

**Green Infrastructure**  
**Developing the Green Potential**

Conference 13 October 2009 Durham

**Transcript of the plenary summary from the workshops**  
*(full transcripts of individual workshops below)*

**Workshop 1 Partnerships**

1. Who should be part of a GI partnership to reflect the multifunctional nature of GI and why?

- *Stages of GI strategy development and implementation will require different stakeholders to be involved Strategy*
- *Remember cross-boundary opportunities*
- *Role of partners critical friend, providing research*
- *Go beyond usual suspects*
- *The RED group developed a matrix which may be useful to copy for your Green Infrastructure partnership. This was based on the 11 economic benefits of Green Infrastructure:*

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Funders</b>	<b>Land owners</b>	<b>Regu- lators</b>	<b>Policy makers</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>campaign</b>	<b>Interest/ beneficiaries</b>
<i>Benefit 1</i>							

2. What is the role of external partners in a GI partnership where the GI strategy development is driven by the local Authority LDF development?

- *Need to balance embedding in LDF with need for independence*
- *The LDF process has just started [ in a specific Local Authority] it is important to make link to Local Area Agreement/ Local Strategic Partnership*

3. How can Growth Points and other Local Authorities developing their GI strategy best share their learning, expertise and experience?

- *GI forum at regional level*
- *Regional Observatory*
- *Something to support community participation*
- *Sharing best practice is important*

## Workshop 2: Mapping and needs assessment

1. How can Local Authorities approach the mapping and needs assessment?
  - *Asking the right questions before going about data gathering*
  - *Look at big picture/ keep perspective so that data is fit for purpose and gives answers you need*
  - *Need to resolve licensing issues (for partner data)*
  - *Need strategy for geographic information to cover digital info*
  - *Who has responsibility for data?*
  - *Link to other existing plans/ strategies*
  - *Needs assessment: lots of data out there*
  - *Also need non-physical intervention*
2. What are the challenges and opportunities of mapping functions rather than types of green spaces?
  - *Need attributes that say something about quality of assets*
  - *Need to understand 1 site – multiple functions*
  - *How can GIS help us to make informed decisions where (not) to have development*
  - *Necessary mitigation informed by functionality analysis/ opportunities to improve surrounding land*
  - *PPG 17 good starting point , e.g. for consistency*
  - *Local evidence about sites, e.g. Local Strategic Partnerships*
  - *Functions operate on different scales*
  - *Who would “buy” the function?*

## Workshop 3: GI implementation

1. How can GI be maintained and sustained? What are the main barriers and how can they be overcome? What about opportunities?
  - *No plenary notes were taken. Please refer to individual workshop notes.*
2. What are the needs of projects happening at the regional level? Who should be involved?

Possible regional activity	Votes for this option				
	Y	G	B	R	total
<i>North East pinch point work to inform North East Regional Strategy</i>	5	4	4	3	16
<i>Collation of GI strategy audit/ data to inform North East spatial targeting project for GI</i>	7	6	6	5	24
<i>Exemplary green spaces funding/ co-ordination</i>	8	2	6	8	24
<i>GI website</i>	1	0	5	1	7
<i>regional GI partnership</i>	8	9	8	8	33
<i>regional GI implementation officer</i>	0	0	1	5	6
<i>Growth Point co-ordination/knowledge sharing group for GI</i>	1	5	0	3	9
<i>Other</i>	3	10	0	0	13

“Other” included regionally specific guidance (3) and a GI design panel/ delivery support (10)

**Full transcript workshop group BLUE**

Facilitator: Chris Myers, Durham County Council

**Workshop 1 Partnerships**

1. Who should be part of a GI partnership to reflect the multifunctional nature of GI and why?

WHO	WHY?
Health Climate Change	Different skill set
Urban Designers Public transport operators	Spatial Awareness
Managers of open spaces	Control of assets
Community groups	
Delivery Agencies Politicians Corporate Policy Makers	Decision Makers
Universities / Schools	Educational role in developing graduates
Urban / Rural Links	

2. What is the role of external partners in a GI partnership where the GI strategy development is driven by the local Authority LDF development?

- Partners in GI delivery
- Critical friend
- Quality
- Different skills
- LAF
- Only start
- Leads to action by others (hardest part)
- Need to change attitude of others to deliver
- Embed in LAA / SCS / LSP
- Treat partners equally

**Workshop 2: Mapping and needs assessment**

1. How can Local Authorities approach the mapping and needs assessment?

- Sharing
- Set up regional unit (EA?) (ANEC?)

- Web portal
- Library
- Think Tank
- Regional Observatory
- Discussion forum

→ Forum

→ Revenue to support community groups

Range of weapons!

- Co-ordinate approach
- Across corporate body
- Problems over M.S.A. data licence
- Need data register
- Avoid duplication
- Good metadata
- Need to corporate GIS platform
- Simple map browser? Delivered easily?
- Geo. Info Strategy

2. What are the challenges and opportunities of mapping functions rather than types of green spaces?

Challenges	Opportunities
Function vs. Form (and influence)	
Map all functions	
→ Capacity issues	→ Clarity of data
Setting standards	→ Local needs
<u>Mapping</u>	
Value	
Satisfaction	→ Understanding community needs
	→ Interactive G.I.S.
Words vs. Maps vs. Photos	
Responsibility for data collection	

### Workshop 3: GI implementation

1. How can GI be maintained and sustained? What are the main barriers and how can they be overcome? What about opportunities?

Barrier	Solution
Skills gap	→ Audit and training
Capital	→ S/06. CIC
Revenue	→ Cross-sectional support to access resources
	→ Maintenance fees (up to £100 / annum)
	→ Land charges
Land ownership → Lack of knowledge	
Political will vs. public want	Work with elected MPs and local Community (bottom up)
Lack of coordinated activity	→ Use of friends groups
	Lottery – in-kind contributions
Up-skilling local groups	→ Groups need to be self sustaining
Enabling role of LAs rather than direct delivery	
Short term focus on new funding ????? [could not read one point/comment]	→ LT programmes

### Full transcript workshop group YELLOW

Facilitator: Glenn McGill

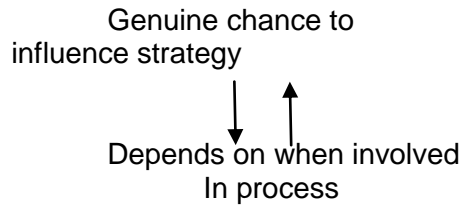
#### Workshop 1 Partnerships

1. Who should be part of a GI partnership to reflect the multifunctional nature of GI and why?

- Scale and development of partnerships
- Strategic
- Delivery
- Stakeholder
- Cross boundary
- Joined up thinking
- Broad parameters regionally to give good practice ideas
- Biodiversity orgs WT's, LA's, NE, EA
- Main or wider partnership
- Core partnership – public sector organisations
- Schools and Health sector LSP
- Local Access Forums

2. What is the role of external partners in a GI partnership where the GI strategy development is driven by the local Authority LDF development? (see 3.)
3. How can Growth Points and other Local Authorities developing their GI strategy best share their learning, expertise and experience?

Ecology  
Geodiversity  
Funding



- Critical friend – scrutiny, buy-in
- Sharing best practice, sustainable approach, research
- Management and maintenance
- Delivery – strategy versus implementation
- LDF needs evidence e.g. sports, landscape character, greenspace info (quality and quantity)
- Are communities external partners?

### Workshop 2: Mapping and needs assessment

1. How can Local Authorities approach the mapping and needs assessment?
2. What are the challenges and opportunities of mapping functions rather than types of green spaces?
  - Is sight on DUPMT plan?
  - Regardless of land info using GIS
  - Opportunities as well as threats
  - Can data provide info
  - If development opportunities – what are mitigation steps taken
  - Info must be usable / meaningful

### Workshop 3: GI implementation

1. How can GI be maintained and sustained? What are the main barriers and how can they be overcome? What about opportunities?

Barriers	Solutions
Regional GI overview (need balance natural green space vs. other features – play, allotments)	Provide it! (policy framework)
Getting the most out of planning system / development	Set of broad agreed principles
Maintenance costs	Community ownership More informed maintenance regimes Low maintenance. Design more natural CIL? Other sources of funding (PCT, Sustrans) – from beneficiaries

## Full transcript workshop group **RED**

Facilitator: Paul Nolan

### Workshop 1 Partnerships

1. Who should be part of a GI partnership to reflect the multifunctional nature of GI and why?

<b>Benefit</b>	<b>Funders</b>	<b>Land owners</b>	<b>Regulators</b>	<b>Policy makers</b>	<b>Delivery</b>	<b>campaign</b>	<b>Interest/beneficiaries</b>
<i>Water</i>	<i>EA, FC, NE</i>	<i>EA, NE, BW</i>	<i>EA, NE</i>	<i>EA Developers Planners NE AONB</i>	<i>NWL EA Developers Planner NE LA</i>	<i>Wear RT TYNE RT Tweed RT CPRE</i>	<i>council members</i>
<i>Economy</i>	<i>RDA Pathfinder LA</i>	<i>LA Developers</i>	<i>LA?</i>	<i>RDA Pathfinder LA</i>	<i>RDA Pathfinder Growth Point</i>	<i>BCC FSB RDA</i>	<i>Local Business</i>
<i>Tourism</i>	<i>RDA LA FC</i>	<i>FC NT AONB</i>	<i>Visit England EH AONB/NP</i>	<i>LA AONB</i>	<i>NT FC AONB NP</i>	<i>Hadrian's Wall FC</i>	<i>Local business B&amp;B etc</i>
<i>Climate Change (resilience)</i>	<i>RDA (See water)</i>			<i>RDA</i>	<i>Developer FC</i>		<i>Business</i>
<i>Quality of Place</i>	<i>Sustrans LSP</i>		<i>EH</i>	<i>CABE EH</i>	<i>Neighbourhood Sustrans [could not read*3]</i>	<i>Local community Sustrans</i>	<i>Local community</i>
<i>Health</i>	<i>PCT FC NE</i>	<i>NE FC</i>		<i>PCT/NHS Sport England</i>	<i>PCT/NHS FC NE</i>		
<i>Land &amp; Biodiversity</i>		<i>NE FC LSP</i>			<i>WT BAP</i>	<i>CLA Wt RSPB Woodland Trust</i>	<i>Land owners</i>
<i>Food Production</i>	<i>FC [UK/EU]</i>			<i>DoH LA [could not read]</i>	<i>FWAG</i>	<i>NFU FWAG</i>	<i>Allotments Farmer</i>
<i>Recreation</i>				<i>Play England FC Ne Sport England</i>		<i>Equestrian users User groups</i>	

[comment: this matrix is based on [The economic value of Green Infrastructure](#) ; the benefits not included in this matrix are land & property values; labour productivity]

## Workshop 2: Mapping and needs assessment

Unfortunately, there do not seem to be any flipcharts for this discussion

## Workshop 3: GI implementation

1. How can GI be maintained and sustained? What are the main barriers and how can they be overcome? What about opportunities?

### OPPORTUNITIES

- Beneficiaries – Pay
  - But is there a willingness to pay?
- Front loading of Budgets
  - Capital vs. rev.
- Community Involvement
  - Service charges ( [?] West Park) [text unclear]
  - levy
  - Roof Tax?
- Issues of “claw back” of funds e.g. EU
- Better design - low cost
  - design
  
- [text unclear] – Paid Stuff
- Comms taking responsibilities
- Work with the agencies that benefit?
  - PCT / EA etc
- Making it easier to “practise” GI and exercise.
- GP surgeries + support for Green Spaces has been done with allotments.
- Connecting people back to natural environment
  - Risk / benefit “culture”
  - Low cost.

### Full transcript workshop group GREEN

Facilitator: David Siddle

#### Workshop 1 Partnerships

1. Who should be part of a GI partnership to reflect the multifunctional nature of GI and why?
  - Natural England
  - Landowners
    - Public
    - Private
      - Estates
      - Org's Representatives
  - Env. Agency
  - Local Auths.
  - Planning
  - Housing
  - Env
  - Access Brof

- Health
  - RDA
  - Developers
  - Delivery Agents
  - Housebuilders
  - Groundwork / Woodland Trust
2. What is the role of external partners in a GI partnership where the GI strategy development is driven by the local Authority LDF development?
    - Too strong alignment with LDF?
    - Partnership – needs to be independent / mainstream
    - Co-ordination
  3. How can Growth Points and other Local Authorities developing their GI strategy best share their learning, expertise and experience?
    - NE Forum
    - Linked to North East Environment Forum??

## **Workshop 2: Mapping and needs assessment**

1. How can Local Authorities approach the mapping and needs assessment?  
(see 2.)
2. What are the challenges and opportunities of mapping functions rather than types of green spaces?
  - Can grow like topsy without the right question
  - Most data has been produced to answer diff Questions.
  - Main problem with is the scale.
  - Where is the main action?
    - Growth Points.
    - No point in doing in detail across whole area?
    - Resources? Have you got the manpower?
  - What is GI for?
  - Where are the gaps?
  - Process – means to an end.
    - Has to be a core part of planning
    - How do you go from acceptance that GI is good to prescribing what goes where?
  - Functionality can be difficult
  - Quality vs. Quantity
  - Timescales – Too tight to deliver?
  - Not overcomplicate. Be able to identify what is needed and where?

### Workshop 3: GI implementation

2. How can GI be maintained and sustained? What are the main barriers and how can they be overcome? What about opportunities?

#### BARRIERS

##### COSTS

- Limited resources

#### AGREEMENTS

##### EXCEPTIONAL COSTS

- Vandalism
- ASB

##### NEW DRAINAGE SOLUTIONS

- Suds
- Reed Bed

#### OPPORTUNITIES

Multi-Functionality

'Total Place'

Coordination of resources

- MAA
- LTP

Business Sponsorship

#### SOLUTIONS

##### REVENUE FUNDS

- Allocated
- Guaranteed

CAPITAL RISK MANAGEMENT

DEVELOPER CONTRIB'S

3<sup>rd</sup> PARTY MANAGEMENT

COMMUNITY GROUPS

EDUCATION

NEW APPROACHES REQUIRED  
TO ADOPTION