



Green Infrastructure, Green Exercise and planning

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Newcastle
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Green Infrastructure



“Strategically planned network of multi-functional greenspaces”

- Functions include:
 - Mental & physical health, access to natural greenspace, active recreation, climate change adaptability

Type of green space ↔ Function ↔ Benefit

- Multiple functions should
 - provide multiple hooks to link into strategies, policies and key planning documents
 - provide benefits for several policy priorities



Linking Green Infrastructure to strategic documents



- Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS)
- Regional Economic Strategy (RES)
- Other regional strategies
- Local Development Frameworks (LDFs)
- Local Area Agreements (LAA) and Sustainable Communities Strategies (SCS)
- Growth Points and Green Infrastructure strategies



Regional Spatial Strategy



14 references to Green Infrastructure including:

- **RSS Policy 2** – Climate Change
- **RSS Policy 8** Protecting the Environment
- **RSS Policy 9** – Tyne and Wear City region
- **RSS Policy 10** – Tees Valley City region
- **RSS Policy 12** – Sustainable Economic Development
- **RSS Policy 24** – Delivering Sustainable Communities



GOVERNMENT OFFICE
FOR THE NORTH EAST

The North East of England Plan
Regional Spatial Strategy to 2021

July 2008





Regional Spatial Strategy

‘Strategic elements of green infrastructure’:

- Biodiversity Target Zones
- Habitat Creation and Enhancement Areas
- Nationally Important Landscapes
- strategic wildlife corridors
- strategic recreation routes
- Wildlife Sites



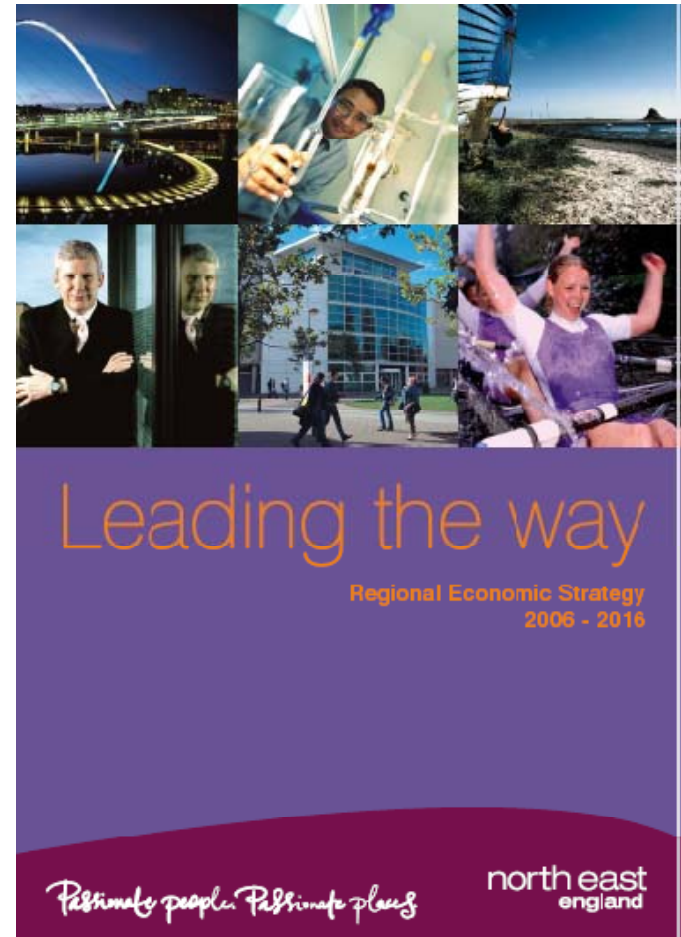
Tees Valley Green Infrastructure strategy 2008



Regional Economic Strategy



- **Regional Economic Strategy (RES)**
 - *‘Our **green infrastructure** is increasingly recognised as being a key component of sustainable communities. It is critical that the benefits of these public assets are maximised through sound planning and management’*
- **Health hook:** *tackling worklessness to bring people out of claiming incapacity benefits*



Other regional strategies

NATURAL
ENGLAND

ef
environment forum
north east



North East Strategy
for the Environment

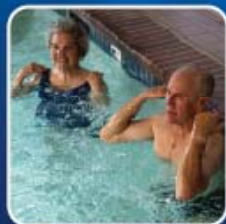
MARCH 2008

NHS

Public Health North East

Better Health,
Fairer Health

A Strategy for 21st Century Health and
Well-being in the North East of England



TURNING AMBITION
INTO REALITY

THE NORTH EAST
REGIONAL PLAN FOR SPORT
AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
2004-2008



Passionate about 1

DH Department
of Health

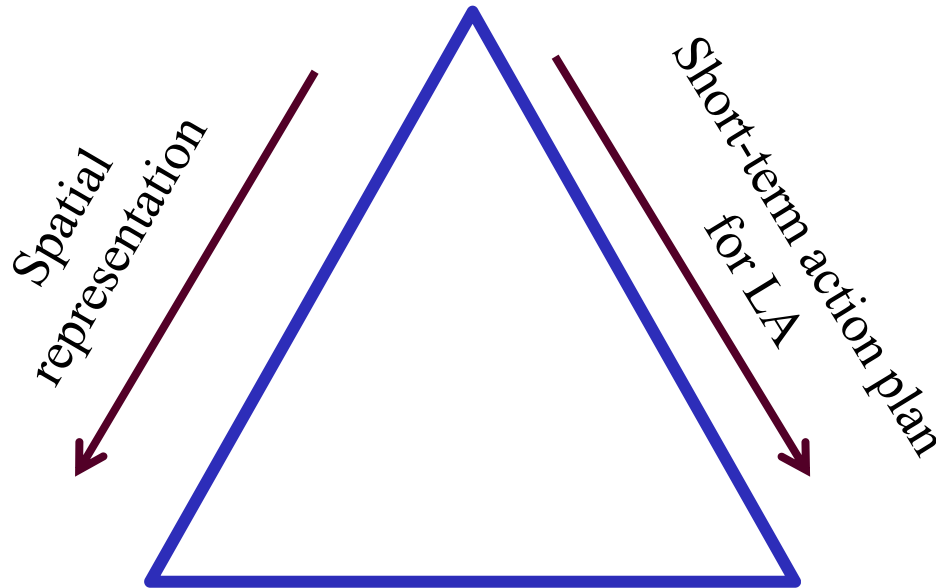
Passionate about health & well-being
north east
england



Local Authority planning documents



Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS)



Local Development Framework (LDF)

Local Area Agreement (LAA)



Local Development Frameworks



- folder of local development documents that outlines how planning will be managed
- Extensive evidence gathering exercise
- for Growth Points this will be linked to evidence gathering for Green Infrastructure strategies
- Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 12 more emphasis on ongoing stakeholder engagement
- PPS 12 asks for more detailed and specific spatial information, e.g. location of primary green corridors



Local Area Agreements & Sustainable Communities Strategies



LAA

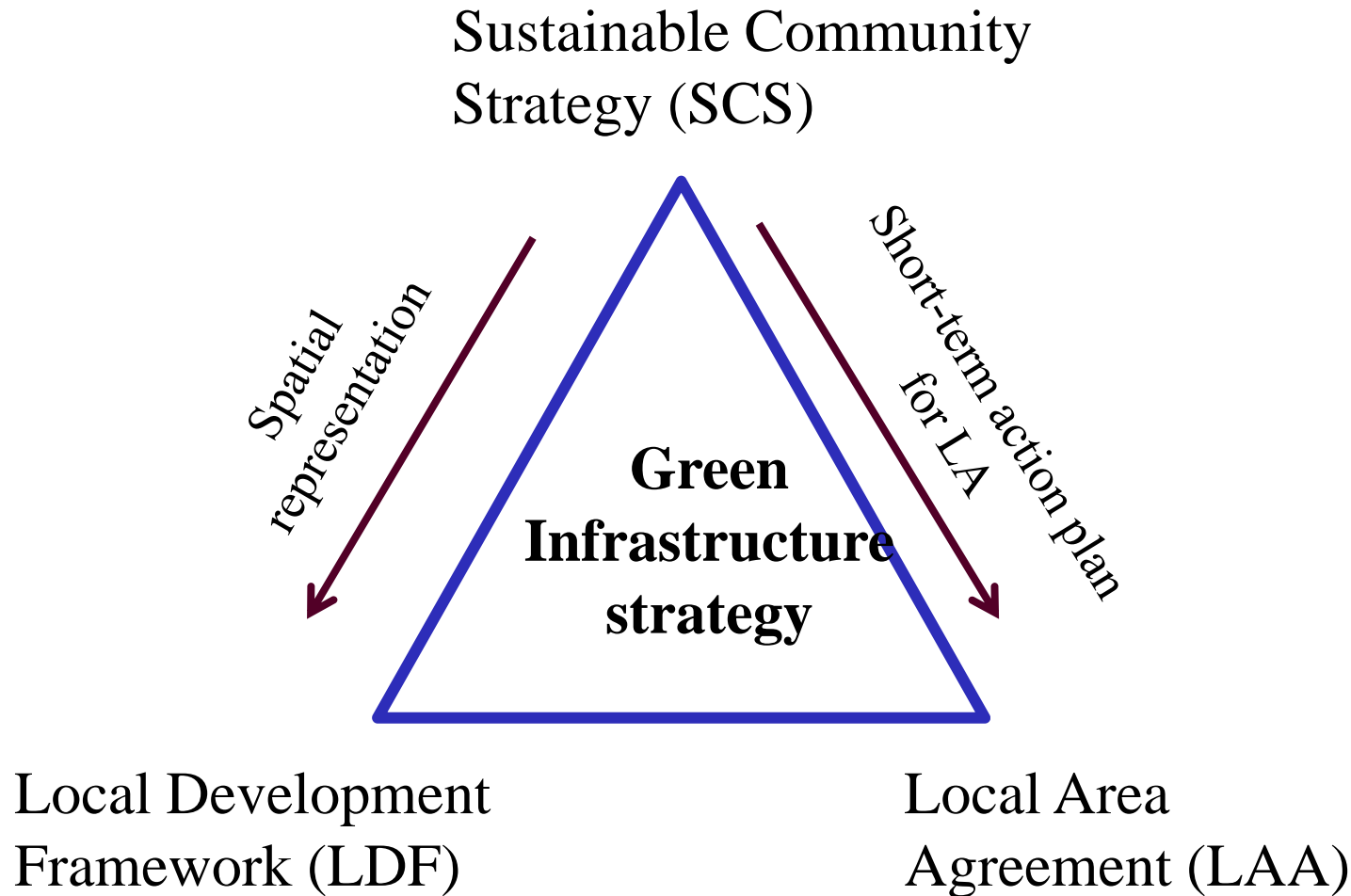
- Contract between central & local government
- Short term action plan for SCS with focus on Local Authority Services
- LA choose 35 from 200 national indicators (NI) → performance management & financial reward
- Examples:
 - NI 8 Adult participation in sport
 - NI 50 Emotional health of children
 - NI 55/56 Obesity among primary school age children
 - NI 110 Young people's participation in positive activities
 - NI 198 Children travelling to school – mode of travel usually used

Challenge:

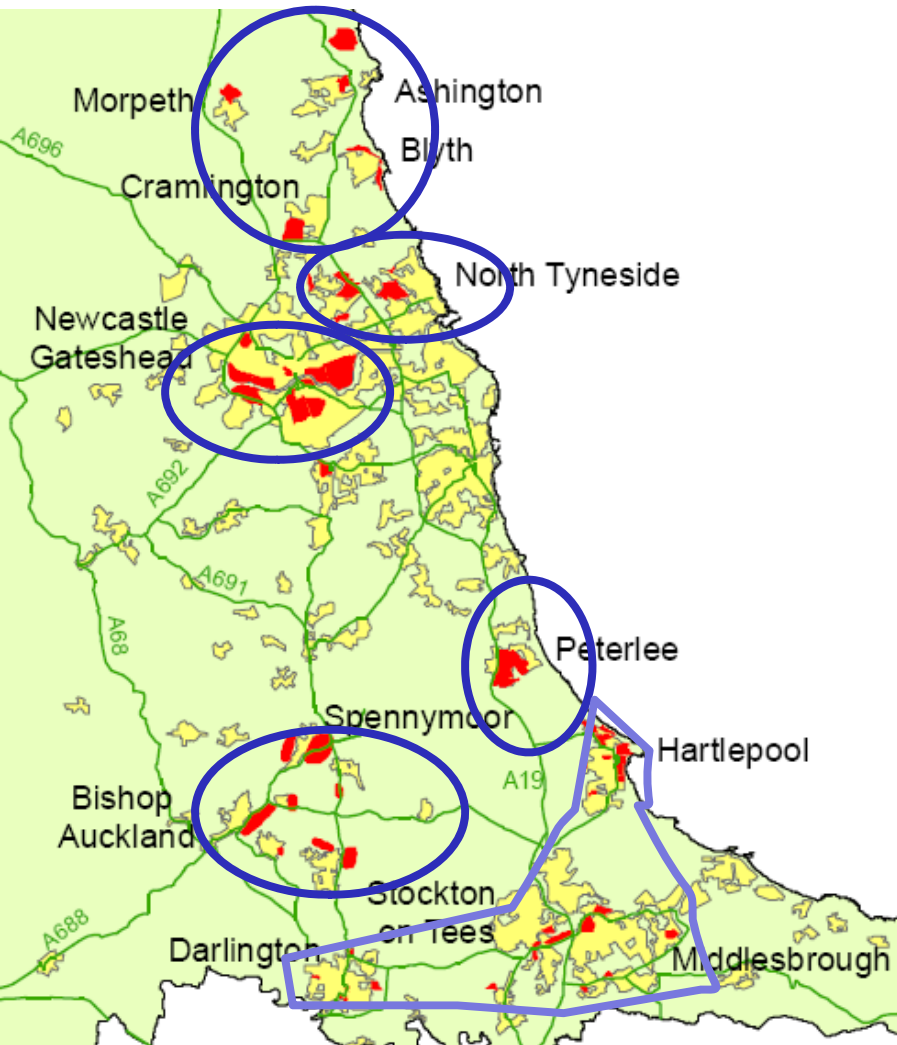
- titles of NI suggests an organisation may be able to engage on this with Local Authority, but reality is very narrowly defined target



Local Authority planning documents



Growth Points and Green Infrastructure



“Every Growth Point must prepare and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy to protect and enhance existing key environmental assets and to provide new green spaces designed to deliver a wide range of environmental and social benefits.”



Growth Points and Green Infrastructure



- *Green Infrastructure audits is imminent*
- *Varying degrees of stakeholder engagement*
- *Possible hooks for green exercise:*
 - *Rights of Way Improvement Plan*
 - *Green Infrastructure functions such as health and access*
 - *If you influence GI strategy you influence LDF (and vice versa)*



The Future?



- Sub National Review and the new 'Regional Strategy'
- Local Authority Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA)
- The Economic Value of Green Infrastructure (Tees Valley)
- Gathering Evidence



The Economic Value
of Green Infrastructure