Green Infrastructure Strategy

Horsham District Planning Framework

April 2014

Horsham District Council

Contents

1.0 Introduction

1.1 In order to fulfil its functions, Horsham District Council has produced this Green Infrastructure (GI) Strategy for the District. The purpose of the work is to inform the production of planning policy to ensure that future strategic development delivers, protects, improves and enhances the green infrastructure network, as well as seeks to contribute to the creation of sustainable communities through the provision of a wide range of ecosystem services and quality of life and health benefits for both future and existing residents.

1.2 This is a living document and process, and will map, plan and identify a strategic network of green space across the District and identify mechanisms to ensure its delivery. This will assist the Council across many of its functions, including Leisure, and also forms part of the evidence base of the Horsham District Planning Framework.

1.3 In developing a Green Infrastructure Strategy it was considered that an essential starting point was to identify strategic priorities and opportunities and encourage the involvement of key partners. The Visioning document was produced for this purpose and sets out an overarching vision and approach for the production of this Strategy. The Visioning document also identified, at a high level, potential areas of green space deficiency and highlights opportunities for enhancement for initial consultation.

1.4 Following consultation, work began on the GI Strategy which aims to identify existing green infrastructure in the Horsham District and consider in detail the enhancements and improvements that could be made.

1.5 This document also identifies how these improvements could be delivered through Local Partnerships, other Council plans and strategies, together with the planning system and provides recommendations on how the strategy could be taken forward.

1.6 In the longer term, the GI Strategy will give an indication on costs, including how funding will be secured for it the creation and long term management of improvement areas.

1.7 The document identifies broad action areas and areas of enhancement and opportunity for existing green infrastructure.

1.8 As Green Infrastructure networks often span local authority boundaries, we will continue to work with neighbouring West Sussex authorities and local stakeholder groups.

2.0 Defining Green Infrastructure

2.1 It is important from the outset that this document clearly defines the term ‘green infrastructure’ as the definition will be at the core of all work produced throughout the process of developing a strategy for the whole of the Horsham

district. A range of bodies and organisations have established definitions for the term and although all agree on the fundamental principles some do vary slightly from one another.

2.2 For the purposes of this District's strategy it is considered appropriate to refer to the definition in the National Planning Policy Framework (NNPF);

'A network of multi-functional green space, urban and rural, which is capable of delivering a wide range of environmental and quality of life benefits for local communities'.

2.3 For the purposes of this Strategy, GI includes established green spaces and new sites. It should thread through and surround the built environment, and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland. Consequently it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales from sub-regional to local neighbourhood levels, accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside."

2.4 There are a wide range of typologies which together contribute to GI in its entirety. Those features which can be found within the Horsham District are listed below:

Table 1: Green Infrastructure Typologies

Parks and Gardens	Urban parks, country parks, formal gardens
Amenity Greenspace	Informal recreation spaces, greenspaces in and around housing, outdoor sports facilities, domestic gardens, village greens
Natural and Semi-Natural Urban Greenspaces	Woodland, urban forestry and scrub, grasslands e.g. downland, commons and meadow, hedgerows, heathland, wetlands, open and running water, natural features for carbon storage or water purification, wastelands and disturbed ground, bare rock habitats e.g. cliffs and quarries, protected habitats such as SSSI and BAP areas
Green and Blue Corridors	Rivers and canals including their banks, road verges and rail corridors, cycle routes, pedestrian paths, bridleways, public rights of way
Other	Allotments, community gardens, farmland, cemeteries & churchyards, accessible countryside to urban fringe areas, provision for children and teenagers e.g. skateboard parks, ponds, trees in urban areas and green roofs and walls

2.5 In summary, Green Infrastructure assets can include parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural green space, green corridors, the water environment and river corridors, amenity green space, outdoor sports facilities, children's

and youth play areas, cemeteries and church yards, residential gardens and accessible countryside. GI can include land in either public or private ownership.

2.6 The provision of GI plays a critical role in the creation of sustainable communities. Furthermore, identifying opportunities for investment and the delivery of well designed and connected multi-functional GI networks can provide many benefits that will not only meet the needs of the development but will also assist in meeting the Government's environmental, social and economic priorities, which are central to achieving sustainable development.

3.0 Green Infrastructure Policy and Guidance update

3.1 Since the adoption of the Council's existing Core Strategy in 2007 there have been a number of legislative and planning policy changes that directly relate to how we should plan for GI. This section therefore seeks to provide a brief update with regards to the changes that have occurred since the adoption of the Council's Core Strategy.

3.2 *Natural Environment White Paper*
In June 2011 the Government published a White Paper on the natural environment titled 'The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature'. The document sets out a number of ways in which the natural environment will be managed including through a reform in the planning system, which will seek to guide development to the best locations, encourage green design and enable development to enhance natural environments. The White Paper is based on several different information resources including the National Ecosystem Assessment (NEA) and the Lawton Report: Making Space for Nature. The White Paper informed the policy provision within the NPPF, as set out below.

3.3 *The Localism Act*
In November 2011, the Localism Act came into force. The Localism Act changed the law required to enable the National Planning Policy Framework to come into effect and contained provisions for how monies from development can be collected and spent. Through the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Local Authorities may require developers to pay a levy when they build new houses and, where economically viable, businesses or shops. The money raised must contribute to the provision of new infrastructure, such as roads or schools. However, it can also contribute to other infrastructure such as GI where this is identified as a priority. A proportion of the monies collected through CIL (between 15-25%) will also go to parish councils where that development occurs. This money may also be spent on projects including those relating to GI, such as recreation and sports provision, wildlife restoration or site maintenance.

3.4 *National Planning Policy Framework*
In March 2012 the Government published its NPPF. The NPPF has replaced all previous national planning policy relating to GI.

In summary, the NPPF sets out that the planning system has an environmental role to contribute to, protect and enhance the natural and local environment. This includes improving biodiversity, for mitigation and adaptations to climate change and moving from a net loss of biodiversity to achieve net gains for nature. It seeks to establish coherent, ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures while recognising the 'wider benefits' ecosystems services can have.

The NPPF promotes mixed use developments and encourages multiple benefits from the use of land and recognises that open land has the potential to perform many environmental and social functions. The NPPF also provides that planning policies and decisions should aim to ensure that green spaces are incorporated as part of developments and that a strategic approach should be set out in local plans, planning positively for the creation, protection, enhancement and management of networks of biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.

With regards to open space, the NPPF identifies that access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation contribute to the health and well-being of communities. It requires that planning policies should be based on up to-date assessments on the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The NPPF sets out that assessment should identify any specific needs, including quantitative and qualitative deficits and surpluses in a local area and for this information to determine what future open space, recreation and sports provision is required.

3.5 *National Planning Practice Guidance*
On 6 March 2014, the Government launched revised and updated practice guidance online. This web-based resource brings together planning practice guidance in an accessible manner.

The Guidance notes the benefits of the provision of multi-functional green infrastructure which the Guidance acknowledges can reduce urban hear islands, manage flooding and help species adapt to climate change as well as contributing to a pleasant environment which encourages people to walk and cycle.

3.6 *Revocation of the South East Plan*
On 28 February 2013 the Secretary of State laid in Parliament a statutory instrument to partially revoke the Regional Strategy for the South East (modified to retain Policy NRM: Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area). The revocation came into force on 25 March 2013.

3.7 Benefits of a Green Infrastructure Strategy

GI planning can provide a variety of functions that benefit not only the community and the environment but also the economy. The benefits for each area are discussed in more detail below. Most importantly however, it should be recognised that a strategy for GI can pull all these functions together into a logical plan of action that addresses deficiencies and promotes opportunities.

3.8 *Economy*
It has now widely recognised that the provision of GI can have a significant benefit on the economic prosperity of an area. The provision of green open spaces can contribute directly to economic growth by having a positive impact on land and property markets, and revenues raised from leisure facilities. This in turn creates a setting for investment and acts as a catalyst for wider growth. Research has also shown that businesses opt to locate in greener settings as it helps to attract and retain staff. People also prefer to live in attractive 'leafy' areas and this has been shown to increase property values.

Well connected greener environments tend to attract skilled and mobile workers which will again benefit the local economy. A substantial provision of GI will also support jobs in tourism, the green economy (e.g. land management) and agriculture.

3.9 *Community*
Socially, GI can improve quality of life by providing safe, easily accessible green spaces which can be used by all age groups to encourage healthier lifestyles. When integrated with a good public transport system, a well connected GI network can also encourage people to walk rather than using their car, which in turn has related benefits in terms of climate change. GI can also act as a resource for more formal education on the natural environment which encourages people to live within their environmental limits.

It has been shown that attractive green open spaces can have a positive impact on health and well being as they provide mental stimulation and a place to relax. Creating space for local food production, for example through the provision of allotments and community gardens can also improve health by increasing access to healthy foods, the exercise they provide, and reconnecting communities with their local environment.

GI can also reduce the risk of health problems such as asthma by reducing air pollution. The provision of open spaces allows pollutants to be diluted or by vegetation trapping particulate matter.

GI can also play a key role in place-shaping. A well designed public amenity space, for example a local pond, can help preserve the cultural heritage of an area or create a sense of place which the local population identify with, thereby fostering a sense of community and belonging. GI can also serve as a landscape buffer from development making living spaces more attractive and providing access to nature. Attractive living spaces also tend to be associated with lower levels of fear and crime and anti-social behaviour.

3.10 *Environment*
The direct environmental benefits of providing GI are well documented and include the provision of new wildlife habits and connections between existing areas of environmental importance which enables species movement between different sites and areas.

The provision of GI can also have other more indirect environmental benefits such as the provision of wider ecosystem services such as surface water attenuation. Green open spaces reduce the rate at which rainfall reaches rivers, thereby reducing the risk of flooding. This benefit can be incorporated into a GI through the provision of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS). These design features will not only act as flood storage areas to attenuate surface water run-off, but will also enhance biodiversity and in some cases provide areas for recreation. The location of SuDS features along highways can also act as a filter to rainwater thereby reducing the risk of groundwater contamination. Restored mineral and waste sites are areas which can have considerable GI functions.

Increasing the provision of green infrastructure throughout the District will pose a multitude of benefits in terms of climate change adaption and mitigation. Firstly, increased canopy cover will reduce the urban heat island effect by providing shading and evapo-transpiration. It is also likely to improve air quality which often deteriorates as a result of higher temperatures. As mentioned above the connectivity of green spaces is also of growing importance when ensuring species can migrate readily between habitats in the face of a changing climate.

With respect to mitigation, trees and landforms can reduce energy use for heating and cooling by providing shading in the summer and shelter in the winter. Renewable energy systems such as ground source heat pumps and biomass production can also contribute to GI.

3.11 *Connectivity*
GI is also able to provide connections within the landscape and link people with their local environment. GI provides an opportunity to protect existing corridors as well as new areas being enhanced. It also provides an opportunity for enhancement for non-motorised access between settlements (e.g. recreational routes including cycle paths and pedestrian routes). As has already been indicated this has the additional benefit of reducing congestion and vehicular emissions.

4.0 Green Infrastructure and Council Plans and Strategies

4.1 A GI Strategy has the potential to assist the Council in achieving a number of its key aims and objectives. This section sets out how the GI Strategy will contribute to other key policies and strategies. It should also be noted that other plans and strategies will help deliver the provision of Green Infrastructure. .

4.2 *Sustainable Community Strategy*
In addition to the Horsham District Planning Framework, the basis for the GI Strategy work is embedded in the objectives of the District's Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS). It spans across a number of the Community Strategy's main goals and particularly builds on the objectives to protect and improve the natural and built environments and biodiversity as well as the promotion of better health and well being for all. The specific SCS objectives

that a GI Strategy would help to meet are set out in the table below under the relevant goals:

Goal 1: A Better Place to Live	**Goal 2: Opportunity for All**	**Goal 3: Better Health for All**
Exploit the potential of the planned new Community Infrastructure Levy to support the needs of the local community	Support the West Sussex County Council Rights of Way Improvement Plan	Provide and sustain accessible opportunities that enable all people to follow active and healthy lifestyles
Improve access to health and social/leisure facilities for individuals without private transport	Exploit the tourist opportunities of the new South Downs National Park	Provision of community based opportunities to improve physical and mental wellbeing
Increase facilities for walking and cycling	Seek an additional visitor attraction for the District	
Mitigation and adaptation to climate change	Support local producers – food drink and crafts	

Table 2: Relevant SCS Objectives

4.3 *Horsham District Planning Framework*
At a planning and land use level a GI Strategy can help to ensure that there is strategic protection and enhancement of key assets and linkages through the District Planning Framework (HDPF). It is also a useful tool to underpin key decisions on potential locations of strategic development and as a basis for identifying opportunities for green space and linkage improvements that not only will improve the local area but will also positively affect the wider District and benefit the environment. It may also provide a basis for projects to be brought forward as part of development contributions and/or the Community Infrastructure Levy.

4.4 *Neighbourhood planning*
Neighbourhood planning will also give communities the opportunity to further explore and identify what is important at the local level. The GI Strategy will provide the strategic overview and a starting point for communities to identify areas for improvement.

Neighbourhood Plans will be encouraged and supported to identify further areas and enhancement to ensure the delivery of the strategic objectives of the HDPF.

5.0 Green Infrastructure Characterisation in Horsham District

5.1 In 2011, a visioning document for Horsham District Council was published for consultation with key stakeholders which included organisations such as the Sussex Wildlife Trust, neighbouring authorities as well as other departments within the Council. This has resulted in the production of the following vision

Vision for the Horsham District Council Green Infrastructure Strategy

A network of high quality multifunctional greenspaces and waterways that are protected and managed in partnership, and delivering environmental, social and economic benefits for businesses, communities and the environment of the District.

6.0 Identification of Existing and Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas

6.1 *Existing studies, standards and data*
In order to identify the Existing strategic level green infrastructure, a review of existing studies and information was undertaken including the following:

- A review of biodiversity information for the District. This included information in relation to designated sites, but in addition, information about other non designated species was gathered, looking at documents such as the Sussex Biodiversity Action Plan, and from information provided by the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre. Horsham District supports a wide variety of plant and animal life. Habitats found within the District include arable, woodlands, Ancient Woodland (approximately 3,000 hectares) hedgerows, wide variety of grasslands, heathland and aquatic environments including rivers, ponds and floodplain grasslands. The urban environment also provides a home to a wide variety of wildlife and green spaces.

  Approximately 8% of the land area of the District is designated for its importance in nature conservation terms. The Arun Valley Special Protection Area (SPA) comprises 1% of the District's area and are a 23 national Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), There are also 74 locally important Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SNCIs) and 22 Regionally Important Geological Sites (RIGS) as designated by WSCC.

  A recent assessment of the condition of all SSSI's found that 45% were in a favourable condition. Although this means that 55% are in an unfavourable condition, only 7% were found to be declining. In addition, monitoring for National Indicator 197 – Improve Local Biodiversity, found that the total percentage of locally designated sites i.e. SNCIs & RIGS, deemed to be in positive conservation management was 49%.

- Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards (ANGSt) – Natural England has for many years been working towards ensuring that the natural environment is accessible to all. The ANGSt standards were developed as a means of helping to bring this about. ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live should have accessible natural greenspace:
  a) of at least 2 hectares (ha) in size no more than 300 metres (5 minute walk) from home;

b) at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
c) one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
d) one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus
e) a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

The three underlying principles of the ANGSt are to

a) Improve access to green spaces
b) Improve the naturalness of green spaces
c) Improve connectivity with green spaces

The ANGSt standards will therefore provide the Council with a useful tool in identifying areas where there are currently deficiencies in accessing green space. The standard will however need to be used in conjunction with other data in order for the Green Infrastructure Strategy to be most effective.

- The Horsham District PPG17 and Sport, Open Space and Recreation Assessment. The PPG17 study published in 2005 sought to identify the level of provision of open spaces, sport and recreation facilities in the District. This study was used to inform the initial stages of this work, but this study has been reviewed and updated, and is now published as the Sport, Open Space and Recreation Study 2014.

  The revised assessment is in two main parts:

  -Provision-specific chapters on allotments; bowling greens; built sports facilities; community halls golf facilities; multi-functional greenspace; play provision; sports pitches; tennis and multi-courts; and youth activity areas. These chapters review the current levels of provision and the provision standards recommended in the original assessment and provide a District-wide overview.
  - Spatial assessments for each of the Districts' parished and non-parished areas, taking account of the views expressed by the various Parish and Neighbourhood Councils.

- The District Infrastructure Study (May 2010). This study undertook preliminary work to identifying existing and required provision of green infrastructure in the District using a combination of the Fields in Trust's 'Planning and Design for Outdoor Sport and Play' (formerly the 'six acre standard'), the Council's PPG17 Assessment and Natural England's Accessible Natural Green Space Standards (ANGSt). The study sought to show distribution of assets and identify preliminary priority areas for green infrastructure enhancements. It is envisaged that the work will be used to inform the strategy as well as this visioning document.

6.2 *GI Mapping*

In addition to the studies above, a mapping exercise was undertaken by the Strategic Planning team to bring together the range of data that contributes to the Green Infrastructure network in the District. This data will continue to be updated as information emerges, but the initial exercise provides a visual account of the quantity and distribution of green infrastructure within the district,

A wide range of data has been collected, including the location of internationally and nationally sites of importance for biodiversity, together with sites of more local importance and biodiversity opportunity areas. Other data collected includes landscape designations, the location of river corridors and strategic recreation routes, the location of countryside and public Rights of Way (PROW) and the location of community facilities such as allotments and leisure sites.

By collating this information in a visual format, it has been possible to begin to identify areas of strength and weakness in the GI network and the early consideration of locations which should be prioritised for improvement.

The results of the Mapping Exercise are illustrated in Figure X and a descriptive account of the overarching green infrastructure in the District is set out below. The overview has been arranged to show the existing strengths and weaknesses, followed by potential opportunity areas for enhancement.

6.3 North of District

This area broadly covers the northern 1/3 of the District and includes the settlements of Horsham, Broadbridge Heath, Slinfold, Rudgwick, Rusper and Mannings Heath.

Existing Strengths

The northern area of Horsham District has a particularly strong provision of green infrastructure. The High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) adjoins the built up area boundary of Horsham and is also in close proximity to a number of other villages (e.g. Mannings Heath). Horsham town also has a number of other Green Infrastructure features including Chesworth Farm, Rookwood Golf course and Warnham Nature Reserve. Within the wider area there are also a number of routes and leisure sites that are of strategic importance to the District. The key features include:

- High Weald AONB
- High Weald Landscape trail linking to the centre of Horsham town into the AONB
- Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA's) adjoining east and south and just north of Horsham town
- Good existing links from Horsham town to rural outskirts and recreational areas such as Chesworth Farm and St Leonards Forest

- Sussex Border Path runs across northern border of the District
- A number of SSSIs and SNCI's across the north of the District
- The Down's Link passes through Slinfold and Rudgwick, linking the settlements to Guildford and the south coast.
- Horsham Park is an important green lung within the main town in the District
- The river Arun is an important resource for flood attenuation, biodiversity and recreation.
- The north of the District has large areas of Ancient Woodland

Weaknesses

This is the most densely populated and developed area in the District and pressure for further development here is much stronger than in any other area of the District. This may lead to pressure for the loss of some existing areas of GI.

6.4 Mid District

This area broadly covers the middle 1/3 of the District and includes the settlements of Billingshurst, Southwater, Cowfold and Partridge Green.

Existing Strengths

The central area of the District has strong green infrastructure provision in the east due to the presence of the High Weald AONB, but provision is more limited elsewhere. Southwater also has reasonable Green Infrastructure provision with a County park (also an SNCI) and the Downs link. Key features to note are:

- The High Weald AONB, located close to the north east of Cowfold;
- The Arun and Adur River valleys in the west and east respectively. These areas are important for flood attenuation, biodiversity including the Upper Arun SSSI, and recreation;
- A number of Biodiversity Opportunity Areas (BOA) including the Knepp Castle estate to the south of Southwater;
- The Down's Link which passes through Partridge Green and Southwater linking the settlements to Guildford and the South coast;
- Wey South Path and the Wey and Arun Canal located on the western boundary of the District and provides an important recreational resource offering canal trips and walking opportunities. The canal is also of importance from a biodiversity perspective.
- Southwater Country Park

Weaknesses

Maps identify a gap in green infrastructure provision in the triangular area between Pulborough, Ashington and Billingshurst. The ability of the residents

of Partridge Green and Cowfold to easily access the wider countryside may also be limited

6.5 South of District

This area covers the southern 1/3 of the District and includes the settlements of Pulborough, West Chiltington, Storrington & Sullington, Ashington, Henfield, Steyning, Bramber & Upper Beeding.

Existing Strengths

The southernmost part of the District generally already has a good green Infrastructure network. Most residents have good access to Green Infrastructure, particularly in the South Downs National Park. Many settlements also have a range of parks, leisure centres and allotments. These areas key features include:

- South Downs National Park – this nationally important landscape contains a number of key components of green infrastructure. It main land use is agriculture, but also is of importance for biodiversity (including a number of SSSIs and SNCIs) and recreation, including the South Downs way and Monarch Way; There is also a bid for the some of the National Park area south east of Steyning to become a biosphere reserve, as part of the bid by Brighton and Hove.
- Arun and Adur river valleys – important for flood attenuation, biodiversity and also for recreation. They also provide a GI link beyond the District towards the coast;
- Amberley Wildbrooks and Pulborough Brooks – part of the Arun valley these floodplains are sites of international importance for biodiversity. Pulborough Brooks is owned by the RSPB and has a visitor centre;
- Beeding and Bramber Brooks. Locally important floodplains with importance for biodiversity. There is also some access for informal recreation depending on the ground conditions.
- The Downs Link passes through, Henfield, Steyning and Bramber before linking the settlements to Guildford and the south coast.
- The Headquarters of the Sussex Wildlife Trust is located in the District to the south of Henfield; and
- Sullington Warren, Monkmead Woods, Heath Common and Washington Common are all important sites for local residents and biodiversity.

Weaknesses

Land in the Ashington area appears to have limited accessible green infrastructure due to the fact that the A24 acts as a barrier and there is a poor footpath network in this area.

7.0 Initial Assessment of Green Infrastructure Opportunities

7.1 By considering the strengths and weaknesses in the existing green infrastructure throughout the District network, it is possible to identify a number of opportunities for improvement. Some of these are set out in the list below. These are a starting point and will be updated as the strategy is reviewed, and this may includes There is also potential for priorities from other organisations that can be incorporated into this list.

- New development should contribute to enhancements to green infrastructure provision, both within the strategic development site and providing links into the wider countryside;
- Potential to improve links from towns and villages such as Billingshurst and Ashington into the wider countryside, including the AONB and National Park, and to other sites beyond the District's boundaries;
- Potential to extend the Riverside Walk in Horsham further along the River Arun;
- Increased recognition of the strategic importance of the Down's Link, for example providing cycling facilities at Southwater Country Park and improves links to this route from other settlements in the District.
- Potential to provide enhancements to the 'green infrastructure gap' between Pulborough, Ashington and Billingshurst;
- Potential to work with other organisations to help bring about enhancements in the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas identified. There may also be opportunities to link with Environmental Stewardship scheme – particularly to help buffer sites and establish stepping stones and ecological corridors; and
- Improved recreation links along Adur, for example around Partridge Green.
- Improving links from publically owned land into the wider countryside
- Opportunities for town / village centre greening including through neighbourhood plans.
- Opportunities to help deliver the objectives of the Water Framework Directive to improve water quality in the District

8.0 Delivery of the Strategy

This Strategy is a living document and will be updated as new information and evidence becomes available. The Strategy will guide development proposals to ensure opportunities to protect enhance and contribute towards the delivery of GI across the District.

The Strategy will also map GI within the District and demonstrate how it complaints strategic growth and identify where gaps exist how they can be improved.

The ways in which the Strategy could be delivered is detailed below. Please note these delivery mechanisms will be updated to reflect new projects as information becomes available.

Delivery Mechanism	How
Partnership working	The GI Strategy may also provide a basis on which projects being run and managed by other organisations such as the Sussex Wildlife Trust, the South Downs National Park and the Environment Agency can be identified. Sussex Local Nature Partnership may identify some opportunities.
Projects	The Sussex Wildlife Trust has identified living landscapes projects which through the Gatwick Green Space could also provide a mechanism for delivery.
Other District strategies	The Green Space Strategy will provide a focus for the management and continued improvement of green spaces in the Horsham District. Other District Strategic will also look to join up of various policy areas, bringing together climate change, environmental, recreation to ensure multifunctional uses in new developments.
Horsham District Planning Framework	Strategic Policies and objectives will seek to ensure opportunity areas are be looked at and incorporated into developments.
Planning for new GI	Strategic developments will also contribute to the delivery, protection and enhancement of GI across the District.
Neighbourhood planning	Designation of Green space areas under NPPF (see Para 76) where applicable.

- Allotments
- Key Leisure/visitor site
- Sports Centre
- Village Recreation Ground
- Biodiversity Opportunity Area
- Long Distance Footpath
- High Weald AONB & South Downs National Park
- Ancient Woodland within HDC
- Combined Accessible Natural Green Space
- SSSI within HDC
- SNCI within HDC
- River Valley/canal within HDC
- HDC boundary

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SUSSEX BORDER PATH

SUSSEX BORDER PATH

DOWNS LINK

HIGH WEALD LANDSCAPE TRAIL

SOUTH DOWNS WAY

SOUTHDOWNS WAY

Horsham District Council

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Horsham District Council - Green Infrastructure

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