

## Manchester City Council Report for Information

**Report to:** Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny Committee – 3  
January 2017

**Subject:** Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Stakeholder  
Implementation Plan - Report on progress

**Report of:** Strategic Director (Development), Deputy Chief Executive  
(Growth & Neighbourhoods), Deputy Chief Executive (People,  
Policy and Reform) and Chair of *Manchester: A Certain Future*,  
Green Infrastructure Sub Group

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### Summary

Manchester's Green and Blue Infrastructure Stakeholder Implementation Plan (July 2015) was developed jointly by the Council and the *Manchester: A Certain Future (MACF)* Green and Blue Infrastructure Group. This report updates members on the progress that has been made by both the Council and external stakeholders, towards achieving the actions in the plan.

### Recommendations

That Scrutiny Committee:

1. To consider and comment on the progress made by both the Council and external stakeholders in achieving the actions in the Implementation Plan attached at Appendix 1.
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### Wards Affected: All

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy: report to Neighbourhoods Scrutiny Committee and Executive, July 2015, Manchester City Council
- Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy: July 2015
- Manchester Green and Blue Infrastructure Stakeholder Implementation Plan : July 2015
- Our Manchester 2015-25

## **1.0 Introduction**

1.1 Attractive green and blue infrastructure is important to shaping and delivering the quality of life agenda and creating the vision for the city set out in the Our Manchester Strategy. Members may recall that the G&BI strategy and implementation plan was adopted by Executive in July 2015. It was recognised that the delivery of this Strategy would require action by a wide range of stakeholders working alongside the City Council. An accompanying G&BI Stakeholder Implementation Plan was therefore prepared and is owned jointly by the City Council and MACF Steering Group on behalf of the wider city. The actions listed in the Implementation Plan are not exhaustive but a means to demonstrating progress towards the objectives of the G&BI Strategy. When the Strategy and Implementation Plan were produced, it was agreed that an annual progress report on the delivery of the Stakeholder Implementation Plan would be provided to this committee. This is the purpose of this report.

## **2.0 Background**

2.1 The Our Manchester Strategy sets out the vision for Manchester as a world class city with a dynamic economy, where residents from all backgrounds can live well. It recognises that in today's increasingly knowledge-based and competitive global economy, in which investors and individuals have a choice as to where to invest, live and work, those cities that are able to offer high quality living and working environments will have an increasing advantage. The Our Manchester objective to be a liveable and low-carbon city is clearly articulated through the high level aims which specifically include the need to "Improve the quality of parks, green spaces, rivers and canals and incorporate more into new developments where appropriate".

2.2 The G&BI Strategy sets out the importance of high quality open space as a vital element of the "Our Manchester" Strategy 2015-25. It reframes the city's green and blue infrastructure in the context of the city's wider plans for growth over the coming decade, recognising that protection and enhancement of this resource is increasingly important. It also highlights the influence that green and blue infrastructure has on several of the other high level aims of Our Manchester;

- to radically improve health outcomes and support people to make healthier choices;
- to encourage walking and cycling;
- to ensure communities are protected from a changing climate.

2.3 Existing residents, workers and visitors to the city tell us that they value the city's current green and blue spaces highly. The G&BI Strategy together with the Stakeholder Implementation Plan are key mechanisms to engage stakeholders and ensure that the high level and specific aims of Our Manchester are delivered. They also provide a framework to enable the care of our green and blue assets to involve both the council and the wider community of partners, a collaborative approach which is at the heart of Our Manchester.

## 2.2 The Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Implementation Plan

### 2.2.1 The Strategy contains an overarching vision for the future of Manchester's green spaces and waterways:

*By 2025 high quality, well maintained green and blue spaces will be an integral part of all neighbourhoods. The city's communities will be living healthy, fulfilled lives, enjoying access to parks and greenspaces and safe green routes for walking, cycling and exercise throughout the city. Green and blue infrastructure will be supporting Manchester's growth. Businesses will be investing in areas with a high environmental quality and attractive surroundings, enjoying access to a healthy, talented workforce. New funding models will be in place, ensuring progress achieved by 2025 can be sustained and provide the platform for ongoing investment in the years to follow.*

### 2.2.2 The delivery of the strategy will mean;

- Our river valleys are well managed, accessible and safe – providing a key recreational resource to residents.
- Our canal network is rejuvenated as a key asset for the city centre and beyond.
- Our parks and green spaces are attractive and accessible to residents.
- Our networks of smaller scale urban green connect more residents with urban nature and provide corridors and stepping stones for biodiversity
- Our green spaces, both permanent and temporary, work harder, providing multiple social, economic and environmental benefits to the city.
- Our growth is supported by green and blue infrastructure, as a key part of creating attractive, successful neighbourhoods.

### 2.2.3 The Strategy and Stakeholder Implementation Plan are based around the following four objectives.

1. Improving the quality and function of green and blue Infrastructure to maximise the benefits it delivers,
2. Using appropriate green and blue infrastructure as a key component of new developments to help create successful neighbourhoods and support the city's growth,
3. Improving connectivity and accessibility to green and blue infrastructure within the city and beyond,
4. Improving and promoting a wider understanding and awareness of the benefits that green and blue infrastructure provides to residents, the economy and the local environment.

### 2.2.4 Under each objective is a series of Headline Actions with associated potential projects and activities which are being delivered or investigated by the council and external stakeholders as part of the Implementation Plan. The progress that has been made against the actions in the Implementation Plan by all the stakeholders is set out in the Appendix. The following sections of the report summarise the key progress towards these objectives by the council and external stakeholders

### **3.0 Delivery of the Strategy**

- 3.1 Whilst the G&BI strategy was written and adopted prior to the Our Manchester Strategy, the ethos behind its delivery is strongly in keeping with the strength based and collaborative approach that sits at the heart of Our Manchester. Whilst the council continues to have an essential and active role to play, for example, regarding the city's parks, public realm, street trees and negotiating on developments, external partners have an increasing role in delivering and managing our green and blue assets. Many of the projects listed within the Implementation Plan are being undertaken by a range of agencies including other public, private, and academic organisations, as well as wide scale activity by community and voluntary groups.

### **4.0 Delivery Partners**

- 4.1 The independent Manchester: A Certain Future (MACF) Green Infrastructure (GI) Group remains a key part in delivering the Implementation Plan. The group is made up of a range of experienced practitioners and stakeholder organisations, including officers from the Council, Corridor Manchester, Manchester Climate Change Agency, New Economy and Housing Associations, statutory bodies such as the Environment Agency and Natural England, environmental charities like Groundwork, City of Trees, the Wildlife Trust and RSPB, and academics from the University of Manchester, Manchester Museum and Manchester Metropolitan University.
- 4.2 The group supported the development of the Strategy, making firm commitments within the implementation plan. It meets regularly and is chaired by a representative of the international design practice BDP. The strength of the MACF GI Group is in its ability to identify opportunities for collaboration, information sharing and a commitment to realise the objectives of the G&BI Strategy.
- 4.3 The members of the MACF GI Group work together collaboratively to progress ideas from the headline actions into funding bids, the strategy providing an important backdrop demonstrating strategic connectivity and relevance. This is already yielding strong results, demonstrated through the successful EU Life Integrated Programme Natural Course bid and Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) projects. Most recently, the Strategy was used directly to inform Manchester's successful 11.2 Million Euro bid to the European Commission's highly competitive Horizon 2020 strand. The project will provide the City with a new Global GI profile over 5 years, working with a range of international Cities including Lille, Wroclaw, Valencia and Wuhan to develop and deliver nature based solutions to improve Cities' climate and water resilience.
- 4.4 Since its inception, the group have independently provided showcase seminars which support key priorities of the G&BI Strategy. In 2016, City of Trees hosted a 'Place Making and Prosperous Cities' event, aimed at developers, landscape architects, planners, engineers and those working in

the fields of social housing and regeneration. Similarly, the G&BI group also hosted a “Green Spaces and Health” Seminar at Manchester Museum in July. The group is developing a series of accessible Case Studies which aim to illustrate the practical benefits and replicability of G&BI projects in the City. The G&BI Strategy was also showcased at the National Valuing Nature Conference held in Manchester in October.

## **5.0 Key Highlights**

### **5.1 The Natural Course: our Rivers, our Future**

5.1.1 Natural Course is a ground-breaking collaborative water management project which brings together the Greater Manchester Combined Authority, the Environment Agency, Natural England, United Utilities and the Rivers Trust. The bid became the first ever EU Life Integrated Project awarded to the UK, and is worth 20 million Euros over a proposed 10 year period.

5.1.2 Guided by the G&BI Strategy, the early focus for Natural Course will be Greater Manchester and the heavily-urbanised River Irwell catchment, which includes the River Medlock and Irk in Manchester. A new partnership group has been established to develop new interventions and approaches that will benefit Greater Manchester.

### **5.2. Natural Environment Research Council Projects - Increasing the Evidence Base**

5.2.1 The collaborative nature of the GI Group has led to the development of focussed bids involving a range of partners to fund research into questions which will improve our understanding of the role that GI plays in a modern City.

5.2.2 The Natural Environment Research Council is the UK's largest funder of independent environmental science, training and innovation, delivered through universities and research Centres.

5.2.3 The interdisciplinary projects listed below are worth over £1.2 million over 1-3 years, will provide detailed study, evidence and tools to help inform decision making in Manchester. These include:

- Green Infrastructure and the health and wellbeing influences on an ageing population (GHIA)
- Domestic gardens and their value in terms of ecosystem services
- Green Growth: Increasing resilience in cities through green infrastructure based solutions.

### **5.3 The Launch of Manchester: City of Trees**

5.3.1 Building on the success of Red Rose Forest, City of Trees was initiated by the Oglesby Charitable Trust and Community Forest Trust in 2016 and is

supported by a range of both public and private sector partners. It is a new movement aiming to:

- Plant 3 million trees, one for every man, woman and child across Greater Manchester
- Bring 2,000 hectares of unmanaged woodland back into a productive state
- Connect people to the trees and woods around them

Since its launch City of Trees has helped plant over 47,000 new trees, delivered over 7,000 connections with Nature and helped bring 223 hectares of woodland into management across Greater Manchester.

## **6.0 Council Actions**

6.1 Much progress has already been made following the adoption of the G&BI Strategy and the Council continues to be at the forefront of delivering the Strategy, examples from which are outlined below. A new G&BI Board has been established to steer action within the council across the different teams. This is being chaired by the Strategic Director, Development and will be attended by relevant Heads of Service. As well as monitoring progress on the Implementation Plan actions the purpose of the group will also be to provide an opportunity to focus on the strategy objectives and add value to the way G&BI is delivered across the city.

6.2 The first of the four objectives of the Strategy is to improve the quality and functionality of G&BI across the city. Since the Strategy was approved over £6.5 million has been spent on projects which deliver this, funded largely through the Council's Clean City Fund. Projects have included:

- Restoration of natural and heritage features at Brookdale Park Newton Heath
- Creation of new access gateways and permeable pathways along the Moston Brook
- Citywide treatment of Japanese Knotweed
- Investment in key park infrastructure including paths, fencing and play areas across most parks including Wythenshawe Park, Heaton Park, Hollyhedge Park, and Marie Louise Gardens to name but a few,
- Creation of Floating Ecosystems at Boggart Hole Clough in Charlestown and on the Rochdale Canal and in the Bridgewater Basin in the City Centre
- Restoration of selected neglected waterways as part of a "Clean Streams" clean up and engagement programme

6.3 The Strategy and Implementation Plan's second objective is to ensure that green and blue infrastructure is well integrated within new development. Recent examples have resulted in housing layouts being amended to protect existing street trees, plant additional trees in garden areas and provide additional planting along a boundary with an adjoining school. Ensuring the best and most creative G&BI solution within sometimes dense urban environments can require involvement of planners, highways, parks, city

centre regeneration and neighbourhood officers, as well as those responsible for ongoing maintenance. Guidance on residential design quality is currently being prepared, which includes advice to house builders on the types of green and blue infrastructure that the council would expect to see incorporated within a development. The G&BI Board will facilitate collaborative working within the council to progress this objective further.

- 6.4 Part of the delivery of G&BI is improving accessibility to areas within and beyond Manchester; this forms the third objective of the Strategy and Implementation Plan. This has involved working with neighbouring councils, TfGM and voluntary bodies such as Trans Pennine Trail, and Canal & Rivers Trust. The VeloCity cycling Programme has been delivered, including improvements to the Ashton Canal towpath. Continued support has been given to the Trans Pennine Trail enabling works between Didsbury Village and East Didsbury with links to Stockport and beyond to the Peak District. Considerable progress has also been made towards greening transport routes through the Tale of two Cities Grow Wild project which resulted in wild flower planting on 5 ha of open space including street verges.
- 6.5 The fourth objective is to promote a wider understanding of the benefits that G&BI bring to residents, the economy and the local environment. One aspect of this is to ensure that issues and opportunities presented by high quality G&BI are embedded as appropriate in key plans and policies. The Council has recently developed a Park Strategy which complements the G&BI Vision and was identified as one of the actions within the Implementation Plan. A refreshed Tree Action Plan, another of the identified actions, is also being tabled at this Neighbourhoods and Environment Scrutiny meeting. This will provide more detail around the care of the City's tree and woodland resource, an important part of the City's green infrastructure. The council has worked with the Universities to access funding for research projects referred to earlier in this report.

## **7.0 Locally focussed examples, putting Our Manchester at the heart of G&BI**

### **7.1 Moston Fairways Forest Schools**

- 7.1.1 The education team of Lancashire Wildlife Trust has been pioneering Forest Schools in the North West since 2009. The Forest Schools movement takes a learner-centered approach to outdoor education and leisure in a woodland environment. Programmes allow individuals to develop a relationship with the natural world and sessions foster resilience, creativity and confidence. The project has brought a whole new group of children and families into contact with nature. The project has generated a strong sense of local ownership that will see continued activity and involvement by local schools with local nature sites.
- 7.1.2 A £66,000 award to the Lancashire Wildlife Trust from the People's Postcode Lottery was used to develop the Wildlife Trust's Moston Fairway reserve as a Forest Schools site. Education Officers worked with four North Manchester Primary School's between April and November 2015. Over 600 schoolchildren



and families were engaged, with weekly outdoor sessions taking place. Teachers from each school received accredited training to continue Forest School learning independently. The project has received further funding and is now working with schools from East Manchester on Broadhurst Clough and Clayton Vale.

## **7.2 Clean Streams**

7.2.1 Funded through the Clean City Programme, Clean Streams aims to reconnect people to local waterways, reducing flood risk by cleaning and improving strategic water courses across the City.

7.2.2 In 2015/16, locations were chosen in Wythenshawe, Didsbury, Charlestown and Gorton. 4.5Km of watercourses were cleaned up and improved, with tonnes of rubbish removed, habitat improved by planting wild flowers, two new community orchards established and 100 trees planted. Over 1000 local people were engaged, including local schools, colleges, youth groups, businesses and residents. They were encouraged to get involved and to take some ownership of their local watercourse. The project provides valuable opportunities for formal and informal learning, and raising awareness of a range of environmental issues.

7.2.3 The project has received over £200,000 of additional support from the Environment Agency to be extended across more watercourses in the City.

## **8.0 Conclusion**

8.1 Improvement and promotion of green and blue infrastructure is recognised as a vital component of the Our Manchester Strategy which seeks to promote Manchester as a city known for its high quality of life. This aim requires collaboration across both the council and the many external delivery partners; from large national bodies to individuals and small “Friends of” Groups. Much progress has been made on improving green and blue infrastructure across the city over the last 18 months. Many of the actions listed in the Implementation Plan have been taken forward, with successful projects ranging in size from the 20 million euro “Natural Course” Bid, to the annual £10,000 Southways Housing Trust community improvements project. A few actions have not been progressed; and others are at an early stage. There are many actions taking place across the city that are not recorded within the Implementation Plan but are nonetheless adding value to the neighbourhood in which they are located. What is demonstrated, both by the range of recorded activity and the delivery partners, is that the ongoing collaborative work which brings together ideas, resources and expertise, will continue to be crucial to the success of the Strategy and Implementation Plan.

8.2 Officers will report progress to this committee every year

## **9.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

9.1 Recommendations appear at the front of the report.

Improve the quality and function of green and blue Infrastructure to maximise the benefits it delivers.						
	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
1	River valleys and canals: continue to invest in the river valleys and canals to provide attractive settings for residential communities, leisure and recreation, health, and biodiversity benefits	EU Water Framework Directive in Manchester: deliver a programme of citywide river and canal projects to improve water quality, reduce flood risk and improve biodiversity. To include: - Delivery of the Manchester elements of the €17million Environment Agency Northwest River Basin Management Plan LIFE project if successful	MCC, EA	N/E	2015-20	Ongoing. 12, 000,000 Eu funding secured over proposed 10 year.
		Medlock Valley Project and Medlock Restoration Project: to improve access to the river valley, water quality, biodiversity and use by local people. To include: - Development of Strategy for lower Medlock and ongoing restoration options	GW, MCC, EA	C/CC	2015-20 2015-18	ongoing. development opportunities around Mayfield and one circle square have been identified.
		Irk Valley Project: to improve access to the river valley, water quality, biodiversity and use by local people. To include:	GW, MCC, EA	N/C/CC	2015-20	ongoing ( see below)
		- £90,000 Baileys Wood SBI improvements	GW MCC	N	2015/16	completed
		- £362,000 Section 106 access improvements along River Irk at Sainsburys	GW MCC	N	2015/16	completed
		- £250,000 access and entrance improvements to Angel Meadows, Ancoats	GW MCC	C/N	2015/16	completed.
		Lancashire Wildlife Trust to deliver access improvements programme at Moston Fairways	LWT	N	2015/16	completed
		Partnership project to improve riverine habitat with Salford Friendly Anglers	Gw	N	2015/16	ongoing. Development plans delivered
		Moston Brook Project: to improve access to the river valley, water quality, biodiversity and use by local people. To include: - £57,000 United utilities funding to improve habitat, access and community engagement - £93,000 Clean City Funding for access improvements at key gateways	MCC, OMBC, GW, LWT	N	2015-20 2015 2015-16	ongoing, with noted capital works completed
		Mersey Valley Partnership: MCC and RSPB partnership to develop and deliver a new vision and investment plan for the Mersey Valley, to improve access, usage, biodiversity. To include: - Development of Strategic vision for Mersey Valley	MCC, RSPB	South	2015-16	ongong. RSPB/MCC developing MV vision
	Delivery of the £350,000 Clean Streams Project by Environment Agency and MCC to deliver clean ups, biodiversity enhancement and behaviour change	MCC, EA		2015-17	ongoing. 4.5km of waterways cleaned up nearly 1000 people engaged.	

	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
		The Canals and Rivers Trust to deliver the Manchester and Pennines Waterways Partnership Vision to improve the Ashton and Rochdale Canals within the city and to improve connections to surrounding areas. To include: - Work towards delivering £5 million 'Rochdale 9' canal improvements programme in the city centre - Ashton Canal improvement and maintenance programme - Rochdale Canal improvement and maintenance programme	CRT	N/C/CC	2015-20	ongoing. Large scale capital works completed, including Access improvements on Ashton Canal and Biomatrix floating ecosystems on Rochdale canal in the city centre.
2	Enhance existing parks to maximise their potential in making Manchester a World	Produce a new Manchester Parks Strategy to set out plans for new investment and park improvements.	MCC	Citywide	2015-16	Completed.
		Deliver City wide Clean City environmental improvements	MCC		2015-17	Largescale varied programme of quality and functional environmental improvements
3	Enhance existing and introduce new GI within large estates and land holdings e.g. colleges, registered housing providers, cemeteries, universities and hospitals	Registered Housing Providers' to integrate GI as part of business plans. To include: - Research to identify best practice amongst the city's Registered Housing Providers - Establish a mechanism(s) for sharing best practice and supporting further roll-out - Integrating RHP activities as part of Neighbourhood Delivery Plans	RHPs	Citywide	2015-17	ongoing. New RHP GI Forum established.
		University of Manchester – integrate GI as part of the development and delivery of the £1bn UoM estate and landscape masterplan. To include: - UoM GI Strategy including - Biodiversity Master Plan - Green Roof Green Wall policy	UoM	C/CC	2016- 2020	ongoing. Draft Living Campus Document due in Spring 2017. Green Roof Green Wall Policy Completed
		Manchester Metropolitan University – integrate GI as part of the development and delivery of the MMU estate masterplan. To include: - Completion of Birley Fields public realm and landscaping	MMU	C/CC	2015 - 18	Completed.
		To deliver phase 2 master plan public realm works	MMU	C/CC	2015-21	Completed
		Develop bid for Nature based solutions via H2020 EU	MCC	C	2017-20	Completed. Bid Submitted September 2016.
		Central Manchester Foundation Hospital Trust: - [To complete]	CMFHT			No Progress.
4	Schools: enhance school grounds for environmental education and biodiversity	Lancashire Wildlife Trust to deliver £66,000 Forest Schools project in North Manchester	LWT		2015-17	ongoing. Further funding secured for 2017.
		RSPB to deliver schools engagement programme involving Primary schools across the Mersey Valley and wider Manchester area	RSPB	S	2015-20	Ongoing. 2015/16 7 Schools visited 978 students engaged
	Trees and woodlands:	Aim for at least 4,000 new trees per year, to be planted in line with the existing Manchester Tree Strategy target, by a range of organisations and the City of Trees initiative.	MCC, RRF, RPs, individuals, developers, COM, CoT	Citywide	2015-20	2015/16 2980 trees planted, including 35 orchards plus 1080 hedge trees 2016/17 1484 trees planted, 5 orchards and 580 hedge trees so far note: change in tree action plan targets to reflect need for neighbourhood focus to new planting

	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
5	effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting	Wythenshawe Woodlands – Red Rose Forest, Groundwork and Council project to deliver biomass products, biodiversity improvements, skills, training and volunteering opportunities. (Heritage Lottery Fund application submitted June 2015).	RRF, MCC, GW	S	2015-16	2016 lottery bid rejected, but more work ongoing.
		Minimum of 4 new community orchards to be planted per year.	RRF, MCC, RHPs, CGs	Citywide	2015-17	35 orchards planted in 2015/16 5 orchards planted in 2016/17
		Map known community orchards across the city	MCC CoT	Citywide	2015-16	Ongoing. Liasing with CoT
6	Community greening and community food growing: delivery of community led and focussed GI projects and food growing	Partnership project to establish a community gardening and food growing network and support programme to scale up existing activities. To include: - £85,000 Clean City funding to restore and enhance allotments - Research to establish existing activities and case studies of good practice - Establish models for community ownership arrangements and engagement activities for existing green spaces - Share information, best practice and funding opportunities - Secure funding to deliver large-scale community gardening and food growing projects	HCGC, STC, DEC, GW, MGC, NT, RHPs, MCC	Citywide	2015-18	Ongoing. £178,000 committed to growing projects through Clean City.
		Deliver the Growing Manchester programme to support 65 community food growing projects (Budget for 2016-17 tbc)	MCC, STC	Citywide	2015-17	Ongoing. Over 75 groups registered, with nine new groups registered onto the programme in 2016, with two growing projects winning Macc 'Spirit of Manchester' awards
		National Trust Gardener in Residence to increase the number of residents engaged in gardening, including in parks and gardens.	NT	CityCentre	2015-16	Completed.
		Deliver £1million Real Food Wythenshawe community training and capacity building project.	RFW, GW, RHPs, MCC	South	2015-17	Ongoing.
		Deliver the Clean City City Centre Greening programme	CRT, MCC, Cityco	City Centre	2015-16	Ongoing. Work undertaken on Rochdale Canal. Work identified on Castlefield and in Chinatown.
		Promote RHS in bloom campaigns	RHPs, MCC	Citywide	2015-18	130 In Bloom awards citywide in 2015 126 In Bloom Awards citywide in 2016
7	Gardens: protect and enhance private gardens	Southway Housing Trust to improve at least 2 local green spaces per year, using in-house expertise working with local communities	Southway Housing Trust	South	Annual; ongoing	Completed.
		Registered Housing Providers and partners, facilitated by Southway Housing Trust, to promote the importance of private gardens to residents and actions they can take to protect and enhance them, to include: • Creation of a forum to share best practice • Arranging 2 site visits per year to showcase best practice	RHPs, RA, MCC	Citywide	2015-17	Ongoing. NEW RHP GI Forum set up.
8	Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs): increase the number of SBIs in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity	MCC to work with land owners and managers to increase the numbers of SBIs in active conservation management by 1-5% annually. (In June 2015 Manchester has 38 SBIs; 55% are in active conservation management). Report progress annually to DEFRA.	LO, MCC, GMEU	Citywide	2015-20	2016/17 57.89% of SBIs in active conservation mgt Active work with UoM vols on Painswick meadow and Castle Hill SBI
		Map and survey SBIs to review current condition and identify opportunities for improvements.	MCC, Universities	Citywide	2015-17	Completed

	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
9	Local Nature Reserves: increase the coverage of LNRs in line with national guidance to 1 ha of LNR per 1,000 residents	Identify potential Local Nature Reserves or similar opportunities to reach target coverage of 1 hectare LNR per 1,000 residents in line with national guidance, over the 10 year lifetime of the Strategy – including Southern Cemetery and Moston Vale as candidate sites	MCC, NE, GMEU	Citywide	2016-17	Ongoing
10	Health and wellbeing: deliver GI projects with a particular focus on improving health and wellbeing	Pilot the prescription of GI-based preventative health activities such as health walks, volunteering and use of courses to up-skill long term unemployed with health/addiction issues, to deliver improved health outcomes, as an alternative/complement to traditional approaches, and measure the impact.	NHS, MCC, Universities	Citywide	2016-18	Investment into the "One Team Prevention Programme" based on a social prescribing model, has been agreed by North Manchester Clinical Commissioning Group. They have agreed to invest in increased capacity to enable staff in the 4 "One Team" neighbourhoods in the north of the City to match people to local activities. This will then be scaled up across the City, pending the successful delivery of the Programme.

Use appropriate green and blue infrastructure as a key component of new developments to help create successful neighbourhoods and support the city's growth.						
	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
1	Embed new and existing GI as part of residential developments	Integrate high quality GI and appropriate SUDS, and a strategy for their long-term management, into major developments, from development framework and masterplan stage to delivery. To include:		Citywide		
		• NOMA development area: refresh of the masterplan	MCC, Co-op, HM	City Centre	TBC	Ongoing: Revised masterplan still in development. Draft presented to MCC in Nov 2016, but further work to be undertaken.
		• Collyhurst and Lower Irk Valley: Development Framework	MCC	North	TBC	Ongoing
		Gorton master Plan	MCC	Central		H2020 Nature based Solutions Bid submitted September 2016
2	Embed GI as part of city centre developments	Where appropriate integrate high quality GI and appropriate SUDS, and a strategy for their long-term management, into major developments, from development framework and masterplan stage to delivery. To include:		Citywide		
		• St John's public realm strategy	MQL (partnership between Allied London & MCC)	CC	Apr-17	The St John's public realm strategy will be finalised by April 2017.
		• Mayfield public realm	LCR, MCC, TfGM	CC	TBC, following refresh of SRF	ongoing. Development plans delivered
		• NOMA phase 2 public realm, including new public square, streetscape improvements and cycle routes within the Listed Estate.	Coop, MCC	CC	Sep-15	Completed.
3	Embed GI as part of major employment developments	• First Street public realm – later phases	Ask Developments, MCC	CC	TBC	New developmtes planned for 2017. Discussions are taking place with Allied London on the provision of public realm as part of new phases of development
4	Retrofit new GI to existing buildings, particularly in the city centre	MACF and partners to deliver a programme of events to promote GI retrofit to city centre building owners and developers, including showcasing existing good practice	MACF GI, UK GBC	Citywide	2016-17	No progress
5	Embed GI as part of new schools and major refurbishment	Deliver 'water resilient places' pilot project	BiTC, MCC	C	2015-17	Bid submitted but unsuccessful.
		Embed high quality GI in the design and delivery of the manchester schools new build and extension programme.	Mcc, Schools	Citywide	2015-17	Ongoing: five school schemes since the launch of G&BI Strategy. The approach to designing each school seeks to protect the environment and ecology of the area. Landscape proposals are incorporated and wildlife habitats to support the curriculum. Trees retained wherever possible with replacement ratios of 1:2 or 1:3
6	Establish temporary 'meanwhile' uses on sites awaiting development	RRF and partners to continue to promote existing Meanwhile projects, including those at Moss Side ex-Stagecoach site, McDonalds in Wythenshawe, Piccadilly Basin and Gorton Community Centre, to encourage further uptake	RRF, GW, MGC, MACF GI, GGT	Citywide	2015-16	Ongoing. Gorton, Wythenshawe meanwhile sites established 2015/16
		Training and events regarding the practicalities and benefits of setting up and managing a meanwhile site benefits for landowners, developers and community groups to be delivered	MACF, UKGBC, MCC, BiTC	Citywide	2015-16	TBC

	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
		Cityco and partners to develop stewardship and adoption of city centre GI	Cco, CRT	Citywide	2015-18	No progress

Improve connectivity and accessibility to green and blue infrastructure within the city and beyond						
	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
1	River valleys and canals: enhance river valleys and canal tow paths to improve accessibility and use as active transport corridors	Ashton Canal VeloCity cycle path improvements from Manchester to Ashton	TfGM, MCC, TMBC, OMBC, RMBC	East	2015-16	Completed.
		Maintain accessible routes through Irk valley and Moston Brook	RVLs,	North	2015-18	Ongoing. Development and Consultation on GMSF
2	Green routes: greening transport routes (e.g. tramlines, footpaths, cycle routes, roads, rail corridors including disused), to encourage walking and cycling, reduce flood risk and provide corridors for wildlife	TfGM and partners to deliver the Green Corridor programme to encourage increased walking and cycling and measure the impact in terms of use and health outcomes	NHS, RRF, MCC, TfGM, GW, LWT, universities	Citywide	2015-17	Ongoing. Website live. Continued promotion
		Develop and agree an approach with Network Rail and TfGM to encourage the management of transport corridors, including train lines, as green and blue assets that can provide multiple benefits, including providing an attractive welcome to the city	NR, TfGM, MCC, RRF, GW, Universities	Citywide	2015-20	No progress
		TfGM to deliver Wildlife Habitat and Tree Replacement Policy providing replacement trees for every tree removed as part of development and infrastructure projects and resulting in a net increase in the number of trees across the city	MCC, TfGM, developers	Citywide	2015-20	Ongoing.
		Tale of Two Cities Kew Grow Wild Project: wildflower planting in Hulme and Moss Side to improve 5ha of open space, including parks, verges and school grounds	MCC, Kew, LL, NT	C	2015-16	Completed.
		Establish a programme of citywide SuDS retrofit and identify funding for delivery	MCC	Citywide	2015-17	Ongoing. Discussions have taken place with United Utilities regarding adoption of SuDS
3	Cross boundary working to improve access and connectivity	Link GI within the city with surrounding assets within GM, through landscape scale planning and ensuring that strategic level approach to GI is incorporated within any review of the Core Strategy and within the GM Spatial Framework.	MCC, GMCA,	Citywide	2015-18	ongoing. Development plans delivered
		Continued support and promotion of Trans Pennine Trail (TPT) initiative including works such as the improvement of lighting and surfacing between East Didsbury and Didsbury village, to encourage walking and cycling through the Mersey Valley to and from surrounding areas	MCC, TPT	S	2015-20	Ongoing. 2015/16 Improvements along length of TPT between Didsbury and Stockport
4	Use active and sustainable transport to access green infrastructure in the city and beyond	TfGM, MCC and CRT to deliver the VeloCity programme in East Manchester including biodiversity and physical activity programme	MCC, TfGM, CRT	C	2015-17	Completed.
		Identify and promote public transport routes that can be used to access major parks and greenspaces in Manchester and beyond	MCC	Citywide	2016	No progress



<u>Improve and promote a wider understanding and awareness of the benefits that green and blue infrastructure provides to residents, the economy and the local environment draft outline plan taken to scrutiny in June 2016 Final Version going to Scrutiny Jan 2017</u>						
	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
1	Monitor existing GI within the city	Universities and the Council to establish a mechanism for ongoing review of GI across the city in order to understand distribution and changes over time. To include open access data, wherever possible.	Universities, MCC, LO, STAT, MM	Citywide	2015-17	Ongoing.
2	Embed GI in key plans and policies	Include GI as a priority within the Manchester Strategy 2015-25	MCC, MLF	Citywide	2015	Completed.
		Embed GI into the review of the Local Plan in line with the Manchester Strategy's liveability agenda	MCC	Citywide	2015-20	Ongoing.
		The Council, Registered Housing Providers and other partners to integrate GI as part of place plans, with assets and priorities for action identified, and clear responsibility for delivery.	MCC, RHPs	Citywide	2015-16	Ongoing. RHPs developing independent plans.
		Ward councillors and local communities to include GI activity in ward plans as appropriate, drawing from the Eco neighbourhoods pilots in Gorton, Rusholme, Whalley Range, Moston, and Old Moat	Ward Councillors, COM	Citywide	2015-16 and ongoing annually	Ongoing. Submission of H2020 Bid for nature based solutions in Gorton. Ardwick GI Plan being developed.
		Integrate GI as part of the refresh of the Manchester Health & Wellbeing Strategy, recognising the ability of G&B to deliver positive mental and physical health outcomes.	MHWB	Citywide	2015-16	The decision has been made to align the HWB Strategy with Our Manchester (i.e 10 year time frame). However the short term delivery of the Strategy will be through the Manchester Locality Plan agreed by the HWB in April 2016. The Locality Plan has a strong focus on prevention including the social prescribing model and emphasises the need to address the wider determinants of health (including G&B).
		MCC, GMEU and other partners to review the Manchester Biodiversity Action Plan in the context of the new GI Strategy and agree next steps	MCC, GMEU	Citywide	2016-17	Ongoing.
		MCC, CoT and other partners to review the Manchester Tree Strategy Action plan in the context of the new GI Strategy and agree next steps	MCC, RRF	Citywide	2016-17	ongoing. Development plans delivered
		Integrate the Green & Blue Infrastructure Implementation Plan as part of the MACF Action Plan 2016-20	MACF GI	Citywide	2015-16	completed
3	Develop research into the benefits of GI to residents, the economy and the environment to provide the basis for new policy, projects, programmes and investment mechanisms	TfGM to ensure that the importance of and access to green and blue spaces, within the city, including its parks, and beyond, is included in future GM-wide Transport Plans, including Local Transport Plan 4.	TfGM	Citywide	2015-16	Ongoing
		£15,000 study by UoM on biodiversity and Ecosystem services provision in Manchester	UoM	Citywide	2015	Completed.
		Local universities, MACF and MCC to establish an ongoing programme of collaborative GI research, initially for 2015-20, to measure the impact of GI across the range of social, economic and environmental benefits set out in the Strategy. To include: - Create 'ecosystems@Manchester' multi-disciplinary research network at the University of Manchester	UoM, MMU, UoS, MACF GI, MCC	Citywide	2015-20	Ongoing. 1.2 Million NERC funding Secured Green Growth, GHIA and gardens and ecosystem services
		Undertake research to: • Understand the physical and mental health conditions that could be improved through the use of and/or exposure to G&B and • Identify areas for more specific Manchester based cost/benefit research to test the feasibility of these approaches	UoM, MMU, UoS	Citywide		Ongoing. GHIA project.
		Research into barriers to undelivered schemes of GI within new development and those that could have been improved or delivered differently	MCC, UoM, MMU, UoS	Citywide		No progress

	Headline Action	Action	Stakeholders	Location: N,S,C,CC	Timescale	Progress
		Research to identify new models for the management and maintenance of GI, post-construction, including identifying case studies of successfully delivered and maintained schemes of GI in new development	MCC, UoM, MMU, UoS	Citywide		Ongoing. Submission of H2020 Bid for nature based solutions in Gorton.
		MACF, MCC UK Green Building Council to produce guidance and events for planners and developers to assist them in delivering G&B as part of new developments	MACF GI, MCC, UK GBC	Citywide		No progress.
4	Showcase local best practice and seek recognition for delivered projects	Create an interactive, publicly accessible, web based project database and map to capture planned and completed GI projects	MACF GI, UoM, MMU	Citywide	2015-16	Ongoing. resesarch bid by UoM unsuccessful. Revised bid submitted Nov 2016.
		Applying for national awards wherever appropriate e.g. Britain in Bloom RHS Awards for community greening projects	MCC + others as appropriate	Citywide	Ongoing	130 In Bloom awards citywide in 2015 126 In Bloom Awards citywide in 2016
5	Raise the awareness of the benefits of GI through public communication, education and training	Use the publicity around nationally promoted GI projects to improve local awareness of GI benefits and encourage behaviour change. E.g Friends of the Earth Bee Campaign, Manchester Bee Summit 2015	EMCC + others as appropriate FoE, UoM	Citywide	2015-20 2015-16	Nov 2015 NW in Bloom Biodiversity award 2015 To2C Be proud finalist Oct 2016 World canal award finalist bridgewater basin
		Embed GI in public activities aimed at behaviour changing e.g. to increase community responsibility and ownership of shared spaces	RHP, MCC	Citywide		Ongoing
		NHS to promote GI-based sport, leisure and recreation activities to NHS patients, through existing and new NHS channels, and measure the health impact, wherever possible.	NHS	Citywide	2015-20	No update.
		Training session for developers, planners, urban designers, to increase awareness of cost benefits of incorporating SuDS in development and highways schemes.	MACF, MCC	Citywide	2015-17	ongoing. Nov 2016 CIEEM Benefits of Blue and Green Seminar
		RSPB appoint new family engagement officer	RSPB, MCC	Citywide	2016 - 18	Ongoing. 2016 . 1081 people engaged.
		RSPB to appoint new education officer to work with schools in South Manchester (as part of the MCC-RSPB Mersey Valley Partnership)	RSPB, MCC	S	2015	Ongoing. 2015/16 7 Schools visited 978 students engaged April 2016 – Nov 2016: 1456 nature connections across 9 different schools
		Manchester Museum to deliver the wildlife friendly gardening project to promote wildlife friendly gardening to residents and visitors and promotion of nature via '7Million Wonders' brochure	MM	C	2015-17	Ongoing. In 2016, 91,000 connections with Climate Control Exhibition. Gardening project linked in with Whitworth Park Cultural Gardener
6	Raise the profile of Manchester as a an attractive place to live with access to high quality GI within and beyond Manchester	Use the city's GI to attract visitors and create new recreation opportunities, including through: - Dig the City urban gardening festival  - Kew Grow Wild Flagship project to create wildflower landscapes in Manchester and Liverpool	CIC, MCC, MM, UoM, NT, BDP, CRT  MCC, LL, Kew, NT	CC/ C	2015 2015-16	Completed Completed
		Promote Parks including production of city centre green guide	MCC, universities	CC	Mar-16	Ongoing.