access.

Who will need to be involved?

5.82 Hampshire County Council (lead organisation), Commonwealth War Graves Commission, Friends of Royal Victoria Country Park.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.83 Based on the HLF application, likely total costs will be circa £3,900,000, of which:

Capital

£2,900,000

Activities

£390,000

Where are the funds likely to come from?**5.84**

- Income from visitors
- English Woodland Grant Scheme
- Heritage Lottery Fund

Southsea Seafront

Brief Description

5.85 As a seafront with a beach, a promenade and Southsea Common behind, Southsea is unique in the sub-region. It is the most well-visited part of the Solent coast, both generally and also for a number of specific activities. The seafront is popular for informal recreational such as walking, playing at the Splash Pad at Canoe Lake or enjoying the vista across to the Isle of Wight. There are also a number of issues which need to be addressed for the Seafront to reach its full potential as a recreational resource and a driver of economic growth.

5.86 The overall aim for the seafront is to build on the current successes of the area and improve the offer to residents, visitors and wildlife. There are a number of highly valued assets including Southsea Castle, Canoe Lake and Eastney Beach. The intention is to enhance the current attractions, improve the links and connectivity between them to ensure that more people visit and that they come back more often.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.87

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2	✓	3	✓
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7	✓		
iv	8	✓	9			
v	10		11			
vi	12	✓	13	✓		
vii	14	✓	15	✓		
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?

5.88 The primary aim of this project is to substantially enhance the attractiveness of the seafront for all users. This will result in:

- increased numbers of people using the seafront year round by ensuring a range of experiences suited to a wide spectrum of age groups
- An enhanced role in the city’s economy for the seafront through identifying opportunities for new attractions that bring life to the area during the day and into the evening
- The best use being made of existing seafront assets such as Southsea Castle
- High quality improvements to the public realm, including clearer signage and information and public art
- Improved connections between the seafront and other parts of the city and an increase in the number of people using public transport, walking and cycling to access the seafront
- A raised awareness of the rare and valuable habitat located at Eastney beach and protection of this important natural resource.

5.89 To that end, the Seafront Masterplan’s vision is that “Southsea Seafront should be a vibrant space, a place to experience the natural unspoilt environment, take-in the fascinating nautical views across the Solent and enjoy quality leisure facilities, events and activities all the year round.”

How will the project be delivered?

- 5.90** Portsmouth City Council has produced a masterplan for the seafront¹. The masterplan is intended to guide improvements to the Seafront area. It contains proposals that respond to the overarching vision and aims of the Seafront Strategy (<http://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/17346.html>). The masterplan seeks to:
- sets out a framework of guidance relating to the Seafront area as a whole, including opportunities for improving accessibility and ease of movement
 - Articulate a clear identity and role for each of the Seafront's six unique character areas and set out the opportunities for development and public realm improvements
 - Establish a high quality baseline for proposals including design principles, potential mix of uses, and guidance for buildings and public spaces.
- 5.91** At this stage the proposals contained in the framework are not fully costed or funded. Rather, it is intended that the framework will provide the basis for proposals to be taken forward, giving stakeholders a degree of certainty as to the potential opportunities at the Seafront. It will also act as a guide for future city council investment at the Seafront and will provide a framework for future bids for public funding.
- 5.92** This draft masterplan demonstrates that the council is committed to enhancing and improving the Seafront. The document provides a foundation for investment and change by identifying a vision for the area. It will provide landowners and developers with guidance about what would be appropriate at the Seafront and how proposals will be assessed.
- 5.93** The City Council has a major role to play in delivering public realm improvements at the Seafront as much of the land in the area is within its ownership. The Council cannot, however, deliver all the proposals outlined in the framework on its own and will work with other stakeholders across the private and public sectors to realise the vision for the area. Close collaboration and partnership working with investors and landowners will also be required.
- 5.94** The Council will be dependent on external funding to deliver the changes set out in the masterplan. It is anticipated that some of the works to the Promenade will be incorporated into the planned Coastal Defence Programme. Some proposals involving improvements to transport and highways may be incorporated into the city's Local Transport Plan. Other proposals could attract grants from Heritage and Sports Lottery funding bodies. Funding may also come from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- 5.95** Not all the opportunities will be realised immediately. The masterplan has a vision of 15 years and it is anticipated that the projects identified in this plan will be delivered as and when funding opportunities allow.

Who will need to be involved?

- 5.96** Portsmouth City Council (lead organisation); Seafront Attractions Forum; Friends of the Seafront; Seafront Traders Forum; East Southsea residents forum.

1 www.portsmouth.gov.uk/living/25964.html

How much is it likely to cost?

5.97 Capital

Approximately £25 million for selected public realm and infrastructure improvements

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.98 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified

Forest of Bere Woodlands

Brief Description

5.99 The Forest of Bere lies to the north of Fareham and is a significant area of linked woodland, open space, heathland, farmland and downland. The woodlands are the remaining parts of the Royal Forest of Bere which stretched across the PUSH sub region.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.100

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2	✓	3	✓
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7	✓		
iv	8	✓	9	✓		
v	10	✓	11	✓		
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14	✓	15	✓		
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?

5.101 The Project will deliver the following outcomes:

- Enhanced linkages between woodlands within the Forest of Bere**, which will improve connectivity and thus the ability of biodiversity to adapt to climate change while also providing greater recreational access to the countryside which will benefit the well-being of local communities. The woodlands will provide timber for construction and fuel for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants within the PUSH sub-region thus supporting the development of a low carbon economy.

Enhanced management and provision at key sites:

2. **West Walk** will provide a central green-space hub for the Forest of Bere with enhanced provision for walking, cycling, horse riding and natural play that will be attractive and accessible to the communities of the PUSH sub-region. Facilities will have been enhanced to improve quality of the recreational experience and provide greater carrying capacity. West Walk will be more easily accessible to the communities of the PUSH sub-region. The woodland will provide timber for construction and fuel for Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants within the PUSH sub-region thus supporting the development of a low carbon economy.
3. **Creech Woods** will have been enhanced to provide increased opportunities for recreation including walking, cycling, horse-riding and facilities to encourage natural play, acting as the hub/catalyst for linkages to be developed between Creech Woods and the West of Waterlooville MDA, which will facilitate recreational access via foot, horse and bike from the new settlement.
4. **Stoke Park Woodland** will provide increased opportunities for recreation through additional facilities for natural play, walking and cycling. Facilities to provide benefits for physical and mental well-being will have been established (e.g. green gym, fitness trail, and volunteer group).
5. **Whiteley Pastures** will provide enhanced facilities for recreation through the establishment of a network of way-marked trails, visitor facilities and provision for natural play. Enhanced management of the woodland will deliver biodiversity and environmental benefits.
6. A strategic recreational link will have been established between West Walk and Creech Woods, which will form part of a new network of recreational routes (walking, cycling and horse riding).
7. New woodlands of at least 10ha will have been planted to improve the connectivity of existing woodlands, which will provide benefits for biodiversity, increased sources of raw materials for industry and biomass energy/heat generation, enhanced recreational opportunities and maintain landscape character and distinctiveness.
8. Linkages to woodlands outside Forest of Bere to connect the recreation route network and maximise ecological connectivity.

How will the project be delivered?**5.102**

- **Feasibility Study** – to ensure the most effective approach and programme is achieved for the project. This will precede both On-Site Delivery and Woodland Creation.
- **On-site Delivery** – to co-ordinate delivery on Forestry Commission sites to ensure integration and consultation with wider project needs
- **Woodland Creation Officer** – to ensure that the creation of new woodlands integrates within existing woodlands in the sub-regional area.
- **Forest Ranger** – to ensure the Forest of Bere brand is marketed and sustainable across the sub-regional area through management and engagement with users and partners.

Who will need to be involved?

5.103 Forestry Commission (lead organisation); Winchester City Council; Forest Enterprise; Hampshire County Council; Fareham Borough Council; Eastleigh Borough Council; Havant Borough Council; Private landowners.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.104 Capital
£1.3 million

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.105 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified

Havant Thicket

Brief Description

5.106 Havant Thicket is an area of woodland and open space north of Leigh Park, Havant, east of Rowlands Castle and close to Staunton Country Park to the south. Part of the area is planned to become a winter storage reservoir for Portsmouth Water Company.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.107

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2	✓	3	
ii	4		5	✓		
iii	6	✓	7	✓		
iv	8	✓	9	✓		
v	10		11			
vi	12	✓	13	✓		
vii	14		15			
viii	16	✓	17	✓		

What are the desired outcomes?

5.108

- Providing improved connectivity for all types of recreational users, of all abilities, between areas of green infrastructure, at Staunton Country Park (SCP) and Havant Thicket.

- Providing improved connectivity for wildlife between the ancient woodland at SCP and Havant Thicket.
- Providing a link which can be used all year round, helping to maximise the use of existing facilities provided at SCP and Havant Thicket.
- Encourage the community to adopt healthier life style choices, as well as promoting a sense of wellbeing benefits.
- Enhancing existing community initiatives such as cycle hire and walking to health by providing access to a much larger better connected all year round GI infrastructure network.
- Providing more accessible GI in the heart of a large urban area, helping to reduce dependency on the motor car for recreation.
- Helping to reduce disturbance on the coast by providing an alternative more attractive recreational site within easy reach of a large urban population close to the coast.

How will the project be delivered?

- 5.109** The project will be delivered through partnership working between the three landowners; the Forestry Commission, Hampshire County Council and Portsmouth Water Ltd and local volunteers
- 5.110** The project has been broken down into discrete phases. The project lead for each phase will be determined by who the dominant land owner is for that aspect of the project. For example; the car park improvements will take place on Forestry Commission land and they will appoint a project manager for this phase of the project.

Who will need to be involved?

- 5.111** Havant Borough Council (lead organisation); Portsmouth Water; Hampshire County Council; Forestry Commission; East Hants District Council; Natural England; English Heritage; Rowlands Castle Parish Council; Leigh Park Community Board; Havant Thicket Winter Storage Reservoir Stakeholder Group

How much is it likely to cost?

- 5.112 Capital**
£325,000

Where are the funds likely to come from?

- 5.113** The potential scope of developer contributions/CIL is being explored

Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project

Brief Description

- 5.114** The Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP) was initiated by the Solent Forum and has been supported by PUSH. The project was initiated due to concerns over the impact of recreational pressure on the interest features of SPAs along the Solent and on the north shore of the Isle of Wight.

5.115 The project provides the evidence necessary to show whether, and to what extent, new development could lead to an increase in disturbance from recreation at European designated nature conservation sites. An increase in recreational activity could be considered an adverse effect under the Habitats Regulations if it in turn leads to an increase in bird mortality.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.116

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2		3	
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6		7			
iv	8		9	✓		
v	10		11			
vi	12		13			
vii	14		15			
viii	16	✓	17			

What are the desired outcomes?

5.117 The final outcome of the project will be an avoidance and mitigation strategy which will ensure that any adverse effect on the European sites is prevented. This strategy is likely to involve a combination of direct interventions at European sites, such as access management, together with the provision of new or improved green infrastructure provision. Green Infrastructure has a role to play in this process as it can work to draw people away from more sensitive areas of the coast, thus ensuring that there is not an increase in bird mortality as a result of new development.

5.118 The issues and interim results of the SDMP have informed a number of the projects in this framework and these projects in turn will form part of the SDMP's avoidance and mitigation plan. PUSH is working with the SDMP's Project Group to ensure an achievable avoidance and mitigation strategy is developed which will allow sustainable development to go ahead whilst ensuring the continued protection of the Solent's internationally important natural environment.

How will the project be delivered?

5.119 If mitigation of the visitor impacts on coastal European sites is required, the project is likely to be delivered in three main ways:

1. Management and control of the assessed impacts at specific sites;
2. Improved capacity at alternative existing coastal sites (for example please see the proposed projects for Royal Victoria Country Park and Southsea Seafront);
3. Provision of new alternative sites on or near to the coast in locations where recreation will not harm European sites (for example please see the proposed project for Horsea Island).

Who will need to be involved?

5.120 PUSH authorities; Natural England; Solent Forum. The lead authority is yet to be confirmed.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.121 The initial research has already been funded. The projects arising from the consideration of the evidence and their cost have yet to be identified

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.122 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified.

Marine and Coastal Access Initiative

Brief Description

5.123 Part 9 of the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 places a duty on Natural England to improve access to the English coast through creation of a continuous long-distance walking route around the coast and a margin of accessible land along it. The project would provide significant green infrastructure and enhance connectivity across PUSH.

What GI themes and objectives will this project support?

5.124

Theme	Objective		Objective		Objective	
i	1		2		3	
ii	4	✓	5	✓		
iii	6		7			
iv	8	✓	9			
v	10		11			
vi	12		13	✓		
vii	14		15			
viii	16	✓	17			

What are the desired outcomes?

5.125 The desired outcomes from the project are:

1. To deliver a coastal route that meets the requirements of the 2009 Act.
2. To provide local residents with improved multi-user access to the coastline for walking, cycling and horse riding. As well as meeting a local need for improved coastal access this will also provide greater connectivity with the rights of way network, improving off-road access within the PUSH area, with onward connectivity to the wider rights of way network.
3. To provide local residents with increased opportunities for leisure and recreation through natural play, walking, running, cycling, dog walking, orienteering, horse riding, etc. and the opportunity to explore, interpret and enjoy the natural environment.
4. To protect and enhance biodiversity by providing a green corridor that connects habitats and is designed to enhance ecological opportunities along the route.
5. To promote sustainable tourism by providing an attractive access route in its own right and by linking with the wider network.
6. To promote sustainable transport by linking coastal communities with an off-road multi-user trail for both recreational and utility use and the promotion of active travel for the health and wellbeing of residents.

How will the project be delivered?

5.126 As per NE269 - Coastal Access: Natural England's Approved Scheme (or as amended)².

5.127 Currently awaiting further information from Natural England on how the delivery of the coastal route is to be rolled out, following implementation & review of the pilot areas.

Who will need to be involved?

5.128 PUSH authorities – especially Highway Authorities; Natural England; Environment Agency. The lead authority is yet to be confirmed.

How much is it likely to cost?

5.129 The cost of this project has not yet been estimated.

Where are the funds likely to come from?

5.130 No specific sources of funding for this project have been identified.

6 Delivery Mechanisms

6.1 This Framework is about supporting the delivery of new GI projects to support the sustainable development of South Hampshire. The delivery of the strategic projects identified will require considerable resources at a time when there is limited public sector funding and funding from development such as section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy is difficult to quantify. The continued uncertainty surrounding the economy also makes the delivery of projects challenging for lead organisations. Each project will require its own approach in terms of how best it can be delivered.

Delivery of strategic projects

6.2 For each strategic project there will be a lead partner who would be responsible for its delivery, supported by partner organisations. It will be for each lead partner to determine the particular approach it will want to adopt in terms of managing the project.

6.3 To provide an overview of progress it is proposed that a working group representing the key partners is established which would receive progress reports on specific projects, assist in the resolution of issues and advise on implementation issues of importance. To provide a link to the delivery of the wider PUSH Spatial Strategy the group could report to the PUSH Planning Officers Group (POG). An example would be the Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project (SDMP), the outcome of which will be of significance to the wider planning of South Hampshire.

6.4 It will also be important to maintain close links with the PUSH Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Panel Delivery Panel which will retain overall responsibility for the delivery of GI in PUSH. This can be achieved by progress reports being received by the Panel.

Engaging with the Solent LEP

6.5 The quality of the environment of South Hampshire has an important role to play in the development of a successful local economy. It will be important to complement the work of the Solent LEP on economic issues and work jointly. The LEP vision highlights the links between the local economy and the environment

“create an environment that will better facilitate economic growth and private sector investment in the Solent area, allow businesses to grow, become more profitable, greener and enable new businesses to form and prosper. As a result there is a need to make the best use of the assets that the area already possesses (highly skilled people, world class businesses, outstanding further and higher education, the natural environment and high quality of life) and achieve sustainable economic growth.”

6.6 PUSH together with the lead organisations for each project will seek to engage with the LEP on the delivery of the key projects identified and other initiatives

Local Nature Partnership

6.7 The new Local Nature Partnership formed in July 2012 which covers all of Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Solent and South Wight Seas is an important step forward in terms of developing GI across an area wider than that within PUSH. PUSH looks forward to working with the Partnership where its work could complement that of the LNP recognising that it is in the early stages of establishing itself. The LNP is keen to establish a close working relationship with PUSH and in particular with the Sustainability and Community Infrastructure Delivery Panel.

Funding

6.8 The delivery of GI will require significant resources both financial and in terms of time invested by partner organisations in bringing projects forward. It will be for each lead partner to decide the funding mechanisms both capital and revenue for the projects it is responsible for. They can be supported by other partners in respect of likely sources of funding across a range of sources. Making best use of a variety of funding streams will require innovative approaches to securing the resources necessary to bring forward the strategic projects, particularly at a time when the capacity of the public sector to support GI initiatives is constrained.

6.9 The GI Strategy identified a number of potential sources of funding for GI including;

- Lottery funding
- Environmental stewardship grants
- Landfill Communities Fund
- Developer contributions e.g. section 106 agreements and the Community Infrastructure Levy
- Private endowments and Trusts
- The voluntary sector
- Local Authorities

6.10 One of the key functions of this Framework is to provide a base for exploring the extent to which the sources referred to above and others together with other investment programmes for non-GI specific projects can help support the development of the projects identified and other elements of GI

Next Steps

6.11 This Framework takes forward the PUSH GI Strategy in identifying a number of key projects of sub-regional importance on which PUSH will focus its resources. The next phase of the delivery process will be for each lead organisation to develop in more detail how their projects will come forward. This is likely to include feasibility studies and, where appropriate, master planning, detailed estimates of cost, sources of funding and timetable for implementation.

Appendix One - Components of the Green Grid

Statutorily protected sites

- A1.1** Sites such as Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Areas (SPA) and Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs) all benefit from legal protection. They are the key biodiversity assets of the region and can be regarded as core areas for biodiversity conservation. The Green Grid is intended to help buffer them against the effects of development, connect them with the wider landscape so that they do not become isolated and act as a catalyst for their positive management to achieve their optimum condition.
- A1.2** Likewise Scheduled Ancient Monuments and sites on the English Heritage Register of Historic Parks and Gardens benefit from legal protection. They represent some of South Hampshire's key historic and cultural assets.

Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)

- A1.3** The England Biodiversity Strategy and the South East Biodiversity Strategy focus on restoring biodiversity at the landscape scale. This involves maintenance, enhancement and re-connection of fragmented habitat in significant geographic areas. This landscape approach is necessary to maintain ecosystem functions and to ensure that biodiversity is robust in the face of climate change and is discussed in more detail later in this section.
- A1.4** The purpose of the BOAs is to guide support for land management to maintain and maximise robustness of the natural environment. These areas are considered priority for targeting land management support schemes and initiatives and regional agencies and local biodiversity partnerships are expected to identify how they will support these objectives.
- A1.5** BOAs in Hampshire have been identified by the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBiC) and are detailed in a detailed report. It should also be noted that many of these BOAs coincide with South Hampshire's most valued landscapes such as the major river valleys, the coast and the Forest of Bere.
- A1.6** Local authorities will need to work with private landowners, developers and consider the opportunities for promoting the objectives of BOAs when considering spatial plans and individual development proposals.

Other main rivers

- A1.7** In addition to the main rivers identified within BOAs there are several other smaller but nevertheless important rivers and their catchment areas which provide valuable wildlife and landscape corridors. They provide valuable ecosystem services including flood management. The Water Framework Directive sets standards for the achievement of good biological and chemical status in rivers and aquifers. Achieving these challenging standards will require interventions in the use and management of the wider landscape which can be facilitated through the protection and management of the Green Grid.

Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)

A1.8 SINCs are sites of local importance for nature conservation at the city/district level and they are all identified under a common framework of agreed criteria across the whole of Hampshire. They can range in size from small fields to extensive areas of woodland. They support valuable habitats and species and are important nodes of biodiversity. When viewed in total, they provide a large and significant network of biodiversity resources. There are more than 42,000 of these sites across England, collectively accounting for over 690,000 ha of wildlife habitat. Collectively they form a valuable network of biodiversity and offer valuable opportunities for access to nature. The Lawton Review (2010) recommends that Government provide greater protection to other priority habitats and features that form part of ecological networks, particularly Local Wildlife Sites, ancient woodland and other priority BAP habitats.

Green Gaps

- A1.9** These gaps refer to areas of land, much of it countryside between the main urban settlements of South Hampshire. South Hampshire owes much of its character to the presence of undeveloped areas of land between settlements and it helps to maintain the identities of those settlements.
- A1.10** The PUSH approach has been to seek to identify and protect green gaps between settlements preventing the coalescence of settlements by controlling development in designated gaps and thereby maintaining the character of existing settlements. PUSH agreed a joint framework for these gaps in December 2008.
- A1.11** PUSH believes that the designation of gaps within South Hampshire is essential to help shape the future settlement pattern, so that the 2 million square metres of new employment floorspace and the 80,000 new homes between 2006 – 2026 can be accommodated but in ways which will avoid the coalescence of settlements and the loss of settlement identity.
- A1.12** The approach also recognises that these gaps have the potential to provide valuable functions and services in support of the adjacent urban settlements, use for recreation purposes is one example.

Strategic Public Open Spaces

- A1.13** South Hampshire has the benefit of several large public green spaces including country parks such as Manor Farm and Royal Victoria and commons such as Southampton Common and Southsea Common, and large municipal parks such as Fleming Park in Eastleigh. These important public spaces provide vital recreational opportunities and access to nature for hundreds of thousands of people in South Hampshire each year.
- A1.14** The Natural England Accessible Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt) recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:
- of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
 - at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
 - one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
 - one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
 - a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

A1.15 Mapping against these standards for the PUSH GI strategy showed that most of the population of South Hampshire had a 20ha site within 2km of home. However significant parts of South Hampshire are not within 5km of a 100 ha site or 10km from a 500ha site. The Green Grid is intended to help address this deficiency by connecting and improving accessibility to a continuous network of accessible green spaces across South Hampshire.

Strategic Rights of Way network

A1.16 Under the Countryside and Rights of Way Act (2000) all Highways Authorities were required to undertake a review of their public rights of way networks and to produce Rights of Way Improvement Plans in consultation with local communities. Hampshire County Council as Highways Authority for most of Hampshire carried out this task and has produced Improvement Plans for South Hampshire. One of the strategic GI projects identified for the sub region is the Countryside Recreation Network – a strategic network of major connecting routes linking the settlements of South Hampshire to the open countryside. Many of these routes are within the Green Grid. This project is described in detail in the next section of this Framework.

PUSH strategic GI projects

A1.17 The strategic sub regional projects described in the next section of this report, have been selected to provide the infrastructure needed to help support the cumulative growth and development plans for South Hampshire. Most of these projects are within and form important hubs of the Green Grid. Collectively, they will play an important part in helping to mitigate the potential effects of development of the sub region on important European sites (please see above).

Major transport corridors

A1.18 These important strategic transport corridors are also important strategic GI corridors and therefore important parts of the Green Grid. They provide often long continuous vegetated corridors to support the movement of wildlife. Some of them are now disused (railways and canals) and now provide not only quiet refuges for biodiversity, but important recreational routes for walking and cycling.

Appendix Two -

Schemes Identified in the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy

Projects Identified in the PUSH GI Strategy

Project Code	Project Name/Description
W1	Forest Park Creation of a Forest Park, to link up the woodlands of Lords Wood, Hut Wood, Rownhams Wood and Toot Hill, and associated open spaces. To include the creation of new footpaths, mountain bike trails, signposting, information boards and car parks.
W2	Project Deleted
W3	Project Deleted
W4	A strategy for watercourse enhancement and cycle/footpath improvements in Totton Explore opportunities to enhance watercourse corridors through deculverting, creation of green corridors, and improvement of footpaths and cycleways.
W5	Safeguarding the setting of West Totton Land around Hanger Farm should continue to provide for recreation and community uses and allow the wider countryside to penetrate the urban form.
W6	GI wedge at Hounslow Seek to convert some areas of open farmland to recreational use along Jacob's Gutter Lane, and create greenways along stream corridors.
W7	Linking accessible woodland / Knellers Lane as a corridor for enhancement Seek to plant appropriately located native woodland in order to ameliorate noise pollution and link existing woodland habitats.
W8	Emer Bog SAC Habitat creation scheme to restore heathland/acid grassland and provide a sustainable extensive grazing unit.
W9	Enhancing watercourses in Marchwood Investigate opportunities to de-culvert watercourses where feasible and provide access routes for recreation
C1	Hythe Managed Retreat Seek to use this site for managed retreat in order to meet the habitat creation aspirations.
C2	Marine and Coastal Access Act Initiative Continuous linear access around the coast.
C3	Royal Victoria Country Park Enhanced recreational capacity to ensure that nature conservation and recreational considerations are managed in an integrated manner.
C4	Hook Lake, Hamble Estuary Seek to create an intertidal compensation habitat as part of the Solent Dynamic Coast Project and Regional Habitat Creation Programme.
C5	Chilling Farmland Seek to enhance access, biodiversity and rural landscape character through countryside stewardship schemes.

C6	<p>Lower Meon Valley</p> <p>Seek to conserve and enhance this area to ensure continued contribution to sense of place, climate change adaptation, providing open space close to urban areas for recreation and tourism.</p>
C7	<p>Alver Valley Country Park</p> <p>Creating a woodland park. Seek to create habitat corridors which connect adjacent sites and which strengthen the area's wildlife network.</p>
C8	<p>Gosport Ranges</p> <p>Seek to enhance biodiversity through Programmes or Stewardship Schemes. Scope to extend biodiversity and public recreational opportunities at the existing open space north of the Vector Aerospace (Fleetlands) site.</p>
C9	<p>Wallington Estuary, Portchester</p> <p>Seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity value of this area, retaining its character and the contribution it makes to the setting and sense of place of adjacent urban areas.</p>
C10	<p>Portsmouth Seafront</p> <p>Enhance Southsea Common and reinforce links with local seafront features including the various scheduled ancient monuments and listed buildings, the historic dockyard, the Gunwharf, Spinnaker Tower and western waterfront.</p>
C11	Project Deleted
C12	<p>Hayling Island, Habitat Creation</p> <p>Potential for habitat creation at Northney Farm, West Northney and North Common.</p>
F1	<p>Connecting and enhancing woodlands</p> <p>Enhance linkages between woodlands in the Area, encourage active woodland management and create new woodlands.</p>
F2	<p>Enhancing Catherington Down SSSI</p> <p>Opportunities to manage access around the SSSI in combination with habitat creation/ restoration to provide an enhanced GI resource.</p>
F3	<p>Creating and enhancing links around Portsdown Hill</p> <p>Seek to create an historical themed route around Portchester and linking Fort Nelson, Fort Southwick and Nelson's Monument on Portsdown Hill. Opportunities to increase the extent of calcareous grassland along the M27 corridor.</p>
F4	<p>River Meon and River Hamble Corridors</p> <p>Seek to conserve and enhance these corridors as semi-natural refuges through the creation of wooded stepping stones to connect woodland habitats, enhance biodiversity and reinforce local landscape character</p>
F5	<p>Improving recreational spaces in settlements</p> <p>Seek to enhance existing provision and develop new recreation spaces in order to improve quality of recreation experience and address deficits.</p>
F6	<p>Enhancing the River Wallington Corridor</p> <p>Seek to enhance the corridor's biodiversity value and develop circular routes connecting historic sites and points of interest with local settlements and North of Fareham SDA.</p>
F7	<p>Manor Farm Country Park</p> <p>Manor Farm is an established GI asset with potential to expand.</p>
F8	<p>Horndean and Clanfield Green Gap</p> <p>To maintain and enhance the green gap between Horndean and Clanfield.</p>

F9	<p>NE Clanfield Greenway</p> <p>Seek to create a greenway through the proposed development at Green Lane within which new recreational space and allotments can be provided.</p>
U1	<p>Monks Brook</p> <p>Seek to provide local biodiversity and landscape enhancements along the water corridor. Increased access for different users could be achieved if a riverside greenway was introduced.</p>
U2	<p>Southampton & Eastleigh Strategic Green Gap</p> <p>Improved recreational and biodiversity links between Lakeside Country Park and the proposed Forest Park at Lords Wood. A sense of 'openness' should be retained.</p>
U3	<p>Shoreburs Greenway</p> <p>Seek to increase tree planting to augment the existing woodland areas, increase allotment space and establish Miller's Pond as an integral feature of the greenway.</p>
U4	<p>Lordswood Greenway</p> <p>Opportunities to increase the number of ponds should be explored. Woodland enhancement and increased tree planting can be achieved along the greenway.</p>
U5	<p>River Itchen corridor</p> <p>Landscape enhancements at this location will enhance biodiversity and quality of life value.</p>
U6	<p>Locks Heath Greenway</p> <p>Seek to ameliorate this route through clear pavement routes, community art features and tree planting.</p>
U7	<p>Park Lane Recreation Ground</p> <p>Seek to enhance this open space and develop its function as an urban park.</p>
U8	<p>HMS Sultan site recreational / heritage route</p> <p>Open up forts to the public, linking up 'Fort Brockhurst' in the north east and 'Fort Gilkicker on the coast, as well as enabling a strategic GI link across the centre of Gosport and the Alver Valley.</p>
U9	<p>Foot/Cycle Network for Portsmouth to Key GI assets</p> <p>Seek to create a network of cycle and footpath routes which link to Portsmouth's key GI assets.</p>
U10	<p>A Country Park for Portsmouth</p> <p>Seek to create an informal 'country park', to overcome the deficit of public open space for Portsmouth's residents.</p>
U11	<p>Pocket Parks for Portsmouth</p> <p>Establish and promote an improved network of pocket parks with better linkages across Portsmouth.</p>
U12	<p>Horndean business and industrial estates GI Improvements</p> <p>Enhance open space and streets within estates through tree planting and management. Create cycle and footpath links into adjoining residential areas.</p>
U13	<p>Strengthening north-south connections along transport corridors (A3M)</p> <p>The multifunctional benefits of this transport corridor should be utilised by enhancing its biodiversity potential.</p>
U14	<p>Multifunctional Stream Enhancements</p> <p>Resurfacing the existing corridor or providing new foot/cycle paths along the stream corridors at Leigh Park and West Leigh.</p>
U15	<p>Gosport Waterfront (Haslar to Priddys Hard)</p> <p>A series of linked projects to improve recreation, habitat management and protection of historic features.</p>

Additional GI Projects Considered

Project Site/Location	Project Description/Aims
1. Botley to Bishops Waltham Multi-User Trail	To create a multi-user trail along the 6.1km length of the disused railway line linking the two settlements for recreation. In addition, this route provides an off-road utility route, linking Bishops Waltham to the railway network at Botley and providing a gateway link from the urban fringe to the South Downs National Park.
2. Round Of Bere	To create a 30 km multi-user circular route linking the West of Waterlooville MDA, Creech Wood, West Walk, Fareham SDA and Portsdown Hill and providing links to the wider recreational network, including the Meon Valley Rail Path, Wayfarer's Walk and Pilgrim's Trail.
3. Extension to the Meon Valley Trail	To create an extension to the MVT that will complete the route to provide multi-user route from Fareham to the South Downs National Park.
4. PUSH BAPS – From Eastleigh BC to Southern East Hampshire.	Strategic approach to protect biodiversity in the sub-region.
5. PUSH area Production of logs for wood stoves/wood chip.	Managing woodlands in South Hampshire.
6. Solent Coast	Name: CCATCH the Solent. Coastal Communities Adapting to Climate Change. Working with local authority partners to identify communities at risk, and 2 year engagement campaign to communicate risks and help them produce a local vision for adaptation.
7. Solent Coast	Name: Solent Disturbance and Mitigation Project. The SD&M Project seeks to assess the current impacts of visitor numbers and activities on the survival rates of internationally designated wintering waterbirds throughout the Solent coast and to establish the likely additional impact from the residents of the development proposed in the area. The project has 4 phases. Phase 1 commenced in 2008 and comprised a desk research phase and detailed methodology. Phase 2 is underway and fully funded; this phase will establish the evidence using primary research. This will enable individual core strategies to complete their HRA. Phase 3, fully funded has yet to begin and will devise what mitigation is required to enable the success of LA housing plans. Phase 4 strategy for implementation has yet to begin and funding will be required.

<p>8. Solent Coast</p>	<p>Sites identified for Managed Retreat within the SMP and within the PUSH area to help maintain natural processes and provide alternative coastal habitats to mitigate/compensate for those that will be lost to coastal squeeze:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Hook Lake – managed realignment mitigation 2. West Chidham – managed realignment compensation; 3. East Chidham - managed realignment compensation; 4. Medmerry - managed realignment compensation; 5. Horsepond - managed realignment mitigation; <p>The following sites were not included in the final SMP as they are in private ownership, but are still regarded as important for managed coastal retreat:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Farlington 7. Southmoor 8. Warblington 9. Conigar 10. Stoke Common 11. Northney Farm
<p>9. Countryside Access Plan projects</p> <p>PUSH-wide Solent CAP and Forest of Bere CAP and Test and Itchen</p>	<p>Implement actions in each of the relevant CAPs relevant to the PUSH Green Infrastructure objectives.</p> <p>it may help focus PUSH’s attention if projects can be identified on key routes which link the urban and countryside areas-preferably with circular routes along sub-regional routes</p>
<p>10. Solent Recreation and Disturbance projects</p>	<p>Implement any actions identified in the Solent Recreation and Disturbance Mitigation Study –particularly those required as a result of the in-combination effects of new development in the Solent area.</p> <p>Could include new GI or alternative management arrangements</p>
<p>11. West Walk – Forest of Bere</p>	<p>Clarification of project F1 –</p> <p>Increase local businesses and social enterprise opportunities on an identified key Green Infrastructure hub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased local employment • Increased leisure and recreation – Natural play, walking, orienteering etc. • Increased capacity of green infrastructure – key GI hub • Protection and enhancement of bio-diversity – woodland species and habitats • Sustainable tourism • Sustainable transport – Walking, Cycling and Horse Riding
<p>12. West Walk (Wickham), Creech (Denmead) and two other sites outside PUSH (Sparsholt/Winchester and Micheldever) – Forest of Bere</p>	<p>Clarification of project F1</p> <p>Name: It’s Okay to Play (Natural Play)</p>

13. Stoke Park (Bishopstoke) – Forest of Bere	Clarification of project F1 Name: Natural Play
14. West of Waterloo MDA	Woodland, Town Park and Community Nature Reserves associated with the new development
15. Hampshire Farm, Emsworth	Open Space associated with new development east of Emsworth
16. Test Valley	The Test Valley is a key element of the Strategic Green Grid – and yet is not referred to in the current GI Strategy.
17. Major Development Areas (Fareham SDA, North Whiteley, Newlands, Eastleigh Business Park, Daedalus, etc)	GI provision on Major Sites
18. Portsea Island/Milton Common, Portsmouth	Probably the largest area of open land in the City of Portsmouth and facing into Langstone Harbour the area already includes recreation and nature conservation facilities. Perhaps has potential for increasing multifunctionality and capacity to become a major GI asset for the City.
19. Pooksgreen/Marchwood Gravel Pits	Appears to be a potential significant GI asset between Totton and Marchwood. A new coastal Country Park with water features.
20. Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOAs)	BOAs offer significant opportunities for habitat creation/restoration to help support new development.

Appendix Three - The Themes and Objectives

These Themes and Objectives are taken from the PUSH Green Infrastructure Strategy (2010).

THEME I: Sustainable economic development, attractive workplaces and desirable tourist destinations

Objective 1 - Ensure the design of existing and new workplaces leads to diverse and attractive green environments for businesses wishing to relocate, grow or set-up in the South Hampshire sub-region.

Objective 2 - Complement the resources of existing visitor destinations, facilitate increased tourism opportunities and enhance the visitor economy.

Objective 3 - Promote businesses and markets that provide low carbon, multifunctional and cost effective delivery of Green Infrastructure Themes and Objectives.

THEME II: Maximising biodiversity opportunities, adapting to change and protecting European sites

Objective 4 - Conserve and enhance existing biodiversity: restoring habitats according to Biodiversity Opportunity Area priorities, helping deliver Habitat Action Plans and Species Action Plans in the BAP, and improving connectivity of habitats at all scales and levels of designation.

Objective 5 - Contribute to the mitigation of the impacts of growth on European sites using buffer zones, providing alternative recreation destinations and reducing the effects of coastal squeeze by providing new habitat sites.

THEME III: Landscape quality and diversity, distinctive features, cultural heritage and appreciation of sense of place

Objective 6 - Protect and enhance the unique quality, diversity and distinctiveness of the subregion's landscape and heritage.

Objective 7 - Maintain and where necessary improve the identity and character of settlements in urban and rural locations.

THEME IV: Access to the countryside and green spaces, providing recreational opportunities and experiences

Objective 8 - Create, maintain and promote a network of high quality, multifunctional, interconnected routes to provide a network of linear access for a variety of users.

Objective 9 - Address deficiencies in access to greenspace through creation of new or enhanced recreation sites at all scales, enabling use by all sectors of society. All such sites should avoid conflict with established nature conservation interests.

THEME V: Providing high quality water resources, managing flood risk and increasing water retention

Objective 10 - Increase natural storage capacity, reduce the run-off rate of storm water and increase onsite water purification and infiltration. Permeability in settlements across the sub-region should be maximised.

Objective 11 - Promote river corridor management to provide multifunctional benefits for flood defence, recreation, landscape and biodiversity.

THEME VI: Climate change adaptation and mitigation

Objective 12 - Maximise the GI contribution to mitigating urban temperature and prepare for sea level rise.

Objective 13 - Facilitate reduced carbon emissions and contribute to the development of South Hampshire's low carbon economy.

THEME VII: Food, fibre and fuel production

Objective 14 - Promote the opportunity to support locally grown products such as food, biomass and construction materials.

Objective 15 - Promote, increase and raise awareness of commercial activities, such as farming and forestry, which provide multi-purpose and cost effective delivery of Green Infrastructure Themes and Objectives.

THEME VIII: Wellbeing and health

Objective 16 - Use GI as a resource for improving the physical and mental well-being of the population of South Hampshire.

Objective 17 - Promote the health and wellbeing benefits of GI.

Appendix Four - Summary of Memorandum of Understanding

A4.1 PUSH, Natural England and the Environment Agency all signed up to a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation and joint working to achieve sustainable development in South Hampshire. This MoU includes several GI related elements. All parties are committed to working together to deliver the following environmental outcomes:

1. To ensure that new development is located and designed to prevent the risk of flooding and coastal erosion and to reduce overall flood risk
2. To ensure that flood and coastal risk management infrastructure is provided to an appropriate standard and that funding is secured for effective flood risk management to support sustainable development and protect existing communities
3. To use natural resources wisely, minimising waste and ensuring the maximum reuse of materials in new development
4. To achieve zero household waste to landfill in South Hampshire by 2016
5. To ensure a sustainable supply of water and sewage treatment to meet the needs of the Sub Region and secure an overall reduction in water use and abstraction
6. To achieve the highest standards of environmental sustainability in new homes and new commercial buildings, with all new dwellings meeting Code for Sustainable Homes level 3 moving to level 6 by 2016, and commercial buildings meeting the BREEAM Excellent rating by 2012
7. To enable communities and the natural environment to mitigate and adapt to climate change
8. To implement an agreed Green Infrastructure Strategy as an integral element of all development and growth
9. To achieve Biodiversity Action Plans and other land management targets and secure development that is consistent with European Directives
10. To improve connectivity between people and the natural environment as a contribution to achieving health, education and other social and community targets

A4.2 Joint work for each of these outcomes will be underpinned by an action plan. The action plan will include targets and milestones so that performance can be measured.

A4.3 All parties recognise that because of the quality of the environment, the existing pressures and impacts, and the proposed level of growth, in some areas a flexible and creative approach by the parties may be necessary to meet the development requirements of the area. An example of this might be an approach that achieves environmental gain overall, but accepts what might be a compromise in certain areas as a consequence. The overall sustainability benefits however need to be explicit and guaranteed. The circumstances where such an approach may be suggested, and the detail of any flexibilities cannot be specified at this stage, but this MoU establishes that all parties are prepared to consider such an approach. This will enable joint working which:

- goes beyond the norm, adding value to the working relationship through the outcomes that result
- commits all parties to exceptional agreements that break the mould, provide radical solutions that set a benchmark, and set an example for joint working between local authorities and the government agencies, but without compromising legal standards or each others responsibilities and/or statutory duties.

- A4.4** The parties also recognise that a key element of achieving the objectives and outcomes is an approach to joint collaborative working which considers, at an early stage, the issues set out in action plan (Appendix 1 of the MoU) and seeks effective strategic sub regional area solutions.
- A4.5** The parties agree that delivery of the Outcomes and the Action Plan will also depend additionally on co-operation and joint working with other key organisations not party to the Memorandum. This will essentially, but not exclusively, include the water companies, waste authorities and other members of the Defra family i.e. the Forestry Commission and English Heritage.

