

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Cabinet	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	13 th November 2025	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
		E 3668
TITLE:	Greener Places Plan for Bath and North East Somerset 2025-2035 and Investment & Delivery Plan 2025-2030	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM/		
List of attachments to this report:		
Appendix 1 - Greener Places Plan for Bath and North East Somerset 2025-2035		
Appendix 2 - Greener Places Investment & Delivery Plan 2025-2030		
Appendix 3 - Greener Places Plan Equalities Impact Assessment		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The new Greener Places Plan (GPP) for Bath and North East Somerset sets a framework for action and investment to ensure we make the most of our green spaces, both on Council land and across the wider district. It promotes understanding of what Green Infrastructure (GI) is, the multiple benefits it provides and how to deliver it where it is needed most, for people and nature. The accompanying Investment & Delivery Plan 2025-2030 takes the GPP forward over the next five years, to deliver planned and managed green and blue connected spaces where they are needed, for our residents' health and wellbeing, for nature recovery, to support growth and to adapt to climate change.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Cabinet is asked to;

- 2.1 Approve the Greener Places Plan for Bath & North East Somerset and accompanying five-year Investment and Delivery Plan 2025-2030**

3 THE REPORT

- 3.1 The Greener Places Plan (GPP) 2025-2035 sets out the purpose and context of the Greener Places Framework, the other components of the Greener Places

Framework being the five-year Investment & Delivery Plan, GI mapping, Local Plan GI policy and GI Standards. The GPP explains what GI is and the case for investment in managing existing and creating new green and blue spaces. This includes use of greening to address sustainability issues (e.g. mental and physical health, air pollution, biodiversity loss, noise, climate change) that have an economic cost and impact on potential growth.

3.2 The approach set out in the GPP is needed to ensure appropriate green infrastructure is provided through new development, urban retrofit, including integrated into our highways, transport and public realm schemes (e.g. raingardens, planting and trees). These will ensure that the council is able to:

- evidence to support preparation of the new Local Plan and its delivery including securing new greenspace for planned growth
- support development of place shaping plans and community initiatives to address inequalities in access to greenspace, as well as quality and purpose of greenspaces to ensure they meet local needs
- have effective policy, processes and practice in place to plan, manage and maintain GI.
- Continue delivery of GI, nature recovery and climate resilience partnership projects delivering for the core priorities and targets for these, and addressing sustainability issues including inactive lifestyles, air and noise pollution.

3.3 The GPP will benefit communities and residents in the following ways:

Better places to live and work - creating attractive, sustainable, nature-rich neighbourhoods and landscapes. Including:

- greener neighbourhoods and streets through place shaping, supported by community engagement and activity
- improved play spaces and greenspaces, and new ones created
- improved community health and wellbeing
- improved access, with provision to meet particular equality group needs
- nature being restored, re-connected and recovering all around us, and helping us adapt to climate change

Visible reassurance that our future security is being safeguarded, and our communities and landscapes are becoming more resilient.

Prioritised spend to where need is greatest and most effective.

Community engagement and cohesion by involving residents and businesses in **care, maintenance and future planning**.

Sustainable support for the long term by **securing ongoing funding** and **engaging residents and businesses** in solutions.

Community **access to data and mapping to inform local action** and **support funding bids** by the council and communities.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 Each of the interventions within the GPP will adhere to the appropriate statutory considerations.
- 4.2 The revised Local Plan GI policy is being taken forward as part of that statutory process. The Local Plan Options Report (2024) included the option of amending the current GI policy to include the NE GI Standards. No objections were received to this proposal.
- 4.3 The GI Standards align with National GI Standards and are updates of B&NES Green Spaces Strategy (2015) greenspace requirements, except the Urban Greening Factor (UGF) Standard that is subject to new Local Plan adoption

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The GPP and Investment & Delivery Plan will be used to prioritise and direct S106 and grant funding bids as well as existing allocated budgets. The Investment & Delivery Plan includes schemes within the current capital programme and identifies projects and programmes that will be prioritised for new external funding bids.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issue and recommendations has been undertaken, in compliance with the Council's decision-making risk management guidance.

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached. The GPP Investment & Delivery Plan includes specific actions to address where there is known to be inequalities in provision and access to greenspace and actions to better understand specific equality groups' needs. Project leads for site or place specific initiatives will be required to undertake EIAs to ensure that each equality group is considered. This includes Parks & Open Spaces team who have programmes of work to address parks and play provision. Sustainable Places & Regeneration in developing plans for place and site masterplans already seek to engage with all groups to identify and address needs. In future this will include greater focus on incorporation of greening for climate resilience, nature recovery and what people need.
- 7.2 The GPP vision specifically refers to addressing inequalities - 'Green infrastructure will play a key role in ensuring Bath and North East Somerset has a more sustainable, nature-rich and climate resilient future. It will be well maintained and valued, and will optimise the right social, economic, and environmental benefits in the right locations. There will be equitable access to high-quality and inclusive green infrastructure, ensuring that every member of the community benefits.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 The GPP vision states the need for green infrastructure as part of planning and ensuring a climate resilient future, as well as addressing the ecological emergency. It takes forward the Corporate Strategy overriding purpose to improve people's lives and policy to tackle the climate and ecological emergencies.
- 8.2 The GPP includes how to take forward the Ecological Emergency Action Plan ambition to create and manage more space for nature. As stated in the GPP Executive Summary we need to integrate planting, trees and multifunctional accessible greenspaces in our streets and neighbourhoods that support active travel, biodiversity, and climate resilience. In our rural areas we need to restore and better manage our natural assets and protect and enhance the services that they provide, that we all depend on to and or benefit us including food, water, cooling, and carbon sequestration.
- 8.3 The GPP will deliver multifunctional greener places through stronger Local Plan policy requiring standards to be met in new development that deliver connected permeable, accessible greenspace, and nature-rich spaces. Enhancing our strategic green and blue corridors through GI programmes and embedding GI in service delivery, will encourage people to walk and cycle and help management of our landscape's natural assets and water catchments. These will contribute to EEAP ambition for 30% land to be managed for nature and delivery of new and enhanced habitats as part of the West of England Local Nature Recovery network. They will also support the ambitions of the emerging Climate and Nature Strategy.

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 The development of the GPP has included external stakeholder engagement through two workshops- Sept 2023 and July 2024. Stakeholders included wide range of local, regional and national organisations and partnerships including Your Parks Bristol & Bath, Bath Preservation Trust, Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, West of England Nature Partnership, Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership, National Trust, Environment Agency, Natural England. Internal consultation with senior managers across council services has been undertaken via the GI Framework Review Group and bespoke workshops including through the Natural England embedding GI Framework programme (Jan- March 2024).

The S151 Officer and Monitoring Officer have reviewed this report.

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Background papers	None
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	