

# Green Infrastructure Policies in the CSGN

A Review of Local Authority Policies on  
Green Infrastructure in Built Development



A REPORT for



Central Scotland  
Green Network Trust



Scottish Government  
Riaghaltas na h-Alba  
gov.scot

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# 1 Executive Summary

This study was commissioned by the Central Scotland Green Network Trust and Scottish Government, Planning and Architecture Division from the GCV Green Network Partnership to establish the quality of current and/or proposed Green Infrastructure (GI) relevant policies in local authorities' Local Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) area.

The quality of GI relevant policies in current (or proposed) Local Development Plans (or Local Plans) and in supporting Supplementary Guidance in the 19 local authorities within the CSGN area were assessed against a suite of 23 GI policy assessment criteria based on a GI Benchmark, developed by the Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments at the University of the West of England in Bristol and the Gloucester Wildlife Trust, and the Integrated Green Infrastructure Approach developed by the GCV Green Network Partnership. Each policy was assessed in terms of full coverage of the GI subject matter.

CSGN Local Authority	Green Infrastructure Design Elements																						
	Design Process				Wider Context				Biodiversity/Habitats			Water Management			Access Networks		Greenspace			Stewardship			
	Named GI functions	Multi-functional land use	Design GI early	Early engagement	Off-site analysis	On-site survey	Links to wider networks	Open space deficits	Enhance biodiversity	Biodiversity Action Plan	Habitat networks	SUDS designed as GI	Naturalised SUDS	Access to SUDS	Aesthetic of SUDS	Active travel links	Recreational routes	Open space standards	Multi-user design	<400m walking distance	Agreed management	Functional maintenance	Resourcing mechanisms
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	
Clackmannanshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
East Ayrshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
East Dunbartonshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
East Lothian	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
East Renfrewshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Edinburgh	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Falkirk	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Fife	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Glasgow	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Inverclyde	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Midlothian	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
North Ayrshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
North Lanarkshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Renfrewshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
South Ayrshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
South Lanarkshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
Stirling	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
West Dunbartonshire	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
West Lothian	3	3	2	2	5	2	7	3	10	2	8	5	6	2	3	6	2	6	6	6	6	0	3
<b>Highest Scores</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

## Legend

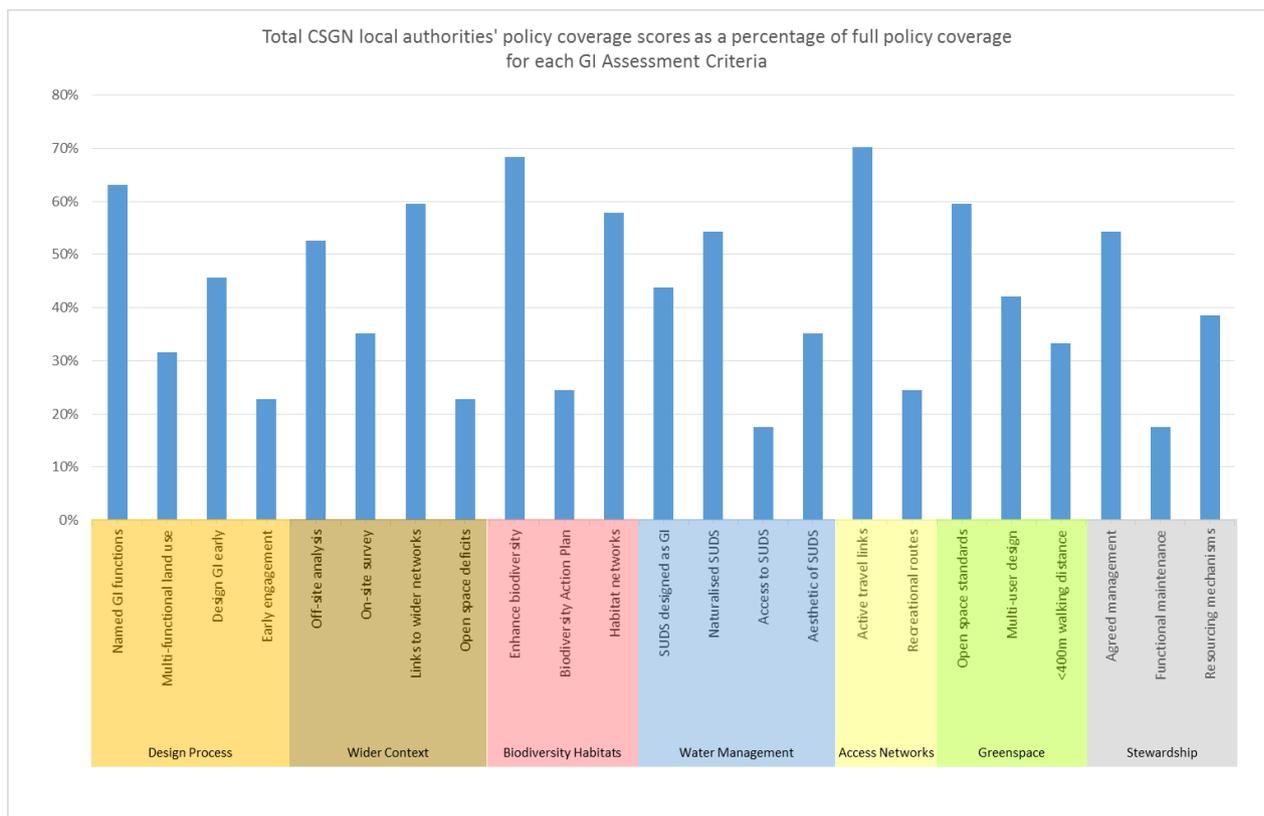
Coverage	None	Some	Most	Full	Overall Assessment Score	
Score	0	1	2	3	Coverage	42%

Figure 1. The overall assessment of GI policy coverage for 23 GI Assessment Criteria in CSGN local authority statutory documents

This study reveals (see Figure 1) that there is a lot of missing or incomplete GI policy across the CSGN local authorities. When all the CSGN 19 local authority's assessment scores were taken into account the total assessment score for the CSGN was **42% of full policy coverage**.

However, the study found that when the best individual GI policies from the 19 CSGN local authorities are collated there is almost perfect coverage of GI policy Assessment Criteria (see 'Highest Scores' in Figure 1) proving that it is possible to have comprehensive GI policies in statutory planning documents. This provides the potential to collate the best policies as a suite of example GI policies, and is a recommendation of the study<sup>1</sup>.

The study finds that there is inconsistency in the quality of GI policies across the CSGN both between the 23 GI Assessment Criteria (see Figure 2) and between the 19 CSGN local authorities (see Figure 3).



**Figure 2. Total policy coverage percentage scores for GI Assessment Criteria of all CSGN local authorities**

The study also revealed the relative importance of Supplementary Guidance as the location for GI policy (see Figure 3). For those local authorities that have GI relevant Supplementary Guidance these documents provide a substantial additional score to their GI policy coverage assessment.

The study also identified:

- that some good GI policy exists in non-statutory documents such as Green Network strategies, Design Guides and masterplan briefs;
- a relationship between the assistance of external GI expertise in the preparation of GI policy and higher assessment scores;
- higher assessment scores in more recently prepared plans and guidance.

<sup>1</sup> This recommendation has been undertaken as a follow-on task to the study and is documented in Appendix 1.

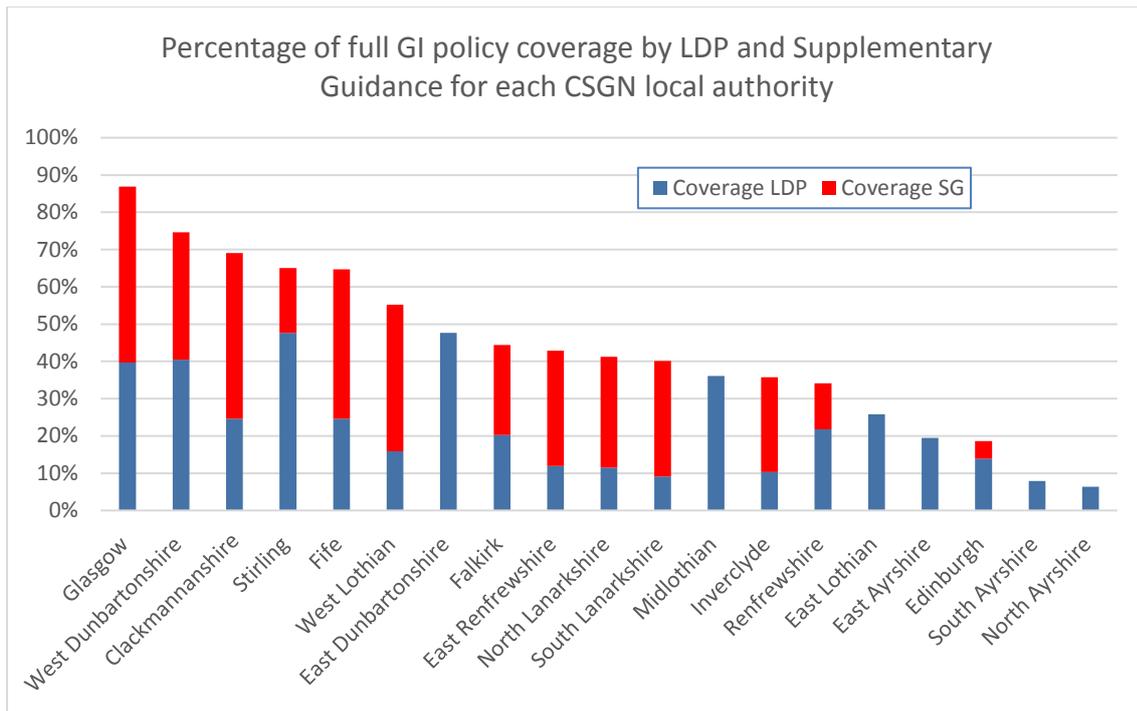


Figure 3. Percentage of full GI policy coverage by LDP and Supplementary Guidance for each CSGN local authority

The report makes five recommendations:

1. **Secure good GI policy content currently in Supplementary Guidance**
2. **Investigate the processes used to draft GI policy in local authorities**
3. **Make GI policy expertise available to all CSGN local authorities**
4. **Prepare example GI policies (see Appendix 1)**
5. **Encourage Local Authorities to adopt GI relevant Supplementary Guidance**

The study's results and recommendations provide a useful starting point for constructive discussion about how comprehensive and robust GI policy can be achieved with those who have an interest in seeing good, well maintained, multi-functional Green Infrastructure (GI) integrated into new housing developments as significant contribution to the delivery of the CSGN.



## 2 Acknowledgements

The authors wish to thank:

- CSGNT Board and the Scottish Government for the financial support that has made it possible;
- Simon Rennie, Chief Executive CSGNT for his support of the ‘Overcoming barriers to green infrastructure delivery in new residential developments in Central Scotland’ project, of which this study is a part;
- Sue Evans, Head of Development CSGNT for her comments on the draft report;
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- Susan Stirling and Kristen Anderson, Planning and Architecture Division, Scottish Government for comments on the draft report and for their support in our work to promote good policy practice;
- Kristen Anderson for use of the cover photograph (Polnoon, East Renfrewshire).



## 3 Introduction

### 3.1 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to establish the quality of current or proposed Green Infrastructure (GI) relevant policies in local authorities' within the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) area. The quality of GI relevant policies is assessed in terms of the coverage of GI subject matter to provide clear direction as to what is expected for planning applicants.

The intention is to provide a useful starting point for constructive discussion about how comprehensive and robust GI policy can be achieved with those who have an interest in seeing good, well maintained multi-functional GI integrated into new housing developments in Central Scotland.

Although it is acknowledged that the achievement of comprehensive and robust GI policy isn't the only factor for the delivery of good, well maintained GI integrated into housing developments, the underlying assumption for this study is that it is an important contributing factor in achieving that goal.

### 3.2 The relationship between GI Policies and the quality of GI Delivery

This study focusses on the quality of GI relevant policies in the CSGN area. There is an underlying presumption in the rationale for this study that the quality of GI policies has an impact on the quality of GI delivery resulting from the planning system. This presumption has not been tested.

There are likely to be cases where GI delivery has been very good despite incomplete or weak GI policies. Equally, there will be instances where GI delivery has been very poor despite comprehensive and strong GI policies. This is because the policy context is only part of the planned development 'equation' that delivers the resulting GI. However, if acceptable GI delivery is to be achieved in all new residential development in the CSGN area, a consistent, comprehensive and strong policy context must be part of the solution.

Other barriers to acceptable GI delivery exist. Those barriers should be identified and analysed to determine the most efficient strategies for them to be overcome (see paragraph 4.2).

### 3.3 What is planning policy?

Planning policy is found in Local Development Plans and in Supplementary Guidance. Planning Aid Scotland define planning policies as: *"contained in Development Plans or in supplementary planning guidance, these set out criteria against which planning applications are determined"*.<sup>2</sup>

Scottish Government describe Development Plans as: *"the legal starting point for making decisions on planning applications"*, and that: *"Supplementary Guidance can be part of the Development Plan when it has met legal requirements [...].It can provide further information or detail on the policies or proposals that are in the development plan"*.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> PAS website (accessed 23/03/2017): <http://pas.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/9-Glossary.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Scottish Government website (accessed 19/04/18): <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Built-Environment/planning/Development-Planning>

The planning authority must go through a formal process of adoption of supplementary guidance before it becomes a statutory part of the Development Plan. Scottish Government's 'Development Planning' circular<sup>4</sup> states:

*"Supplementary Guidance [is] often referred to as 'statutory' Supplementary Guidance. Scottish Ministers envisage that to allow development plans to focus on vision, the spatial strategy, overarching and other key policies and proposals, that much detailed material can be contained in Supplementary Guidance.*

*Supplementary Guidance can be adopted by a planning authority in connection with a Local Development Plan. Any such guidance will form part of the development plan, and have that status for decision making in line with section 25 of the Planning Act."*

Legislation requires decisions on planning applications to be made in accordance with the development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. In relation to non-statutory planning guidance, the Development Planning circular states:

*"Planning authorities may also issue non-statutory planning guidance without going through the procedures for Supplementary Guidance.*

*Non-statutory guidance should not be termed Supplementary Guidance and does not form part of the Local Development Plan. However, the Council's adoption of it will give it a degree of authorisation and it may be a material consideration in decision making".*

Scottish Government's 'Development Management Procedures' circular<sup>5</sup> states:

*"There are two main tests in deciding whether a consideration is material and relevant:*

- *It should serve or be related to the purpose of planning. It should therefore relate to the development and use of land, and*
- *It should relate to the particular application.*

*The question of whether or not a consideration is a material consideration is a question of law and so something which is ultimately for the courts to determine".*

Clearly then, non-statutory guidance can have a 'degree of authorisation' in certain circumstances. However, as this study is assessing the status of GI policy relating to all developments across the whole of the CSGN area non-statutory planning guidance is not included in this review (see Table 1).

The review of GI policies in the CSGN therefore includes:

- Policies in Local Development Plans (LDP) of the 19 CSGN local authorities
- Statutory Supplementary Guidance adopted as part of the LDP.

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<sup>4</sup> Scottish Planning Series -Planning Circular 6/2013 – Development Planning:  
<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/12/9924/11> (Scottish Government website accessed 23/03/17)

<sup>5</sup> Scottish Planning Series -Planning Circular 3/2013 – Development Planning Procedures:  
<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0044/00441568.pdf> (Scottish Government website accessed 23/03/17)

Table 1. The legal status of local authority policy documents and inclusion or otherwise in the study

Policy document	Legal status	Included in study
Local Development Plan	Planning decisions are legally required to comply, unless material considerations indicate otherwise	Yes
Supplementary Guidance		Yes
Planning Guidance (e.g.: Open Space Strategy; Local Biodiversity Strategy)	Non-statutory. May be a material consideration	No

Some local authorities have GI relevant Supplementary Guidance which is for specific development sites, rather than for all development sites within the local authority. Although Supplementary Guidance of this kind might contain some relevant policy, because it is focussed on particular locations and not generally applicable it has not been included in this review.

### 3.4 Green Infrastructure in the context of this study

Scottish Planning Policy<sup>6</sup> (SPP) provides the following definition for Green Infrastructure:

*“Green Infrastructure includes the ‘green’ and ‘blue’ (water environment) features of the natural and built environments that can provide benefits without being connected”.*

In the context of the CSGN and in particular this study, the following modified definition of Green Infrastructure has been used:

*“Natural features in built environments that are designed and managed to provide specific goods and services, without necessarily being connected to other natural features”.*

This definition introduces the idea that Green Infrastructure is comprised of natural features used in an urban or built context. It also suggests that the features are created or modified by man for prescribed functions and require to be maintained in order to continue to deliver these functions.

In the context of this study Green Infrastructure, which should be integrated into the design of new development and delivered of an acceptable quality as part of that development with adequate provision for its subsequent management and maintenance, would include:

- publically accessible multi-functional greenspace
- swales, detention basins and ponds, street trees, hedges, verges
- off-road walking and cycling routes
- areas of wildlife habitat.

<sup>6</sup> Scottish Planning Policy: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2014/06/5823/downloads>



## 4 Background

### 4.1 GI and the CSGN

The ‘Costing the CSGN’ study<sup>7</sup> identified 17 capital cost components that will have to be delivered by 2050 if the CSGN vision is to be realised. Three of these components are about GI in the built environment. One of the GI components is to:

“Deliver Green Infrastructure into new residential developments”

The study estimated that there will be approaching 250,000 new houses built in the CSGN area up to 2050. The GI capital cost associated with these new houses will be an estimated £525m, which is 19% of the total capital cost of delivering the CSGN vision (£2.8b). If the necessary green infrastructure associated with housing development fails to be delivered through the planning system the capital costs required to retrofit green infrastructure are likely to greatly increase and fall upon public resources. It is vital therefore that the planning system ensures adequate green infrastructure delivery as a major component of delivering successful places in Scotland and as a component of the CSGN in the Central Scotland.

### 4.2 ‘Overcoming Barriers to GI Delivery in New Residential Developments’ Project

This report is an output which contributes to the ‘Overcoming Barriers to GI Delivery in New Residential Developments’ project which the GCVGNP is leading on behalf of the CSGNT. The aim of this study is to identify potential actions to reduce or remove the barriers that prevent the development industry from delivering GI associated with new residential developments which meets the expectation for GI delivery as a component of the CSGN vision.

The project will work with stakeholders to agree a ‘benchmark’ for GI (‘GI Benchmark’) in new residential development in the CSGN area. This will be an expression of what is expected from new development in terms of GI delivery commensurate with the CSGN vision, and will provide a means to determine the extent to which recent and current developments are meeting that expectation.

The policy review will provide an assessment of the current coverage and strength of GI policies compared to a prototype GI Benchmark (see paragraph 4.3).

### 4.3 Green infrastructure functions and benefits

GI is widely recognised to have the potential to deliver many social and environmental benefits. GI is also widely recognised as being capable of performing several functions, potentially from the same land use. In this study the functions and benefits of GI are seen as being distinct, though GI benefits are derived from the GI functions.

For example GI has the potential to deliver:

- the benefits of adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change by providing a surface water management function during a cloudburst;
- health and well-being benefits by providing accessible greenspace and access networks functions.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.centalscotlandgreennetwork.org/delivering/costing-valuing-and-resourcing-the-csgn>

#### 4.4 'Building with Nature': a benchmark for green infrastructure

The Centre for Sustainable Planning and Environments at the University of the West of England (UWE), Bristol was awarded an Innovation Fund from the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) to undertake a feasibility study to test whether there is a market for a national benchmark for green infrastructure. The study report was published in July 2016<sup>8</sup>.

A desktop review of relevant assessment systems was conducted to examine a) if, and how, GI is incorporated into such systems and b) their overall operation to understand current practice within the built environment sector. The desktop review included 22 assessment systems, including benchmarks for green developments (building and community-scale) and other infrastructure, and audits, awards, guidance and tool kits that related more specifically to GI, green space or biodiversity.

A series of five Expert Symposia were held to test the findings of a review of relevant assessment systems and some initial work completed by experts from the built environment and GI professions. The five symposia were co-hosted by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, Landscape Institute, Royal Town Planning Institute, The Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, Public Health England, and Town and Country Planning Association and included participants from a broad range of backgrounds.

The benchmark was envisaged as a process orientated points-based benchmark for GI. It would use criteria that consider:

- **Themes that underpin GI planning, delivery and management:** multifunctional network, fit with strategic aims and objectives, long-term management, governance and funding;
- **Themes based on the ecosystem services that GI can provide:** nature conservation, water management, health and well-being, environmental quality, design quality.

The review suggested that assessment systems can be successful, and that whilst there were some audits and toolkits related to GI there was not a benchmark specifically dedicated to GI. The study concludes that a GI benchmark would be helpful in improving consistency in the planning, design and management of GI. The benchmark will need to offer clear benefits to applicants, not offered by current, neighbouring systems.

Table 2 shows the core standards, themes and award levels of the 'Building with Nature' certification scheme for built developments and policy documents. 'Building with Nature' was launched in England in November 2017, and more information on the standards used for the assessment of GI in developments and policy documents can be obtained from the 'Building with Nature' website<sup>9</sup>.

Table 2. The Award Levels, Core Standards and Themes of the 'Building with Nature' GI Benchmark

Building with Nature		
AWARD LEVELS		
<b>Candidate</b> Applications at a pre-construction or draft stage of a policy document. Enables a development to be promoted as certified with	<b>Achieved</b> An application will be awarded Building with Nature Achieved if it meets all five core standards plus all nine thematic standards at Achieved level.	<b>Excellent</b> An application will be awarded Building with Nature Excellent if it meets all five core standards and all nine thematic standards at Achieved level, plus six out of

<sup>8</sup> Full report available at: <http://eprints.uwe.ac.uk/29514/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.buildingwithnature.org.uk/>

Building with Nature subject to sign-off post-completion.		nine of thematic standards at Excellent level.
<b>CORE STANDARDS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green infrastructure forms a multi-functional network</li> <li>• Green infrastructure reflects and enhances the character of the local environment</li> <li>• Green infrastructure type, quality and function responds to the local policy context</li> <li>• Green infrastructure is resilient to climate change and enhances environmental quality</li> <li>• Provision is made for long-term management and maintenance of green infrastructure</li> </ul>		
<b>THEMES</b>		
<b>Wellbeing</b> To deliver health and wellbeing outcomes through accessible, high quality green features situated close to where people live and work to encourage use and enjoyment by all users, at all times of year.		
<b>Water</b> A commitment to integrating green infrastructure features into sustainable drainage systems to manage water quantity, improve water quality, and create better places for people and nature.		
<b>Wildlife</b> To contribute to biodiversity targets and landscape-scale conservation priorities through a network of habitats within scheme, and improving linkages to habitats beyond the boundary of the scheme.		

## 4.5 The Integrated Green Infrastructure (IGI) Approach

The GCV Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) has promoted its IGI Approach since 2011<sup>10</sup>, based on lessons learned from an earlier series of green infrastructure design studies commissioned by the Partnership and completed across the Glasgow and Clyde Valley region. The IGI Approach requires that GI within development must be:

1. **Designed.** GI must be designed:
  - into proposals at an early stage alongside grey infrastructure (e.g. transport, water, energy, waste);
  - to contribute to the wider matrix of green infrastructure and the Green Network;
  - based on analysis of the site and the wider context in relation to each of the GI functions.
2. **Multi-functional.** GI must provide more than one purpose from the same land take. The functions of GI are:
  - Water management – surface water management using nature-based SuDS;
  - Habitat Network - habitats contributing to ecological connections;
  - Access Network – off-road active travel routes within the development;
  - Green and Open space - recreational and social engagement opportunities for the whole community.
3. **Managed.** To ensure the quality and functionality of the GI is sustained, GI delivery proposals must have a corresponding management plan:
  - which prescribes the maintenance regime;
  - how maintenance will be resourced.

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.gcvgreennetwork.gov.uk/igi/introduction>

The IGI Approach lead the GCVGNP to promote the concept of a GI Standard at the Central Scotland Green Network Forum in June 2015, which would be the minimum GI expected from residential developments. The GCVGNP proposed GI Standard is show in Figure 4.

## GI standard

### Minimum expected from residential developments:

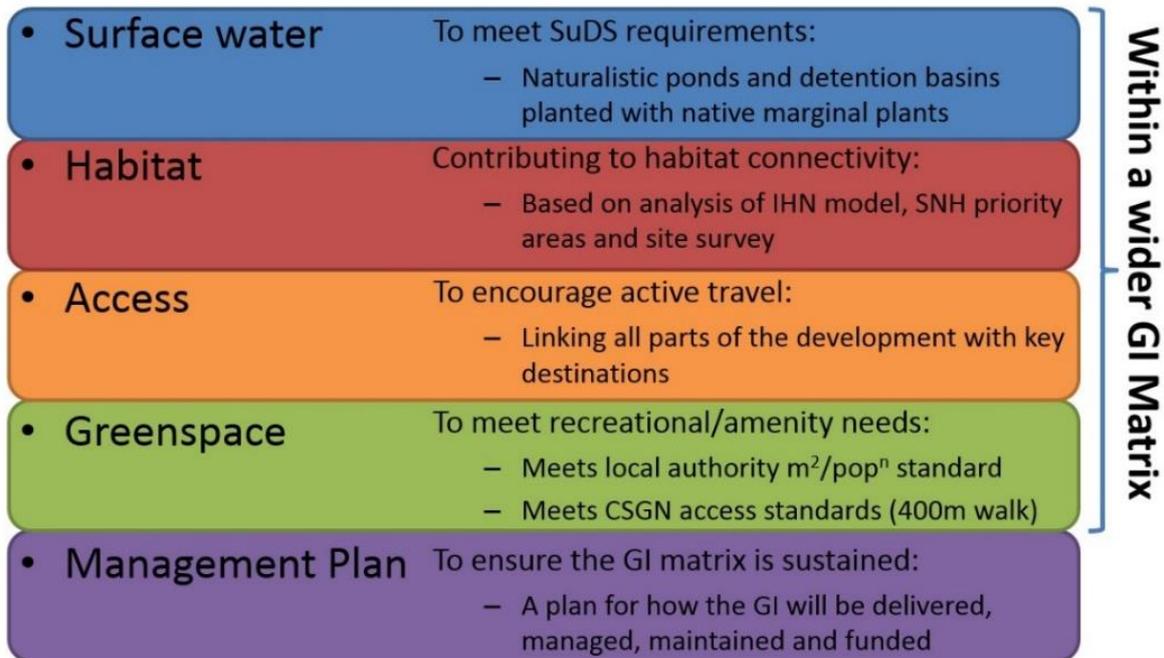


Figure 4. The GCV Green Network Partnership's suggested GI Standard (presented at the CSGN Forum, June 2015)

## 5 Methodology

### 5.1 Criteria for the review

The review of local authority’s policies on GI is based on the GI Benchmark (‘Building with Nature’) developed by the Centre of Sustainable Planning and Environments at UWE (paragraph 4.3) and the IGI Approach promoted by the GCVGNP (paragraph 4.5), because these proposals are both expressions of the minimum expectation for delivery of GI in new housing developments.

The standards and themes expressed in the ‘Building with Nature’ GI Benchmark and the expectations for GI delivery embedded in GCVGNP’s IGI Approach were categorised into seven GI Design Elements, which represent the seven main GI subject areas that should be covered by policy and which planning applicants should ensure are fulfilled in the process of developing their development proposals (see Table 3).

**Table 3. Requirements of the ‘Building with Nature’ GI Benchmark and GCVGNP’s ‘IGI Approach’ related to GI Design Elements**

<b>GI Design Elements</b>	<b>‘Building with Nature’ GI Benchmark</b>	<b>GCVGNP ‘IGI Approach’</b>
1. Design Process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI is specifically addressed early in stakeholder consultation and community engagement and is a key design principle</li> <li>GI forms a multi-functional network</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI is designed into proposals at an early stage alongside grey infrastructure (e.g. transport, water, energy, waste)</li> <li>GI is designed to be multi-functional (i.e. provide more than one purpose from the same land take)</li> </ul>
2. Wider Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI connects to and reflects the wider landscape and built character of the local environment</li> <li>The scheme considers the quality and function of GI in response to local need (e.g. in the LDP)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI is designed to contribute to the wider matrix of green infrastructure and the Green Network</li> <li>GI is designed based on site analysis and survey for optimum functional delivery</li> </ul>
3. Wildlife/Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The scheme delivers ecological enhancement, contributes to and records net biodiversity gain in line with local priorities</li> <li>GI effectively connects to wider, coherent ecological networks</li> <li>The scheme promotes the consideration of biodiversity in all aspects and phases of construction</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI contributes to habitat connectivity, based on habitat network analysis, understanding of priority areas and site survey.</li> </ul>
4. Water Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI: minimises water demand; minimises surface run-off; encourages re-use; manages water for maximum benefit; and considers how these functions will change in the future</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GI provides nature-based SuDS (e.g. Naturalistic ponds and detention basins planted with native marginal plants)</li> <li>SuDS ponds and basins are publicly accessible and contribute to the</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The design for SuDS, and all its components, follows current good practice in terms of design, implementation and long-term management</li> <li>• GI has been used to improve water quality</li> </ul>	recreational amenity of the development
5. Access Network		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI encourages active travel, by providing off-road walking and cycling routes linking all parts of the development with key destinations</li> </ul>
6. Greenspace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI is accessible and close to where people live to promote health, wellbeing and active living</li> <li>• The scheme encourages all people to use and enjoy GI, considering how the needs of local people may change</li> <li>• GI is designed to be accessible at all times of year, employing street furniture and other features, to encourage optimal use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GI provides recreational/amenity needs by meeting the local authority greenspace provision standards and the CSGN access standards (maximum 400m walking distance from all homes to multi-functional greenspace)</li> </ul>
7. Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The scheme includes management, maintenance and monitoring of all GI features post-development to ensure that their multiple-functions are sustainable over time, and includes community involvement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure the GI matrix is sustained, a management plan for how the GI will be delivered, managed, maintained and funded is required</li> </ul>

The criteria used in the review were developed from the standards and themes expressed in the 'Building with Nature' GI Benchmark and the expectations for GI delivery embedded in GCVGNP's IGI Approach. The 23 criteria are shown in Figure 5, grouped against the 7 GI Design Elements. Each Design Element was given two policy subject sub-headings and each criteria is associated with one subject sub-heading. Each criteria was given a reference letter (A to W) and an abbreviated heading which was used in the Assessment Tables (see Appendix 2: Review of Local Authority Green Infrastructure Policies).

The 23 criteria succinctly express the coverage of the subject sub-heading that GI policy was assessed against. The criteria phraseology is strong, providing clarity and direction for planning applicants to deliver what is required.

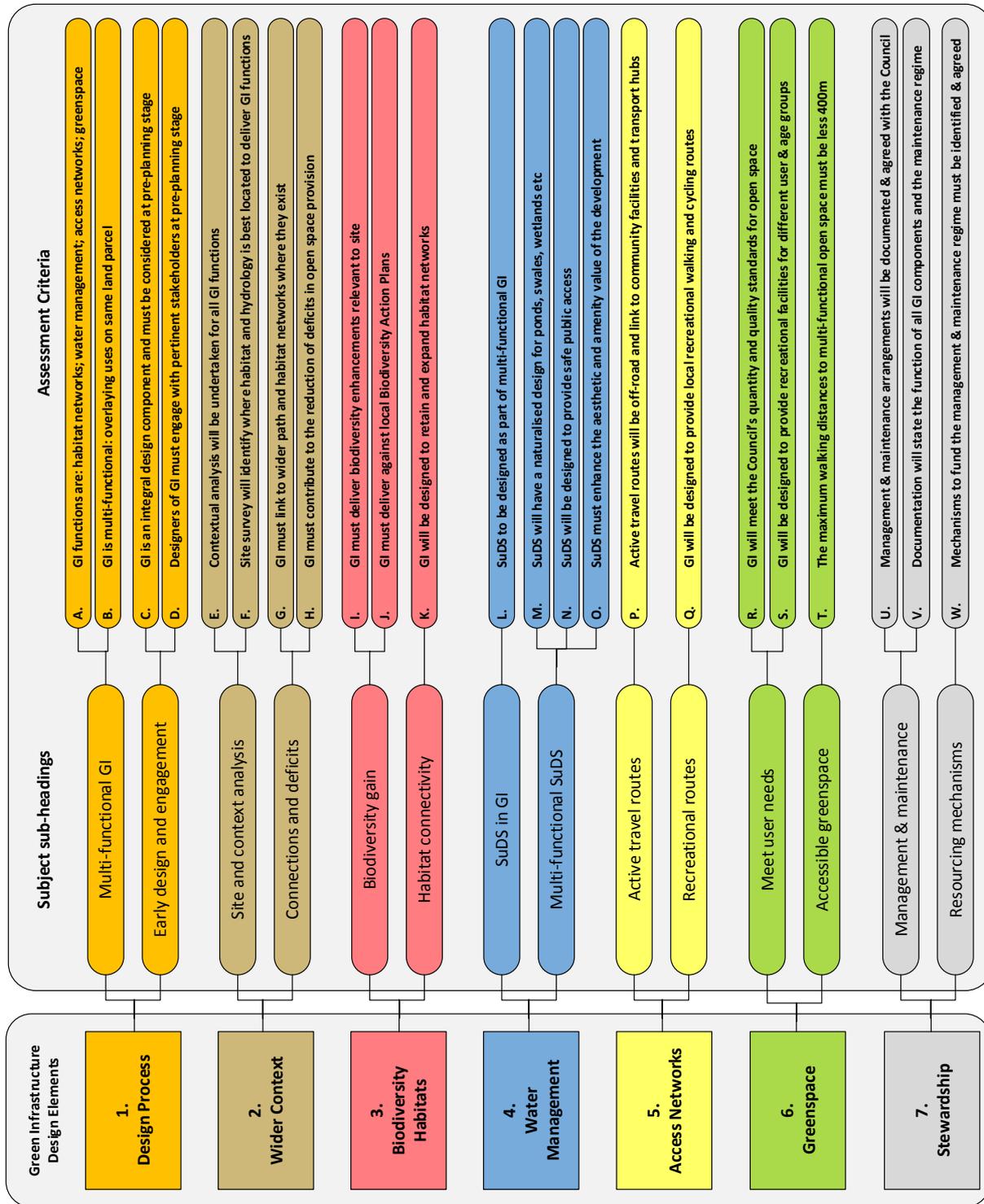


Figure 5. Criteria used to assess green infrastructure policies across the CSGN area

## 5.2 The Assessment of Green Infrastructure Policies

GI policies were assessed in the 19 CSGN local authorities' Local Development Plans (LDP) (or Local Plans if an LDP had not been completed) and in adopted Supplementary Guidance as part of the LDP. LDPs and Supplementary Guidance are statutory documents and therefore applicants and the planning authority are legally bound to comply with the policies within them. Non-statutory planning guidance was not assessed as part of this study (e.g. supplementary planning guidance, open space strategies).

At the time of the assessment (January – June 2017) where local authorities had proposed LDPs or had draft Supplementary Guidance which were in the final stages before being fully adopted, these were assessed (rather than the existing LDP or Local Plan) and its supporting Supplementary Guidance. The rationale for this was that the draft documents contain the current approach of the local authority to GI policy, even if this had not yet been through the full process of adoption. It was considered that the likelihood of any adjustments to the LDP and Supplementary Guidance would be unlikely to impact on the detail of GI policy. Table 4 shows the plans that were included in the assessment of GI policies and their status at the time of the assessment.

**Table 4. Local Development Plan (or Local Plan) policies assessed as part of the study and their status at the time of the assessment.**

<b>CSGN Local Authority</b>	<b>LDP: Proposed or Adopted</b>	<b>Year of Adoption</b>
Clackmannanshire	Adopted	2015
East Ayrshire	Adopted	2017
East Dunbartonshire	Adopted	2017
East Lothian	Proposed	
East Renfrewshire	Adopted	2015
Edinburgh	Adopted	2016
Falkirk	Adopted	2015
Fife	Proposed	
Glasgow	Adopted	2017
Inverclyde	Adopted	2014
Midlothian	Proposed	
North Ayrshire	Adopted	2014
North Lanarkshire	Local Plan	2012
Renfrewshire	Adopted	2014
South Ayrshire	Adopted	2014
South Lanarkshire	Adopted	2015
Stirling	Adopted	2014
West Dunbartonshire	Proposed	
West Lothian	Proposed	

For each of the 19 CSGN local authorities the relevant plan and its supporting Supplementary Guidance were searched for policies and supporting text which refer to GI, or a subject relevant to GI. The relevant text of these were then assessed to determine:

1. with which of the assessment criteria the policy is associated;

2. the extent of the coverage of the assessment criteria by the policy;

This process was undertaken independently by two assessors and any disparity between the two assessments was discussed by the assessors and reconciled.

### 5.2.1 The extent of coverage of Green Infrastructure Policies

All local authority GI relevant policies were assessed to determine the extent of coverage of the policies with respect to the study’s assessment criteria (see Figure 5). Each section of policy text was given a score in relation to the extent of coverage of the assessment criteria on a scale from 1 to 3.

Coverage of criteria	Score
Some coverage	1
Most coverage	2
Full coverage	3

The following is an example of the assessment of policy text coverage of an assessment criteria:

Assessment criteria	Policy text	Score
I. GI must deliver biodiversity enhancements relevant to the site.	All development proposals will be expected to fulfil all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>maximise the potential of their development to contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and enhancement;</li> </ul>	3
	The Council will expect development proposals to have regard to the following principles of sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>B. fostering and maintaining biodiversity;</li> </ul>	1

### 5.3 Assessment Scoring Card

An assessment scoring card was created to record the coverage of GI relevant policies in each CSGN local authority (see Figure 6).

Local Authority Name	Green Infrastructure Design Elements																						
	Design Process				Wider Context				Biodiversity/Habitats			Water Management			Access Networks		Greenspace		Stewardship				
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
<b>LDP (Year of approval)</b>																							
Policy 1																							
Policy 2																							
Policy 3																							
<b>Supplementary Guidance</b>																							
Supplementary Guidance 1																							
<b>Highest Scores</b>																							

Figure 6. The Scoring Card template used to record the assessment of GI Policies

Each relevant LDP policy or Supplementary Guidance was individually assessed and scored for its coverage against the appropriate assessment criteria. The scoring was colour coded to aid visual interpretation of the scoring card as follows:

<b>Coverage</b>	None	Some	Most	Full
<b>Score</b>	0	1	2	3

The highest scores across all the policies and Supplementary Guidance for coverage for each assessment criteria were then collated toward the foot of the score card.

### 5.3.1 Overall GI policy assessment scoring

The scoring of the GI relevant policies in the way described above allows for a total policy coverage score to be calculated for each local authority. The maximum potential score for coverage of the aggregated policies is: (3 x 23 Assessment Criteria) = 69.

The total local authority scores for policy coverage have been expressed as a percentage of maximum potential score.

## 6 Results

### 6.1 Local authority assessment of GI policy

The individual GI policy assessments for the 19 CSGN local authorities are shown in Appendix 2.

### 6.2 CSGN-wide assessment of all GI policy

Figure 7 shows the score for coverage of GI relevant policies by GI Assessment Criteria in Local Development Plans (or Local Plans) and Supplementary Guidance covering the CSGN area. The scores are presented on a colour-coded scale to ease visual interpretation of the table.

CSGN Local Authority	Green Infrastructure Design Elements																						
	Design Process				Wider Context				Biodiversity/Habitats			Water Management			Access Networks		Greenspace			Stewardship			
	Named GI functions	Multi-functional land use	Design GI early	Early engagement	Off-site analysis	On-site survey	Links to wider networks	Open space deficits	Enhance biodiversity	Biodiversity Action Plan	Habitat networks	SUDS designed as GI	Naturalised SUDS	Access to SUDS	Aesthetic of SUDS	Active travel links	Recreational routes	Open space standards	Multi-user design	<400m walking distance	Agreed management	Functional maintenance	Resourcing mechanisms
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	
Clackmannanshire	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
East Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
East Dunbartonshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
East Lothian	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
East Renfrewshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Edinburgh	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Falkirk	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Fife	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Glasgow	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Inverclyde	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Midlothian	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
North Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
North Lanarkshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Renfrewshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
South Ayrshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
South Lanarkshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Stirling	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
West Dunbartonshire	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
West Lothian	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>Highest Scores</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

#### Legend

Coverage	None	Some	Most	Full
Score	0	1	2	3

Overall Assessment Score	
Coverage	42%

Figure 7. The overall assessment of GI policy coverage for 23 GI Assessment Criteria in CSGN local authority statutory documents

When all scores for all local authorities are averaged it provides a score for CSGN-wide GI policy of **42% of full policy coverage**.

### 6.3 CSGN-wide assessment of individual GI policy Assessment Criteria

Figure 7 also shows the highest scores of each of the 23 GI Assessment Criteria for coverage of all the CSGN local authorities. This reveals that 22 of the GI Assessment Criteria have a full coverage score.

The only criterion that doesn't get at least one full coverage score is The 'Functional maintenance' criterion.

Figure 8 shows the CSGN-wide total GI relevant policy text scores for all 19 CSGN local authorities for policy coverage by GI Assessment Criteria. It reveals that just three GI Assessment Criteria have a total CSGN local authority policy coverage score above 60% of full coverage. These are: 'Active travel links' (70%); 'Enhance biodiversity' (68%); and, 'Named GI functions' (63%). Two GI Assessment Criteria have a total CSGN local authority policy coverage score below 20% of full coverage. These are: 'Access to SuDS' (18%); and 'Functional maintenance' (18%).

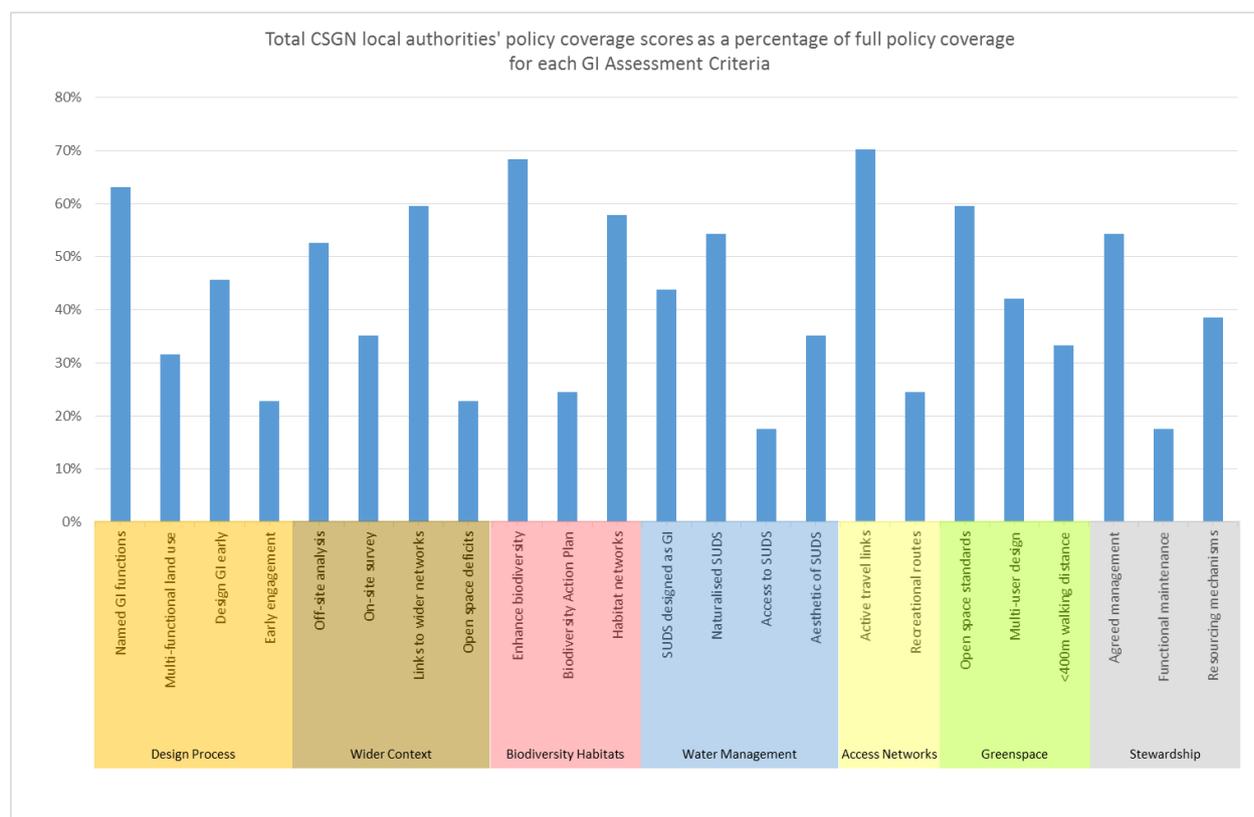


Figure 8. Average policy coverage and strength percentage scores for GI Design Elements of all CSGN local authorities

### 6.4 Highest Scoring Policies

The text of the highest scoring policies for each of the 23 GI assessment criteria are shown in Appendix 1.

## 6.5 Assessment of GI policy by local authority

Figure 9 shows the percentage of full coverage of GI policies, and whether it is provided by the LDP (or Local Plan) or in Supplementary Guidance for each CSGN local authority. Glasgow's GI relevant policies result in the most coverage (86%).

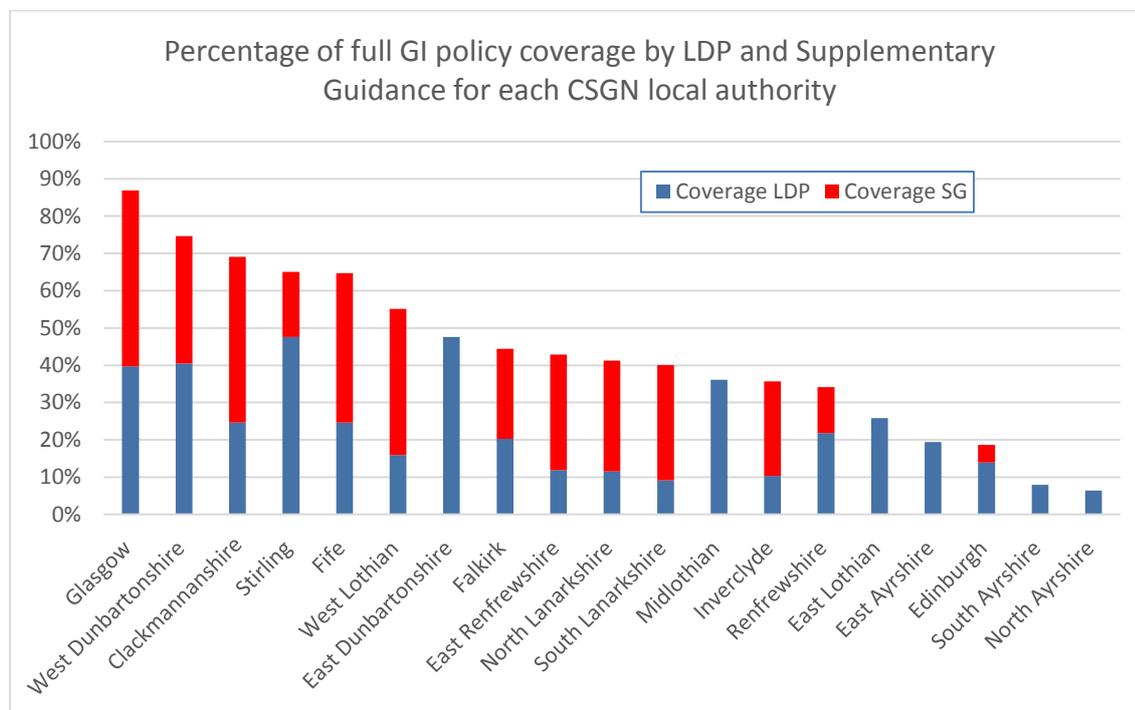


Figure 9. Percentage of full GI policy coverage by LDP and Supplementary Guidance for each CSGN local authority

Across the CSGN area, when all scores for all local authorities are averaged it provides a score for CSGN-wide GI policy of:

- 23% of full policy coverage in LDPs
- 20% of full policy coverage in Supplementary Guidance

For most local authorities with relevant Supplementary Guidance it represents the larger location for GI policy than the LDP. For example:

- Glasgow: LDP 40%, SG 47%;
- Clackmannanshire: LDP 25%, SG 44%;
- East Renfrewshire: LDP 12%, SG 31%.

However, six local authorities did not have any GI relevant Supplementary Guidance for assessment. Two of these local authorities (East Dunbartonshire and Midlothian) have high scoring LDPs for policy coverage. Indeed, East Dunbartonshire's LDP score is higher than any other local authority's LDP score for policy coverage. Both of these local authorities are currently working on new Supplementary Guidance, which presents an opportunity to increase GI policy coverage significantly.



## 7 Discussion

The results reveal that GI policy across the 19 CSGN local authorities is incomplete, and inconsistent, but that within individual local authorities there are some very good policies that comprehensively cover aspects of GI policy.

High scoring criteria might reflect those policy areas where local authorities have most experience and confidence (e.g.: enhancing biodiversity; active travel routes; open space standards) whilst lower scoring criteria might reflect where local authorities may lack experience or confidence in requiring developers to take the issues into account when designing proposals (e.g.: public access to SuDs; maintenance specifications for GI components; early discussions with stakeholders).

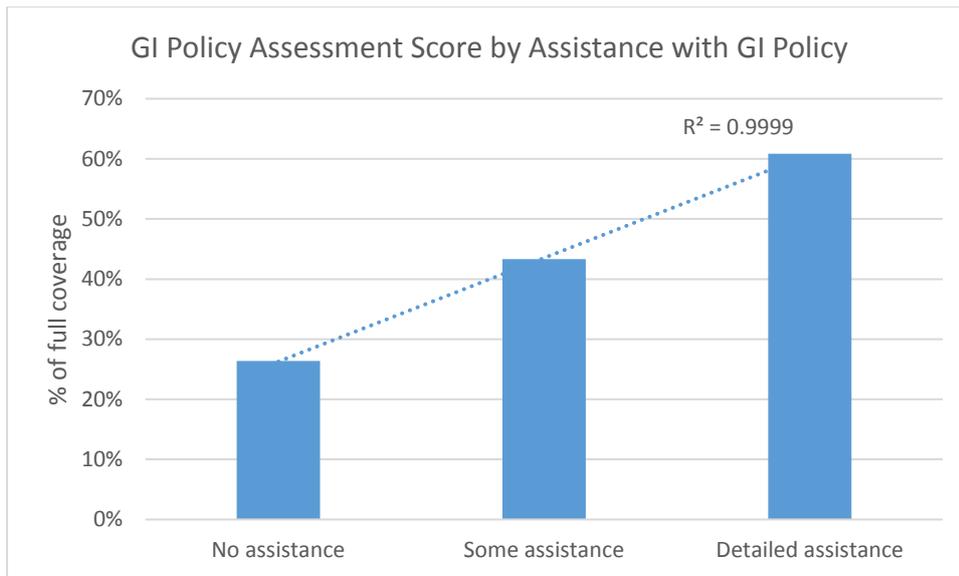
Figure 7 shows that some local authorities have good policy coverage of GI Assessment Criteria, whilst others have very poor coverage. However, across all the CSGN local authorities there is almost complete coverage of all GI Assessment Criteria, and four local authorities have full coverage of all the criteria within four of the Design Elements. The wording in most of these policies might be improved to provide 'model policies' either for clarity, conciseness or strength of phraseology. These policies provided the starting point for the development of example GI policies (see Appendix 1). Figure 7 shows that for 22 of the 23 policy assessment criteria more than one local authority scored full coverage. The number of local authorities achieving full coverage scores ranges from 10 local authorities for assessment criteria 'I: Enhance biodiversity' through to just two local authorities for six of the assessment criteria e.g. 'C: Design GI early', 'N: Access to SuDS', 'Q: Recreational Routes'. The policy assessment criteria which got high numbers of full coverage scores perhaps reflects those policy areas which planners are most familiar with because they have been topics for policy for many years.

'Functional Maintenance' was the only criterion to not get full coverage in any local authority policy which may reflect low awareness of this aspect of GI stewardship or the lack of confidence to require applicants to specify the proposed maintenance regime.

Figure 9 reveals the relative importance of Supplementary Guidance as the location for GI policy. For those local authorities that have GI relevant Supplementary Guidance these documents provide a substantial additional score to their GI policy coverage assessment. This probably reflects the expectation that LDPs should be concise and so GI policy detail cannot be accommodated, whereas SG can contain more detail and so can provide more coverage of GI policy detail.

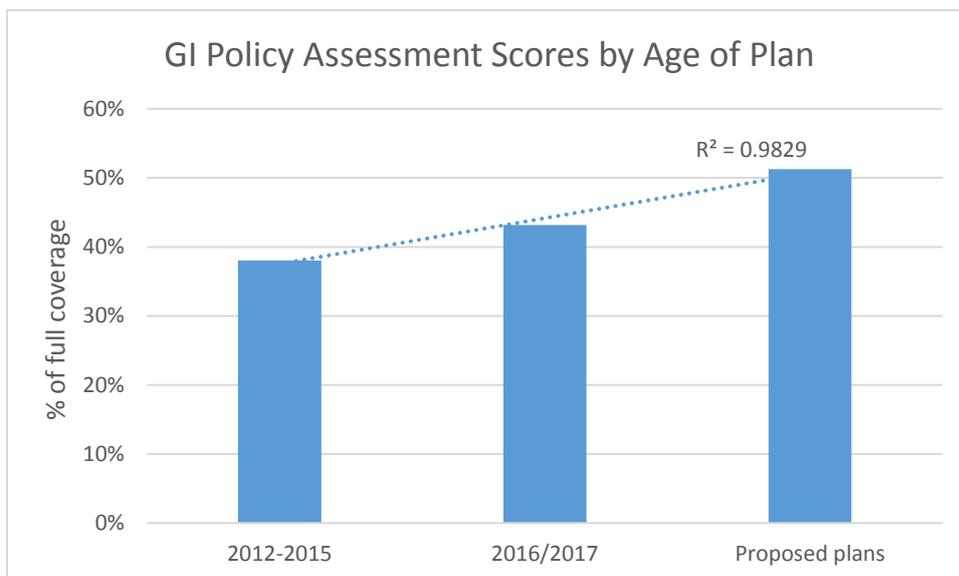
Figure 10 shows the average GI policy assessment scores as a percentage of full GI policy coverage by the level of external assistance local authorities received. The chart shows that there is a strong relationship between the level of external assistance local authorities received and the quality of GI policies in their LDP (or Local Plan) and supplementary guidance.

Over recent years Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH) and the Glasgow and Clyde Valley Green Network Partnership (GCVGNP) have assisted many of the CSGN local authorities in the wording of their GI related policies. Some local authorities have had detailed working assistance, whilst others have received assistance through face-to-face meetings.



**Figure 10. Average GI policy assessment scores as a percentage of full GI policy coverage by the level of external assistance local authorities received**

The age of the plans and strategies included in this study range from those adopted in 2012 (North Lanarkshire’s Local Plan) to those adopted in 2017 (Glasgow, East Ayrshire and East Dunbartonshire) through to proposed plans (East and West Lothian, Midlothian, Fife, West Dunbartonshire).



**Figure 11. Average GI policy assessment scores as a percentage of full GI policy coverage by the age of the Local Development Plan (or Local Plan) assessed.**

Figure 11 shows the average GI policy assessment scores as a percentage of full GI policy coverage by the age of the Local Development Plan (or Local Plan) assessed.

The chart shows that there is a strong relationship between the age of the plan assessed and the quality of GI policies in their LDP (or Local Plan) and supplementary guidance. However, as external assistance from SNH and GCVGNP has been more available in recent years and because there has been

more detailed GI guidance available to strategic planners<sup>11</sup>, it may be that the relationship is as much to do with assistance than that there is an increasing awareness of the role of GI in new development within local authorities or the confidence to write GI relevant policy.

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<sup>11</sup> e.g. Scottish Government's 'Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking'



## 8 Conclusions and Recommendations

It is important that good, comprehensive, strong and consistent GI policy is found in statutory planning documents to ensure required, appropriate and effective GI is routinely delivered and sustained through development as part of good placemaking and as a delivery mechanism of the CSGN.

This study reveals that there is a lot of missing and incomplete GI policy across the CSGN local authorities, as illustrated in Figure 7. The following paragraphs draw more specific conclusions and make recommendations which are intended to improve GI policy.

### 8.1 GI Supplementary Guidance provides most GI Policy coverage

The results show (Figure 9) that Supplementary Guidance is an important repository of GI policy and that the current style of Local Development plans cannot alone include the breadth of content or the detail required to provide full coverage of GI policy sufficient to match the expectations of the 'Building with Nature' GI Benchmark or GCVGNP's IGI Standard.

The current review of the Scottish planning system proposes repealing the provisions for Supplementary Guidance that forms part of the development plan. This change is intended to provide clarity, so that each local authority has a plan that can be found in a single document rather than across an extensive and often complex series of technical statutory documents. It also recognises that supplementary guidance has become unwieldy in terms of volume, creating some confusion and concerns over transparency and differing levels of scrutiny to the LDP.

There will still be scope for non-statutory guidance or advice to be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications. It may be possible for concise and comprehensive GI policies to be more embedded in LDPs, or for more elements of GI policy to be embedded in Scottish Planning Policy.

#### 8.1.1 Recommendation: Secure good GI policy content currently in Supplementary Guidance

Give consideration to which planning documentation provides the best location for good GI policy as Scottish Government's Planning Bill is drafted. If Supplementary Guidance is to be removed, as the 'Places, People and Planning' Position Statement (June 2017) states, and proposed in the Planning Bill, then Scottish Planning Policy or 'strengthened' Local Development Plans, or non-statutory guidance will have to capture all current good GI policy content as well as providing new content that is currently missing. This study provides evidence for a constructive discussion with Scottish Government's Planning and Architecture Division about how this matter might be addressed.

### 8.2 Expertise leads to good GI Policy

The results indicate (Figure 10) that the provision of external GI expertise to assist policy development in local authorities and policy wording in Local Development Plans and Supplementary Guidance has led to better GI policy.

The involvement of in-house expertise, has also led to better GI policy. For example, East Dunbartonshire Council's Greenspace & Biodiversity Policy Officer informed the drafting of Policy 8 'Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character and Nature Conservation' in the 2017 Local Development Plan. This review assessed the policy to have full coverage for all the biodiversity and habitat criteria used in this review.

It would be valuable to know if available expertise within other local authorities is fully used in the drafting of GI policy.

#### **8.2.1 Recommendation: Investigate the processes used to draft GI policy in local authorities**

Conduct a survey of CSGN local authorities to understand how GI policies have been drafted and whether in-house or external expertise has been instrumental in shaping the existing policies. This will help to reveal if in-house expertise is being fully used and if there is a need to provide additional support to local authorities. Additional support might be in the form of GI awareness and training seminars for relevant local authority officers; the provision of external support in policy drafting (see paragraph 8.2.2); and, the provision of example GI policies (see paragraph 8.3.1).

#### **8.2.2 Recommendation: Make GI policy expertise available to all CSGN local authorities**

GI policy expertise should be made available to local authorities when drafting their GI relevant policies. A programme of engagement with local authorities might be drafted based on published LDP schemes.

### **8.3 Is GI policy getting better?**

The results indicate (Figure 11) that more recent plans have better quality GI policy than earlier plans. This might be a result of a growing awareness of the role of GI in new development within policy makers in local authorities which has led to the formulation of new GI relevant policy, or as a result of external assistance provided to local authorities which brings about a step-change in the coverage and strength of GI relevant policies.

Whilst the general improvement in GI policy is encouraging there is still plenty of room for improvement as the overall CSGN coverage score of 43% indicates. Figure 7 shows that GI policy coverage across the CSGN area is like a 'Swiss Cheese' when it comes to policy coverage with gaping holes in most local authorities.

#### **8.3.1 Recommendation: Prepare example GI policies**

GI policies showing good practice, based on the best policies identified through this study should be prepared. This study has demonstrated that comprehensive policies for all GI Design Elements is possible and largely exists within the CSGN area, but it is dispersed across several local authorities and in a variety of LDP policies and Supplementary Guidance documents. The preparation of such policies will demonstrate how concise and strong GI policy can be, whilst retaining coverage, and might be welcomed by planners as an aid to the drafting of their planning documents.

### **8.4 Non-statutory planning guidance is a missed opportunity**

Non-statutory planning guidance can be a material considerations in determining planning applications.

In the completion of this study several non-statutory planning guidance documents were identified which contain substantial coverage of GI policy issues. If these were adopted as supporting Supplementary Guidance to the LDP they would have contributed greatly to the local authority's assessment score, in particular, Edinburgh's 'Design Guidance' and South Ayrshire's 'Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments'.

To illustrate this point South Ayrshire’s ‘Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments’ supplementary planning guidance (SPG) was assessed as if it were a statutory document. Figure 12 shows the resultant Assessment Score Card, which can be compared to the score card on page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**

South Ayrshire	Green Infrastructure Design Elements & Policy Assessment Criteria																						
	Design Process				Wider Context				Biodiversity/Habitats			Water Management			Access Networks		Greenspace			Stewardship			
	Named GI functions	Multi-functional land use	Design GI early	Early engagement	Off-site analysis	On-site survey	Links to wider networks	Open space deficits	Enhance biodiversity	Biodiversity Action Plan	Habitat networks	SUDS designed as GI	Naturalised SUDS	Access to SUDS	Aesthetic of SUDS	Active travel links	Recreational routes	Open space standards	Multi-user design	<400m walking distance	Agreed management	Functional maintenance	Resourcing mechanisms
Local Development Plan (2014)	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
LDP policy: sustainable development																							
LDP policy: delivering infrastructure																							
LDP policy: open space																							
LDP policy: Central Scotland Green Network																							
LDP policy: land use and transport																							
LDP policy: outdoor public access and core paths																							
<b>Supplementary Guidance</b>																							
Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments																							
<b>Highest Scores</b>																							

Figure 12. South Ayrshire's GI Policy Assessment Score card including the ‘Open Space and Designing New Residential Developments’ SPG

The inclusion of the SPG in the assessment increases South Ayrshire’s overall assessment score to 33% of full policy coverage (previously: 8%).

**8.4.1 Recommendation: Encourage Local Authorities to adopt GI relevant Supplementary Guidance**

Local authorities should be encouraged to adopt any GI relevant planning guidance as Supplementary Guidance to support their LDP. However, as stated in paragraph 8.1.1, as the current review of the Scottish planning system is advocating the removal of statutory Supplementary Guidance it will be essential that the Scottish planning system as a whole provides strong, comprehensive GI policies on a statutory basis.



## Appendices

### 1 Proposed Green Infrastructure Example Policies

The review of GI policy report recommends that example GI policies should be prepared (Paragraph 8.3.1), based on the best policies identified through the study. In discussing the draft study report and its recommendations CSGNT and Scottish Government’s Planning and Architecture Division commissioned the preparation of such GI policies, as a resource to support planning authorities. This appendix to the study report documents the process in the preparation of the policies.

#### 1.1 Gleaning policy text from existing best policies

Table 5 to Table 27 show the policy text which got the highest assessment scores in this review for each of the GI policy assessment criteria, and highlights the text which has been gleaned from the policies to form the ‘gleaned policy text’.

**Table 5. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Named GI functions' assessment criteria**

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<p><i>The table on page 5 outlines the key benefits that green infrastructure can deliver:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Water management:</i></li> <li>• <i>Encouraging sustainable lifestyles and mitigating environmental impacts</i></li> <li>• <i>Providing recreational opportunities and promoting healthier lifestyles</i></li> <li>• <i>Maintaining and enhancing biodiversity</i></li> <li>• <i>Improving community cohesion</i></li> </ul>	<p>Green Infrastructure SG <b>Clackmannanshire</b></p>
<p><i>All relevant development must contribute to the Green Network [...].</i> <u>Supporting text:</u> <i>The Green Network seeks to <b>integrate</b> biodiversity, landscaping, active travel, flood mitigation, open space and climate change adaptation and other relevant interests.[...]. Although the Green Network will not compensate for the loss of flood plains, it can provide some mitigation for flooding and some adaptation for climate change.</i></p>	<p>Policy DC10: The Green Network LDP <b>East Lothian</b></p>
<p><i>New development proposals should incorporate a range of green infrastructure including open space provision, multi-use access, sustainable urban drainage, wildlife habitat and landscaping.</i></p>	<p>Policy D7: Green Infrastructure and Open Space Provision within New Development <b>East Renfrewshire</b></p>
<p><i>Open spaces should have paths and routes passing through them but narrow, connecting greenways and corridors should not be included as part of the open space requirement.[...]</i> <i>New open spaces should be designed to encourage activity with paths, benches and opportunities for play</i></p>	<p>Making Fife’s Places SG <b>Fife</b></p>
<p><i>The Green Network <b>should</b>, wherever possible, <b>provide</b> for a multitude of <b>functions</b>, including: an integrated habitat network; climate change adaptation; amenity; growing spaces; setting; active travel;</i></p>	<p>CPD 6 Green Belt And Green Network LDP <b>Glasgow City</b></p>

recreation and sport; and water management, as elements of ecosystem services	
The Local Development Plan (LDP) sets out within Policy GN2 a requirement that the design of new development follows the Integrating Green Infrastructure approach and incorporate water management, access networks, habitat enhancements and open space within new development	Our Green Network SG <b>West Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green infrastructure is required to be integrated into the design of new development to provide water management, access networks, habitat enhancements and open space functions.</li> </ul>	

Table 6. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Multi-functional Land-use' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
The <b>Green Network</b> provides a common structure within which a number of CDP policy aims can be delivered.[...] Where these <b>elements</b> can be brought together on-site as part of the wider Green Network, then [...] developers benefit from <b>the economies</b> of being able to address all of these requirements in <b>one place</b> .	Greenbelt and Green Network SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
<b>Multi-functionality</b> is where spaces have the ability to perform several functions and provide several benefits on the same area through the integration of different activities and land uses to maximise efficiency; eg open spaces used as amenity spaces which can also be used for education about the natural environment	The Green Network SG <b>Inverclyde</b>
<b>Multi-functionality</b> – being the idea of integrating different activities and land uses within the same site in order to deliver maximum benefits and optimum efficiency of land use.	West Lothian place-based Green Networks <b>West Lothian</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Network elements can be brought together on-site delivering the economies of multi-functionality from one place.</li> </ul>	

Table 7. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Design GI Early' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<b>Green infrastructure</b> should be considered as an integral element of place from the outset of the planning process	Green Network and Environmental Management SG <b>East Renfrewshire</b>
Landscape proposals <b>must be conceived as an integral part of the initial design process</b> and not as an afterthought or as a means of simply filling left over spaces.	New Residential Development Guide SG <b>West Lothian</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green infrastructure must be conceived as an integral part of the initial design process.</li> </ul>	

Table 8. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Early Engagement' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
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Whilst going through each stage, <b>engagement with local communities</b> and any other <b>relevant stakeholders</b> should be fully integrated into the process, where appropriate	Placemaking SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
<b>Development Management</b> encourages <b>pre-application meetings with developers</b> to discuss what would be appropriate for their site in terms of <b>green network provision</b> [...]. This discussion may include input from the Council's Greenspace and some of our other partners such as GCV Green Network, SNH and Forestry Commission. Furthermore, some of the most successful places involve the input of <b>the local community</b> from the outset and developers should look at ways to engage local people early in the process, including the use of charrettes or similar methods of community engagement.	Our Green Network SG <b>West Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developers should have pre-application meetings with Development Management, relevant stakeholders and engagement with local communities to discuss what green network provision would be appropriate for the site.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 9. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Off-site Analysis' assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
A full assessment of Green Network assets on the site and in the vicinity of the site must be undertaken.	Green Infrastructure SG <b>Clackmannanshire</b>
In all instances cognisance should be taken of the wider green network and opportunities to integrate with this should be maximised. Applicants will require to justify proposals which provide less than that outlined within this Guidance (Appendix 1). It is expected that the justification will show that an appraisal of the site and its surroundings has been undertaken and where appropriate key attributes of the site have been incorporated into the design	Green Network and Environmental Management SG East Renfrewshire
Fife Council <b>requires proposals</b> to: <b>Appraise the context of the site</b> (the area approximately 500m from the boundary of the site, but this will depend on the site so may be greater): This will ensure opportunities can be taken to connect to existing routes, neighbourhoods and green networks; Appraisals of the context of a site will cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Location &amp; nature of existing green networks &amp; open spaces</b> [green &amp; civic], and their walking distance from the site</li> <li>• Surrounding <b>movement network</b>, including character &amp; hierarchy of streets, public transport network, route of core paths, cycleways, &amp; active travel routes</li> <li>• Location and ecological quality of <b>watercourses &amp; water bodies</b></li> </ul>	Making Fife's Places SG <b>Fife</b>
The design process should look beyond the boundaries of the site to consider the broader spatial context in identifying opportunities for enhancing/extending the Green Network.	Greenbelt and Green Network SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
In order to safeguard, enhance and expand the green network, <b>development proposals will be required to</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the wider green network. It is vital that development proposals look beyond the boundaries of individual sites, however</li> </ul>	Our Green Network SG <b>West Dunbartonshire</b>

<i>large or small, to consider the broader spatial context and create a more coordinated and joined-up network.</i>	
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development proposals will be required to appraise the context of the site for location &amp; nature of existing green networks &amp; open spaces, movement network, watercourses &amp; water bodies.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 10. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'On-site Survey' assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<p><i>Developers as part of their site assessment process are expected to consider <b>the existing habitat resource</b> and the potential to enhance the habitat network. [...]</i></p> <p><i>A first step in the consideration of green infrastructure's role in a potential development site should be based on appraisal of the site [...]</i></p> <p><i>The appraisal should be proportionate to the scale of the proposed development and be utilised to inform the layout design as detailed in the Design Process section of Placemaking SG. Recording the various green space elements within the development site and adjacent area ensures that appropriate options to maximise green infrastructure benefits and connectivity are achieved [...]</i></p> <p><i>In order to avoid [...] potential impacts an ecological appraisal or survey of the site and its context should be undertaken to identify sensitive habitats.</i></p>	<p>Green Infrastructure SG <b>Clackmannanshire</b></p>
<p><i>Fife Council <b>requires proposals</b> to: [...] Appraise the site itself:</i></p> <p><i>This will:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>identify any features on the site that can be integrated within the development proposal and connected into the wider neighbourhood networks; [...]</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Appraisals of a site will cover:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The potential to connect to and enhance green networks</i></li> <li>• <i>Access &amp; movement including location of routes, paths &amp; desire lines, rights of access, and opportunities to connect to existing paths and routes around the site.</i></li> </ul>	<p>Making Fife's Places SG <b>Fife</b></p>
<p><i>Where it is required, a site appraisal should be undertaken for development before the details of a scheme are drawn up.</i></p> <p><i>The Site and Area Appraisal shall fully research and consider the site itself and the wider context:</i></p> <p><i><b>A full assessment</b> of the nature <b>of the site</b>, in relation to the development proposal, to include:</i></p> <p><i>a) Landform (existing topography, levels, slopes, contours, and significant natural site features such as water features);</i></p> <p><i>b) Ground Conditions (possible constraints on development, soil conditions, drainage, flood risk, sustainable urban and surface water drainage);</i></p> <p><i>c) Landscape/Ecology (the extent, type and location of existing vegetation (trees, shrubs, hedgerows, grassland, water bodies, biodiversity and formal/informal landscaped areas) and protected species and designated habitat areas);</i></p>	<p>Placemaking SG <b>Glasgow City</b></p>

<p><i>Context, Character and Identity</i></p> <p>The following list, while not exhaustive, suggests some of the most important considerations that should be <b>analysed and assessed</b>;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity</li> <li>• <b>Site drainage and potential flood risk</b></li> </ul>	<p>New Residential Development Guide SG <b>West Lothian</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development proposals are required to analyse and assess the existing habitat resource and site drainage and potential flood risk based on a full assessment of the site.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 11. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Links to Wider Networks' assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<p><i>There is an opportunity for green infrastructure to not only provide a high quality environment for new development but to compliment the wider network of access routes, habitats and greenspace.</i></p>	<p>Green Network and Environmental Management SG <b>East Renfrewshire</b></p>
<p><i>New development must integrate and enhance existing routes and ensure that all routes are attractive, safe, and well maintained.</i></p>	<p>Making Fife's Places SG <b>Fife</b></p>
<p><i>New development should make provision for pedestrian and cycle connections to existing\proposed neighbouring development and the wider active travel network.</i></p> <p><i>New development should seek to enhance biodiversity by developing a full understanding of the species and habitats found in or around the site and the biodiversity role of the wider green network and by encouraging an appropriate and diverse range of native species.</i></p>	<p>Placemaking SG <b>Glasgow City</b></p>
<p><i>When looking at a site, three green infrastructure elements should be considered – context, identity and connection:</i></p> <p><i>Connection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safe pedestrian movement from desire lines, green corridors, core paths, cycle routes, rights of way linking within and outwith the site and to public transport hubs</li> <li>• <b>Habitat networks</b>, linkages allowing for the linking and movement of Wildlife</li> </ul>	<p>The Green Network SG <b>Inverclyde</b></p>
<p><i>Opportunities should be sought to create and enhance links where possible.</i></p> <p><i>Development principles to be considered in respect of development proposals within the Green Network:</i></p> <p><i>Part of the wider landscape structure and setting, connecting to wider green network</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Network should assist in providing a landscape framework which provides an appropriate setting for the development within the wider landscape</li> </ul> <p><i>Attractive positive setting for urban areas.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible urban areas should be well connected to the green network.</li> <li>• Urban areas should have good access links to the overall green network</li> </ul> <p><i>Providing places for social interaction</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design of well connected <b>footpath network</b> to allow for informal social interaction</li> </ul>	<p>Green Network and Greenspaces SG <b>South Lanarkshire</b></p>

<p>All development proposals will be assessed in terms of their impact on, and potential to contribute to, national Green Network principles and local Green Network and Open Space Strategy objectives in terms of the following:-</p> <p>Proposals adjacent to, encroaching upon, or in the vicinity of, existing open spaces and green corridors, should maintain or enhance functionality and connectivity (active travel routes, habitat networks, etc).</p>	<p>Policy 1.3: Green Network and Open Space LDP <b>Stirling</b></p>
<p>[...] a green network is concerned with the linking up of areas of open space. Central to the concept are the principles of connectivity and multi-functionality.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Connectivity – highlighting the ambition to link people and places, and provide habitat networks for species movement [...]</li> </ul> <p>Both principles are directly relevant to a number of key objectives in Scottish Planning Policy 2</p>	<p>West Lothian place-based Green Networks SG <b>West Lothian</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Development proposals will be assessed in terms of their impact on, and potential to maintain or enhance the functionality and connectivity of path networks and habitat networks.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 12. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Open Space Deficits' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<p>Developers are required to make specific provision relating to the proposed development to address the following matters:</p> <p>Open Space – quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in open space provision or access to open space (according to the standards and priorities identified by the Glasgow Open Space Strategy)</p>	<p>CDP 12 Delivering Development LDP <b>Glasgow City</b></p>
<p>The Council will assess applications for new development against the open space standards as set out in Appendix 4 of this Plan and seek an appropriate solution where there is an identified deficiency in any of the listed categories (quality, quantity and accessibility).</p> <p>Planning conditions will be applied and, where necessary, legal agreements sought to ensure that appropriate provision for open space is made to mitigate the impact of any proposed development. Any exemption from provision under this policy will have to be demonstrated to the satisfaction, and be at the discretion, of the Council.</p>	<p>Sustainable Place-making Policy DEV 9: Open Space Standards LDP <b>Midlothian</b></p>
<p>In assessing specific requirements for the provision of open space, the Council will take into account:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing provision - the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing local open spaces, as identified in the Stirling Open Space Strategy and Audit, including the Open Space Opportunity Plans.</li> <li>An assessment of current and future requirements including existing deficiencies using the Stirling Open Space Strategy and Audit in the different settlements and the Community Council areas within the Stirling area</li> </ul>	<p>SG02 Green Network <b>Stirling</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Developers are required to address quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in provision to open space according to the standards and priorities identified by the Open Space Strategy.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 13. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Enhance Biodiversity' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<p>All development proposals will be expected to fulfil all of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maximise the potential of their development to contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and enhancement</li> </ul>	<p>Policy EA2 - Habitat Networks and Biodiversity LDP <b>Clackmannanshire</b></p>
<p>Development will contribute positively to biodiversity conservation through siting and design</p>	<p>Policy 8. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character and Nature Conservation LDP <b>East Dunbartonshire</b></p>
<p>Wherever possible, developers will be encouraged to put together an open space proposal which maximises opportunities to link the development into the Central Scotland Green Network (CSGN) and the Core Path network.[...] Methods of linking the development into the CSGN can include the following: [...]• Undertaking habitat enhancement works on site which improve the biodiversity value of the adjacent component of the green network or link different parts of the existing habitat network</p>	<p>Open Space and New Development SG13 <b>Falkirk</b></p>
<p>Development proposals will only be supported where they protect or enhance natural heritage and access assets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• biodiversity in the wider environment;</li> </ul>	<p>Policy 13 - Natural Environment and Access LDP <b>Fife</b></p>
<p>New development should seek to enhance biodiversity by developing a full understanding of the species and habitats found in or around the site and the biodiversity role of the wider green network and by encouraging an appropriate and diverse range of native species</p>	<p>IPG 1 Placemaking SG <b>Glasgow</b></p>
<p>Even where few features of ecological value have been identified on site, the developer will be expected to explore opportunities to enhance the value of the site for wildlife or the local green network</p>	<p>SPG 20 Biodiversity &amp; Development <b>North Lanarkshire</b></p>
<p>Development proposals will require to ensure: [...] • Proposals will protect and enhance biodiversity, and/or make a contribution to the green network or landscape character</p>	<p>New Development <b>Renfrewshire</b></p>
<p>Open Space in association with New Residential Development The following general requirements apply to all forms of open space and sport and recreation provision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All on-site open spaces, water areas and watercourses should promote biodiversity and support nature conservation by protecting and enhancing existing habitats and wildlife corridors and creating new ones</li> </ul>	<p>SG02 Green Network SG <b>Stirling</b></p>
<p>New development should seek to enhance biodiversity as part of the green network.</p>	<p>Policy Green Network 3 LDP <b>West Dunbartonshire</b></p>
<p>Most developments are suitable for the incorporation of a range of measures for positive effects on wildlife and habitats. The planning authority will expect such measures to be proposed and then implemented if consent is given.</p>	<p>Planning for Nature: Development Management and Wildlife SG <b>West Lothian</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text:</b></p>	

- Development proposals will contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and enhancement.

Table 14. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Biodiversity Action Plan' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
Wherever possible, development proposals should contribute to the objectives of the Clackmannanshire Biodiversity Action Plan	Policy EA2 - Habitat Networks and Biodiversity LDP <b>Clackmannanshire</b>
Development will protect, enhance and maintain: A. Local <b>priority species and habitats</b>	Policy 8. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character and Nature Conservation LDP <b>East Dunbartonshire</b>
New development shall be designed, wherever appropriate, to help conserve and enhance populations of <b>LBAP priority species and habitats</b> as identified in the relevant LBAP Ecosystem Statements	SG7 Natural Environment SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
Development proposals will be expected to demonstrate compatibility with the aims and objectives of the Midlothian Local Biodiversity Action Plan and related plans, by identifying appropriate measures to protect, enhance and promote existing habitats and/ or the creation of new ones, and provide for the effective management of these habitats	Protecting Our Heritage Policy ENV 15: Species and Habitat Protection and Enhancement LDP <b>Midlothian</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development shall be designed to conserve and enhance <b>LBAP priority species and habitats</b>.</li> </ul>	

Table 15. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Habitats Network' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
All <b>development proposals will</b> be expected to fulfil all of the following criteria: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>protect and enhance</b> existing <b>habitat networks</b> <b>in or adjacent to the development site;</b></li> <li>• identify opportunities to strengthen the existing habitat network by creating new habitat links.</li> </ul>	Policy EA2 - Habitat Networks and Biodiversity LDP <b>Clackmannanshire</b>
<b>Development will protect, enhance</b> and maintain: C. Existing <b>habitat networks</b> , Development will be supported which avoids further fragmentation or isolation of habitats; restores degraded habitats; and creates new habitat links <b>in or adjacent to the development site.</b>	Policy 8. Protecting and Enhancing Landscape Character and Nature Conservation LDP <b>East Dunbartonshire</b>
Methods of linking the development into the CSGN can include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertaking habitat enhancement works on site which improve the biodiversity value of the adjacent component of the green network or link different parts of the existing habitat network</li> </ul>	Open Space and New Development SG <b>Falkirk</b>
Enhancing biodiversity means increasing biodiversity, restoring degraded habitats or establishing new habitats and features which	Making Fife's Places SG <b>Fife</b>

<p><i>will support wildlife, create larger stable habitat areas and habitat networks for species. [...]</i></p> <p><i>Examples of enhancing biodiversity could include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Creating new areas of habitat, ideally enlarging existing habitat areas and creating connectivity/ecological corridors between areas. Woodland, wetland, wildflower meadows etc.</i></li> </ul>	
<p><i>New development should not further fragment habitats, networks or isolate habitats or species, but should enhance the natural and landscape assets listed above wherever possible, including by:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>helping to develop linkages between habitats;</i></li> <li>• <i>restoring degraded habitats</i></li> </ul>	<p>CPD7 Natural Environment LDP <b>Glasgow</b></p>
<p><i>Where possible, enhance the ecological or habitat value of the development site by increasing, improving and adding areas of habitat for species and forming links to surrounding landscapes to create further diversity.</i></p>	<p>SPG 20 Biodiversity &amp; Development <b>North Lanarkshire</b></p>
<p><i>All development proposals will be assessed in terms of their impact on, and potential to contribute to, national Green Network principles and local Green Network and Open Space Strategy objectives in terms of the following:- [...]</i></p> <p><i>(b) Proposals adjacent to, encroaching upon, or in the vicinity of, existing open spaces and green corridors, should maintain or enhance functionality and connectivity (active travel routes, habitat networks, etc). Such proposals resulting in a net reduction of open space, including loss of connectivity or accessibility, should ensure that the remaining elements of the Green Network are enhanced and that alternative routes are provided or enabled</i></p>	<p>Policy 1.3: Green Network and Open Space LDP <b>Stirling</b></p>
<p><i>Many sites will have opportunities to create/enhance habitats, create connections between those habitats or increase the biodiversity of the site through specific planting. A spatial planning tool known as the Integrated Habitat Network model should be used to identify where wetland, woodland and grassland within a proposed development would be most beneficial allowing for integration of networks. Sites should be designed with the following in mind: [...]</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>existing habitats can be linked with wide green spaces or riparian corridors to address fragmentation;</i></li> </ul>	<p>Our Green Network SG <b>West Dunbartonshire</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development proposals will protect and enhance habitat networks in or adjacent to the development site.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 16. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'SuDS Designed as GI' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<p><i>SUDS features should be designed as a key component of green infrastructure on site and contribute to placemaking principles set out in Policy SC5 and the Placemaking SG.</i></p>	<p>Policy SC20 - Water and Drainage Infrastructure and Capacity LDP <b>Clackmannanshire</b></p>
<p><i>The Council will expect SuDS schemes for new development to be designed and implemented as part of a placemaking approach, which delivers multi-functional green infrastructure.</i></p>	<p>SG8 Water Environment SG <b>Glasgow City</b></p>
<p><i>An assessment should include the following information:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Details of how Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) will be</i></li> </ul>	<p>New Development SG <b>Renfrewshire</b></p>

<i>incorporated into the development, where possible integrating drainage within landscape, green networks and open space</i>	
<i>If carefully <b>designed</b> and constructed these SuDS can be <b>multi-functional green infrastructure</b> elements, providing high amenity and biodiversity value.</i>	<b>Our Green Network SG West Dunbartonshire</b>
<i>Regard should also be had to other LDP policies in relation to drainage in new developments, SuDS, flood risk and the treatment of watercourses and proposals will require to contribute to the delivery of green infrastructure and the green network where this is considered appropriate</i>	<b>Policy EMG 3 Sustainable Drainage West Lothian</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>SuDS will be designed and implemented as part of multi-functional green infrastructure.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 17. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Naturalised SuDS' assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<i>The Council will encourage the adoption of an ecological approach to <b>surface water management</b> through habitat creation or enhancement by, for example, forming wetlands or ponds and opening up culverted watercourses.</i>	<b>Policy E5: Surface Water Drainage and Water Quality LDP East Renfrewshire</b>
<i>Ponds and wetlands provide the best opportunities for enhancing biodiversity whilst grassed elements such as swales and filter strips can be integrated into the general landscape and can be used to create green corridors linking to wildlife corridors elsewhere</i>	<b>Making Fife's Places SG Fife</b>
<i>SuDS schemes (required for all significant new development), provide great opportunities to create <b>'naturalised' features</b> (e.g. swales, basins, wetlands and ponds) aligned with other functions of green infrastructure.</i>	<b>SG8 Water Environment SG Glasgow City</b>
<i>The Council therefore seeks to encourage above ground SuDS, where possible. SuDS schemes offer opportunities to contribute to the protection and enhancement of biodiversity by incorporating measures into their design to create new or improved habitats for species. SuDS schemes should therefore aim to maximise their biodiversity potential.</i>	<b>SPG 09 Flooding and Drainage North Lanarkshire</b>
<i>Development principles to be considered in respect of development proposals within the Green Network:[...] Naturalistic forms of SuDS design</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Design to encourage edge and emergent planting</i></li> <li>• <i>Utilise different sized and shaped water bodies to encourage biodiversity</i></li> </ul>	<b>SG8: Green Network and Greenspaces South Lanarkshire</b>
<i>Water management <b>should be designed</b> with these criteria in mind:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>a surface water management plan can be created, <b>based on naturalised SuDS features</b>, as the building blocks for the spatial layout of the development proposal</i></li> </ul>	<b>Our Green Network SG West Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Surface water management should be designed based on naturalised SuDS features.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 18. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Access to SuDS' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<i>SUDS: Policy 3 requires new development to provide a suitable sustainable drainage system to manage surface water Open water should be designed to allow public access with minimum risk.</i>	Making Fife's Places SG <b>Fife</b>
<i>The following sets out the Council's expectations in relation to on site provision of open and civic space.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements to provide on-site Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) may contribute towards meeting the recreational open space obligations of the site, provided that the space is appropriately designed, safe, accessible and capable of being used for recreation.</li> </ul>	IPG 12 Delivering Development SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
<i>Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS); [...] These add interest and increase biodiversity and wildlife interest and should be designed to form part of the public realm.</i>	SG01 Placemaking SG <b>Stirling</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SuDS may contribute to open space obligations if it is designed to be safe, accessible and capable of being used for recreation.</li> </ul>	

Table 19. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Aesthetics of SuDS' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<i>Well designed and well maintained SUDS will help to provide an attractive setting for new developments.</i>	Making Fife's Places SG <b>Fife</b>
<i>Too often SUDS can be seen in isolation as an extra cost, when integrated properly they can add value with views and an attractive setting.</i>	SPG 09 Flooding and Drainage <b>North Lanarkshire</b>
<i>Water management should be designed with these criteria in mind:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SUDS systems should be multi-functional, creating a positive and distinctive landscape setting</li> </ul>	Our Green Network SG <b>West Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SuDS should create an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.</li> </ul>	

Table 20. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Active Travel Routes' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<i>Paths are an important element of green infrastructure providing active transport routes between communities, work places, schools and leisure facilities as well as wildlife corridors. [...] They can be viewed as the arteries of the green network and the element most used by public. It is therefore important that path connections and their relationship to the existing green infrastructure on and off site is considered from the start of the site design process.</i>	Green Infrastructure SG <b>Clackmannanshire</b>
<i>Development proposals should include all infrastructure that is essential to the development of the site and to mitigate against impacts on the wider transport network. This may include requirements for:</i>	Policy 4 Sustainable Transport LDP <b>East Dunbartonshire</b>

<p>B. Active travel infrastructure that enables active travel for commuting or leisure purposes and which is linked to the core and established path networks.</p>	
<p>Planning permission will be granted for development where: f) public open spaces and pedestrian and cycle routes are connected with the wider pedestrian and cycle network including any off-road pedestrian and cycle routes where the opportunity exists</p>	<p>Policy Des 7 Layout Design LDP <b>City of Edinburgh</b></p>
<p>Development proposals should provide a choice of safe, high quality routes based on desire lines with links to surrounding active travel routes, appropriate crossing points, public transport facilities (such as bus stops, train stations), open space and local services and community facilities.</p>	<p>IPG1 Placemaking <b>Glasgow City</b></p>
<p>b) developments should provide direct access to public transport facilities, the existing path network and the wider network of cycle routes, c) in residential developments in particular, proposals should provide for safe access to nearby open space, shopping, schools, health facilities and other amenities for all pedestrians and cyclists; h) opportunities should be taken, wherever practicable, to incorporate active travel routes into the Green Infrastructure [...]</p>	<p>IPG11 Sustainable Transport <b>Glasgow City</b></p>
<p>To encourage cycling, provision should be made to accommodate cycle routes within new development which link to and from the main networks. The Council will expect to see the following principles applied to proposals: Where appropriate, off road or shared footway/cycleway can make cycling more attractive and quicker. [...] Cycle Routes should be integrated naturally into and connect with the wider Green Network and Core Path Routes. The aim is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• expand safe routes to schools to include routes to public transport hubs, park and ride, hospitals and supermarkets</li> </ul>	<p>SPG 04 Encouraging Cycling <b>North Lanarkshire</b></p>
<p>Access and connections should be designed with the following criteria in mind:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sites may require enhancing of existing path connections as well as forming new connections to improve accessibility to the green network;</li> <li>• Path connections should be to destination points such as schools, shops and transport hubs with cycle parking at destination points to encourage cycling</li> </ul>	<p>Our Green Network <b>West Dunbartonshire</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Development proposals should integrate off-road pedestrian and cycle routes into green infrastructure to link work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 21. Existing policies that have full coverage of the ‘Recreational Routes’ assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<p>Paths are an important element of green infrastructure providing active transport routes between communities, work places, schools and leisure facilities as well as wildlife corridors. They also provide ready access to the countryside for informal recreation and offer opportunities for health lifestyles to address the health agenda. They</p>	<p>Green Infrastructure SG <b>Clackmannanshire</b></p>

<i>can be viewed as the arteries of the green network and the element most used by public. It is therefore important that path connections and their relationship to the existing green infrastructure on and off site is considered from the start of the site design process.</i>	
<i>The Council will not be supportive of development which disrupts or adversely impacts on any existing or potential core path, right of way, bridle path, or footpath used by the general public for recreational or other purposes, particularly where the route concerned forms, or has the potential to form, part of the network of circular routes or footpath links between settlements, actively promoted by the Council.</i>	Policy T4 – Development and Protection of Core Paths and Natural Routes LDP <b>East Ayrshire</b>
<i>Development proposals should include all infrastructure that is essential to the development of the site and to mitigate against impacts on the wider transport network. This may include requirements for: B. Active travel infrastructure that enables active travel for commuting or leisure purposes and which is linked to the core and established path networks.</i>	Policy 4 Sustainable Transport LDP <b>East Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Development proposals should include paths for informal recreation as an important element of green infrastructure.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 22. Existing policies that have full coverage of the ‘Open Space Standards’ assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<i>The Council expects that a planning submission should include the following: • Open space assessment in relation to Clackmannanshire Standard The provision and access to open space is a fundamental consideration for residential proposals and in this regard a Clackmannanshire Standard has been developed as part of the Clackmannanshire Open Space Strategy. This has been designed to ensure that there is a consistent approach to the provision of quality open space throughout Clackmannanshire</i>	Green Infrastructure SG, <b>Clackmannanshire</b>
<i>Standards for the provision of open space in new development will be brought forward through the City’s Open Space Strategy (OSS). [...] The standards (which will be included in Supplementary Guidance) will aim to deliver enhancements to the Green Network, in terms of its <b>quality</b> (including multi-functionality), <b>accessibility and quantity</b> (as appropriate). The Council will expect new development to meet these <b>standards</b>, in line with the approach set out in the OSS.</i>	CPD 6 Green Belt And Green Network LDP <b>Glasgow City</b>
<i>New residential <b>development</b> (including conversions) <b>is required to</b> provide access to good quality recreational open space. This includes provision for children’s play areas, amenity open space/parkland, outdoor sport facilities, allotments and community gardens, in accordance with the standards set out in Table 1 below.</i>	IPG 12 Delivering Development SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
<i>The Council will assess applications for new development against the open space standards [...] and seek an appropriate solution where there is an identified deficiency in any of the listed categories (<b>quality, quantity and accessibility</b>). Planning conditions will be applied and, where necessary, legal agreements sought to ensure that appropriate provision for open</i>	Sustainable Place- making Policy DEV 9: Open Space Standards LDP <b>Midlothian</b>

space is made to mitigate the impact of any proposed development. Any exemption from provision under this policy will have to be demonstrated to the satisfaction, and be at the discretion, of the Council.	
In assessing specific requirements for the provision of open space, the Council will take into account: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing provision - the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing local open spaces, as identified in the Stirling Open Space Strategy and Audit, including the Open Space Opportunity Plans.</li> <li>New residential development should be able to access enough multifunctional open space to meet the quantity standard of 144m<sup>2</sup> per housing unit [...]. The quantity of any new open space to be provided depends on existing provision in the locality.</li> </ul>	SG02 Green Network Stirling
The open space standards are to be used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to inform developers what the minimum requirements are for sites; [...]</li> </ul> Accessibility, quality and quantity will be used to inform provision of open space for new development in West Dunbartonshire. Developers will need to demonstrate that the amount of open space they propose on a site is based on an assessment of these measures.	Our Green Network SG West Dunbartonshire
Developers will be required to address active open space as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There will be an initial presumption in favour of trying to satisfy active open space requirements (including play space) associated with a proposed residential development through the upgrading of any existing facilities in the immediate locality, i.e. off site. The council's Open Space Strategy will be used to identify where off-site open space provision is more appropriate and the areas where financial contributions towards off-site provision will be invested.</li> </ul>	New Residential Development Guide SG West Lothian
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Development is required to meet the Council's quality, quantity and accessibility standards for open space.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 23. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Multi-user Design' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
New open space should be well designed; appropriately located; functionally sized and suitably diverse to meet different recreational needs in accordance with criteria set out in Supplementary Guidance SG13 'Open Space and New Development'.	Policy INF04 Open Space and New Residential Development LDP Falkirk
Open space is space designed for people to undertake recreational activity. This will generally be informal activity such as play, walking, sitting, picnics, communal gardening, social/community gatherings, informal sports and recreation. In some cases (generally for very large developments) there will be a requirement for more formal sports and play facilities.	Making Fife's Places SG Fife
New or improved public open space should be designed to cater for the needs of all ages and abilities. Provision should be made for all equalities groups who face discrimination or social exclusion due to personal characteristics	Placemaking SG Glasgow City

<p><i>Objectives of urban design</i>  <i>To promote public spaces and routes that are attractive, safe, uncluttered and work effectively for all in society, including disabled and elderly people</i></p>	<p>SPG 15 Good Design Toolkit SG  <b>North Lanarkshire</b></p>
<p><i>Development principles to be considered in respect of development proposals within the Green Network:</i>  <i>Provide appropriately sited high quality facilities for a range of ages and activities.</i></p>	<p>SG8: Green Network and Greenspaces SG  <b>South Lanarkshire</b></p>
<p><i>Open space should be designed to be inclusive of people of different ages, genders, and physical abilities</i></p>	<p>SG01 Placemaking SG  <b>Stirling</b></p>
<p><b>Gleaned policy text</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open space should be designed to cater for the recreational needs of people of different ages, genders, and physical abilities.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 24. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Walking Distance to Open Space' assessment criteria

Policy Text	Source
<p><i>The Fife Greenspace strategy set the aspiration that all residents in Fife will be within 250m of a 0.2 hectare open space. This distance is based upon the reasonable walking distance of a 8 year old and will be used as a guide to determine whether a new development will require on-site open space or whether a contribution towards improving existing open space is more appropriate.</i>  <i>As distance increases from proposed new houses to existing open space, the amount of new on-site open space will increase proportionately. The full policy requirement of on-site open space will be triggered when walking routes exceed 400m (5 min walk).</i></p>	<p>Making Fife's Places SG  <b>Fife</b></p>
<p><i>Local play areas will offer good quality equipment and facilities for 3 to 11 year olds. These should be within 300 metres actual walking distance of each house [...]</i>  <i>Amenity open spaces should be within 400 metres actual walking distance of each house</i></p>	<p>IPG 12 Delivering Development SG  <b>Glasgow City</b></p>
<p><i>All development must comply with the following open space standards as referred to in policy DEV9 of this Plan</i>  <i>All settlements have access to a minimum of either a local play park or significant amenity open space (district park/town park/green corridor etc.) within 0.4km.</i></p>	<p>Sustainable Place-making Policy DEV 9: Open Space Standards LDP  <b>Midlothian</b></p>
<p><i>New residential development should be within 300m of a multifunctional open space, that meets the quantity standard, and is not be separated by any significant obstacle to movement such as a main road, private ground or a linear feature such as a river or railway. The route to the open space should be useable by all people.</i></p>	<p>Green Network SG  <b>Stirling</b></p>
<p><i>The open space standards are to be used:</i>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>to inform developers what the minimum requirements are for sites;</i></li> </ul> <i>Accessibility Standard</i>  <i>The accessibility standard is:</i>  <i>Everyone will live within a 250m walk of a 0.2ha usable amenity greenspace, play space or natural/semi-natural greenspaces</i>  <i>When carrying out a site appraisal, developers should assess the distance of these three types of open space relative to the site, providing details on plan form. The distances should not be "as the crow flies" but</i></p>	<p>Our Green Network SG  <b>West Dunbartonshire</b></p>

<i>based on a network analysis using streets and paths, access points to open spaces and highlighting barriers to those spaces.</i>	
<i>The council's Open Space Strategy assumes 0.5 km as being the maximum walking distance to play facilities and a local park and 1 km to a neighbourhood park. Where this is not practicable or desirable, the council reserves the right to require on site provision at a level to be determined on a case by case basis and in consultation with the council's NETs, Land and Countryside Services Manager and will be intimated to developers at the earliest opportunity.</i>	New Residential Development Guide SG <b>West Lothian</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>All development must be within a 400m walk to multi-functional open space.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 25. Existing policies that have full coverage of the 'Agreed Management' assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<p><i>In order to ensure that maintenance in new developments is carried out to an equal and appropriate standard, the Council produced a guidance document in 2010, entitled "The Clackmannanshire Standard", which sets out the Council requirements for the provision and ongoing maintenance of landscaped areas and public open space.</i></p> <p><i>The Clackmannanshire Standard also makes provision for a "Landscape and Open Space Bond", which is a legally binding requirement which secures payment of a sum of money in the event of either a) the developer not completing open space or landscaping, and / or b) failing to put into place satisfactory arrangements for the long term maintenance of these open space areas. The bond is a safeguard that would enable the Council to potentially step in and either complete and / or maintain these open spaces if the developer failed to do so.</i></p>	Placemaking SG <b>Clackmannanshire</b>
<p><i>Where a private maintenance scheme is agreed the following guideline will apply:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Details of management and maintenance arrangements will be submitted as part of the planning application process. The developer must demonstrate to the Council that satisfactory arrangements have been put in place for the long term maintenance of all open space.</i></li> </ul>	Green Network and Environmental Management SG <b>East Renfrewshire</b>
<p><i>As a condition of the planning consent, the developer will be required to provide details of the proposed management and maintenance arrangements to the Council, and receive approval, before construction starts on site</i></p>	Developer Contributions and Infrastructure Delivery SG <b>City of Edinburgh</b>
<p><i>As a condition of the planning consent, the developer will be required to provide details of the proposed management and maintenance arrangements to the Council, and receive approval, before construction starts on site.</i></p>	IPG 12 Delivering Development SG <b>Glasgow City</b>
<p><i>The management and maintenance of open space is vitally important to people in Stirling's Communities. The Councils preferred approach is that a requirement for management and maintenance of on-site open space is placed in the title deeds of all new properties: [...]</i></p> <p><i>Whilst the above sets out the preferred approach, the Council is willing to look at other options for management and maintenance</i></p>	SG02 Green Network <b>Stirling</b>

<i>brought forward by developers. These may include land transfer and adoption by the Council on payment of a commuted 40 year capitalised maintenance sum.</i>	
<i>Applicants should demonstrate how their design proposals will be sustainably managed over the long-term including financial models for future funding of appropriate management and maintenance. Planning conditions and legal agreements may be used to ensure that new developments provide details of the ongoing maintenance of sites. There are different options for management and maintenance depending on the tenure and nature of the site. For private housing the preferred method is a requirement for maintenance and management of all common areas to form part of the land title for all owners of a site. Registered Social Landlords will have to provide evidence of a regular maintenance contract.</i>	<b>Our Green Network SG West Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Developers are required to provide details of the proposed management and maintenance arrangements to the Council and must receive approval, before construction starts.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 26. Existing policies that have most coverage of the ‘Functional Maintenance’ assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<i>As part of a planning application the developer will be required to submit information to Fife Council that clearly sets out the <b>open space maintenance regimes</b> of the factor and the information supplied to home owners.</i>	<b>Making Fife’s Places SG Fife</b>
<i>Initial determination of maintenance specification: Maintenance specification of the common areas of open space <b>will be agreed between the Council and developers as a condition of planning approval</b></i>	<b>SG02 Green Network SG Stirling</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open space maintenance regimes will be agreed between the Council and developers as a condition of planning approval.</b></li> </ul>	

Table 27. Existing policies that have full coverage of the ‘Resourcing Mechanisms’ assessment criteria

<b>Policy Text</b>	<b>Source</b>
<i>The Clackmannanshire Standard [...] makes provision for a “Landscape and Open Space Bond”, which is a legally binding requirement which secures payment of a sum of money in the event of either a) the developer not completing open space or landscaping, and / or b) failing to put into place satisfactory arrangements for the long term maintenance of these open space areas. The bond is a safeguard that would enable the Council to potentially step in and either complete and / or maintain these open spaces if the developer failed to do so.</i>	<b>Placemaking SG Clackmannanshire</b>
<i>All new green infrastructure must be maintained either by the developer (or a factor on their behalf) or be conveyed to Fife Council for adoption and maintenance. Fife Council will only adopt spaces on payment to the Council of a lump sum equivalent to a minimum of 25</i>	<b>Making Fife’s Places SG Fife</b>

<i>years' maintenance costs, agreed, where necessary by binding agreement prior to the granting of planning permission.</i>	
<i>To adequately address the need to maintain quality over the long term, new development should, to the satisfaction of the Council, make provision for future management and maintenance to ensure the space continues to meet the quality standard in the long-term.</i>	IPG 6 Greenbelt and Green Network <b>Glasgow</b>
<i>Funding of Maintenance: The developer of the new property will be responsible for funding maintenance of common areas of open space for the first year. Following this, property owners will be responsible for maintenance costs to the appointed factor on an equitable basis as set out in title deeds.</i>	SG02 Green Network SG <b>Stirling</b>
<i>Applicants should demonstrate how their design proposals will be sustainably managed over the long-term including financial models for future funding of appropriate management and maintenance.</i>	Our Green Network SG <b>West Dunbartonshire</b>
<b>Gleaned policy text</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants should demonstrate their financial models for long-term funding of open space management and maintenance to the satisfaction of the Council.</li> </ul>	

## 1.2 Drafting of example GI policies

Table 28 collates the 'Gleaned Policy Text' from Table 5 through to Table 27 and documents how each of the policy texts associated with each GI assessment criteria were amended, merged and refined to produce draft example GI policies.

This process reduced the overall number of policy texts from 23 down to 13 draft GI policies. The draft policies are shown collated in Table 29.

Table 28. Amending, Merging and Refining of the Gleaned GI Policy Text

Assessment Criteria	Gleaned policy text	Amended policy text	Merging and refining of policy text to produce draft example policies
<b>A. Named GI Functions</b>	Green infrastructure is required to be integrated into the design of new development to provide water management, access networks, habitat enhancements and open space functions.	Green infrastructure is required to be integrated into the design of new development to provide water management, access networks, habitat enhancements and open space functions.	Green infrastructure must be an integral part of the initial design process  ...of new development providing water management, access networks, habitat enhancements and open space functions,
<b>B. Multi-functional Land-use</b>	Green Network elements can be brought together on-site delivering the economies of multi-functionality from one place.	<del>Through good design green infrastructure functions</del> can be brought together on-site delivering the economies of multi-functionality from one place.	...and brought together on-site to deliver the economies of multi-functionality from one place.
<b>C. Design GI Early</b>	Green infrastructure must be conceived as an integral part of the initial design process.	Green infrastructure must be conceived as an integral part of the initial design process.	
<b>D. Early engagement</b>	Developers should have pre-application meetings with Development Management, relevant stakeholders and engagement with local communities to discuss what green network provision would be appropriate for the site.	Developers should have pre-application meetings with Development Management <del>and relevant stakeholders and engagement with local communities</del> to discuss what <del>green infrastructure is</del> appropriate for the site.	Developers should have pre-application meetings with Development Management and relevant stakeholders to discuss what green infrastructure is appropriate for the site.
<b>E. Off-site analysis</b>	Development proposals will be required to appraise the context of the site for location & nature of existing green networks & open spaces, movement network, watercourses & water bodies.	<del>Development proposals will be</del> Developers are required to appraise the wider context of the site for <del>location &amp; nature of existing green networks &amp; open spaces, movement network, watercourses &amp; water bodies</del> green infrastructure functions.	Developers are required to appraise the wider context of the site for green infrastructure functions  ...and undertake a full habitat and hydrological assessment of the site and demonstrate how these have influenced their design.
<b>F. On-site analysis</b>	Development proposals are required to analyse and assess the existing habitat resource and site drainage and potential flood risk based on a full assessment of the site.	<del>Development proposals</del> Developers are required to <del>analyse and assess the existing habitat resource and site drainage and potential flood risk based on</del> undertake a full habitat and hydrological assessment of the site and demonstrate how these have influenced their design.	
<b>G. Links to wider networks</b>	Development proposals will be assessed in terms of their impact on, and potential to maintain or enhance the functionality and connectivity of path networks and habitat networks.	Development proposals <del>will be assessed in terms of their impact on, and potential to</del> should maintain or enhance the <del>functionality quality</del> and connectivity of path networks <del>and habitat networks</del> .	Development proposals should maintain or enhance the quality and connectivity of path networks.  <i>(Habitat Networks covered by 'K')</i>
<b>H. Open space deficits</b>	Developers are required to address quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in provision or access to open space according to the standards and priorities identified by the Open Space Strategy.	Developers are required to address quantitative or qualitative deficiencies in provision or access to open space according to the standards and priorities <del>identified by</del>	<i>(Merged with 'R' and 'T')</i>

		<del>the Open Space Strategy set by the Council.</del>	
<b>I. Enhance biodiversity</b>	Development proposals will contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and enhancement.	Development proposals will <del>contribute positively to biodiversity conservation and enhancement</del> conserve and enhance biodiversity.	Development proposals will conserve and enhance biodiversity,
<b>J. Biodiversity Action Plan</b>	Development shall be designed to conserve and enhance LBAP priority species and habitats.	Development proposals shall be <del>designed to conserve and enhance</del> deliver LBAP priority species and habitats priorities for the location identified in the LBAP.	...and shall deliver priorities for the location identified in the LBAP.
<b>K. Habitat networks</b>	Development proposals will protect and enhance habitat networks in or adjacent to the development site.	Development proposals will protect and enhance habitat networks in or adjacent to the development site.	Development proposals will protect and enhance habitat networks in, or adjacent to, the development site.
<b>L. SuDS designed as GI</b>	SuDS will be designed and implemented as part of multi-functional green infrastructure.	<del>SuDS will be designed and implemented as part of multi-functional</del> Development proposals will integrate SuDS into the design of green infrastructure.	Development proposals will integrate surface water management into the design of green infrastructure
<b>M. Naturalised SuDS</b>	Surface water management should be designed based on naturalised SuDS features.	Surface water management should be designed based on naturalised SuDS features.	...based on naturalised SuDS features.
<b>N. Access to SuDS</b>	SuDS may contribute to open space obligations if it is designed to be safe, accessible and capable of being used for recreation.	SuDS may contribute to open space obligations if it is designed to be safe, accessible and capable of being used for recreation.	SuDS may contribute to open space obligations if it is designed to be safe, accessible and capable of being used for recreation,
<b>O. Aesthetics of SuDS</b>	SuDS should create an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.	SuDS should create an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.	...and should create an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.
<b>P. Active travel routes</b>	Development proposals should integrate off-road pedestrian and cycle routes into green infrastructure to link work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs.	Development proposals should integrate <del>off-road pedestrian and cycle</del> active travel routes into green infrastructure to link work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs.	Development proposals should integrate active travel routes (linking work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs) and informal recreation paths into green infrastructure.
<b>Q. Recreational routes</b>	Development proposals should include paths for informal recreation as an important element of green infrastructure.	Development proposals should include paths for informal recreation as an important element of green infrastructure.	
<b>R. Open space standards</b>	Development is required to meet the Council's quality, quantity and accessibility standards for open space.	Development <del>is proposals are</del> required to meet the Council's quality, quantity and accessibility standards for open space.	Development proposals are required to meet the Council's accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space,
<b>S. Multi-user design</b>	Open space should be designed to cater for the recreational needs of people of different ages, genders, and physical abilities.	Open space should be designed to cater for the recreational needs of people of different ages, genders, <del>cultures</del> and physical abilities.	...and address any existing deficiencies in open space provision.

<b>T. Walking distance</b>	All development must be within a 400m walk to multi-functional open space.	All development must be <del>within a 400m walk to multi-functional open space</del> designed to provide access to multi-functional open space within a 400m walk.	Open space should be designed to cater for the recreational needs of people of different ages, genders, cultures and physical abilities.
<b>U. Agreed management</b>	Developers are required to provide details of the proposed management and maintenance arrangements to the Council and must receive approval, before construction starts.	Developers are required to provide details of the <del>party responsible for green infrastructure</del> management and maintenance <del>arrangements</del> to the Council and <del>these</del> must receive approval before construction starts.	Developers are required to provide details of the green infrastructure functions and maintenance regimes, ...and the party responsible for green infrastructure management and maintenance to the Council and these must receive approval before construction starts.
<b>V. Functional maintenance</b>	Open space maintenance regimes will be agreed between the Council and developers as a condition of planning approval.	<del>Details of the open-space green infrastructure functions</del> and their related maintenance regimes will be agreed between the Council and developers as a condition of planning approval.	
<b>W. Resourcing mechanisms</b>	Applicants should demonstrate their financial models for long-term funding of open space management and maintenance to the satisfaction of the Council.	<del>Developers</del> should demonstrate their financial models for long-term funding of <del>open-space green infrastructure</del> management and maintenance to the satisfaction of the Council.	Developers should demonstrate their financial models for long-term funding of green infrastructure management and maintenance to the satisfaction of the Council.

Table 29. First draft of example GI policies

<b>Green Infrastructure Design Process</b>		
Green infrastructure must be an integral part of the initial design process for new development providing <b>water management, access networks, habitat enhancements</b> and <b>open space</b> functions, and brought together on-site to deliver the economies of multi-functionality from one place.	Developers are required to appraise the wider context of the site for green infrastructure functions and undertake a full habitat and hydrological assessment of the site and demonstrate how these have influenced their design.	Developers should have pre-application meetings with Development Management and relevant stakeholders to discuss what green infrastructure is appropriate for the site.
<b>Green Infrastructure Functions</b>		
<b>Water Management</b>	<b>Access Networks</b>	
Development proposals will integrate surface water management into the design of green infrastructure based on naturalised SuDS features.	Development proposals should maintain or enhance the quality and connectivity of path networks.	
SuDS may contribute to open space obligations if it is designed to be safe, accessible and capable of being used for recreation, and should create an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.	Development proposals should integrate active travel routes (linking work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs) and informal recreation paths into green infrastructure.	
<b>Habitat Enhancements</b>	<b>Open Space</b>	
Development proposals will conserve and enhance biodiversity, and shall deliver priorities for the location identified in the LBAP.	Development proposals are required to meet the Council's accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space, and address any existing deficiencies in open space provision.	
Development proposals will protect and enhance habitat networks in, or adjacent to, the development site.	Open space should be designed to cater for the recreational needs of people of different ages, genders, cultures and physical abilities.	
<b>Stewardship of Green Infrastructure</b>		
Developers are required to provide details of the green infrastructure functions and maintenance regimes, and the party responsible for green infrastructure management and maintenance to the Council and these must receive approval before construction starts.	Developers should demonstrate their financial models for long-term funding of green infrastructure management and maintenance to the satisfaction of the Council.	

### 1.3 Proposed example GI policies

The draft example GI policies were presented to several senior planners for their comments and suggestions. They suggested that:

- one of the draft ‘Design Process’ policies should be identified as a ‘primary policy’ and that reference to Scottish Government’s ‘qualities of successful places’ should be added.
- two of the draft ‘Design Process’ policies should not be considered as policies but should be regarded as guidance, or recommendations of good practice for developers;
- further refining and merging of all the ‘secondary’ policies should be possible;
- there should be consistency of phrasing of the secondary policies (i.e. “Developers/Development proposals should...”).

Table 30 shows the re-drafted example policies that resulted from the changes suggested by the senior planners.

**Table 30. Re-drafted example GI policies**

<b>Green Infrastructure Primary Policy</b>	
Green infrastructure must be an integral part of the design process for development from the outset, providing <b>water management, access networks, habitat enhancements</b> and <b>open space</b> functions, and taking account of the qualities of successful places.	
To achieve this Developers should:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss what green infrastructure is appropriate for the site at pre-application meetings with Development Management and relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>• appraise the site context for green infrastructure functions, and demonstrate how this has influenced their design, and where requested through pre-application discussions developers should undertake a full habitat and hydrological assessment of the site;</li> <li>• take opportunities to achieve multi-functionality by bringing green infrastructure functions together.</li> </ul>	
<b>Green Infrastructure Functions</b>	
Water Management	Access Networks
Development proposals should integrate naturalised SuDS features into the design of green infrastructure, and where they are part of open space obligations should be safe and accessible creating an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.	Development proposals should maintain and enhance the quality and connectivity of access networks, integrating active travel routes (linking work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs) and recreation routes into green infrastructure.
Habitat Enhancements	Open Space
Development proposals should conserve and enhance on-site biodiversity, and habitat networks within and adjacent to the site.	Development proposals should meet local accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space, addressing existing deficiencies in provision, and be designed to cater for the needs of the whole community.
<b>Stewardship of Green Infrastructure</b>	
Developers should provide details of the green infrastructure functions and maintenance requirements, and the party responsible for these, and demonstrate funding arrangements for their long-term delivery to the satisfaction of the local authority before construction starts.	

The re-drafted example policies were then presented to a wider group of local authority planners, development management officers, SNH planners and Planning Aid Scotland staff to garner their responses to the policies and further suggestions on how they might be improved. The overall response to the policies was very positive with participants recognising how they might use the policies and supportive of the idea that they should be used in the drafting of the fourth National Planning Framework (NPF4) in order to ensure consistency of policy for green infrastructure in development and so provide a ‘level playing field’ for developments across different planning authorities.

Suggestions for how the policies might be improved:

- The primary policy should be restructured so that ‘placemaking’ and ‘successful places’ is referred to first, recognising that this is the desired outcome from the policy;
- In the supporting text to the primary policy ‘Development Management’ should be changed to ‘the Planning Authority’;
- The text “addressing existing deficiencies in provision” in the Open Space policy should be deleted because it isn’t enforceable. However, supporting text could explain how good design of a development should consider off-site deficiencies in open space provision and locate on-site open space to help to address these deficiencies;
- The text “whole community” should be edited to “community” in the Open Space policy as it is superfluous and could lead to legal challenges;
- The Habitat Enhancement policy should include reference to the retention of existing features.

The drafted policies were revised based on these suggestions and the resulting proposed example GI policies are shown in Table 31.

**Table 31. Proposed example GI policies**

<b>Green Infrastructure Primary Policy</b>	
Green infrastructure is integral to place-making underpinned by the qualities of successful places, and therefore must be part of the design process from the outset, providing <b>water management, access networks, habitat enhancements</b> and <b>open space</b> functions.	
To achieve this developers should: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• discuss what green infrastructure is appropriate for the site at pre-application meetings with the planning authority and relevant stakeholders;</li> <li>• appraise the site context for green infrastructure functions, undertake habitat and hydrological assessments of the site as requested through pre-application discussions, and demonstrate how these have influenced their design; and,</li> <li>• take opportunities to achieve multi-functionality by bringing green infrastructure functions together.</li> </ul>	
<b>Green Infrastructure Functions</b>	
Water Management	Access Networks
Development proposals should integrate naturalised SuDS features into the design of green infrastructure, and where they are part of open space obligations should be safe and accessible creating an attractive and distinctive setting for new developments.	Development proposals should maintain and enhance the quality and connectivity of access networks, integrating active travel routes (linking work places, schools, community facilities and public transport hubs) and recreation routes into green infrastructure.
Habitat Enhancements	Open Space
Development proposals should conserve and enhance on-site biodiversity, and habitat networks within and adjacent to the site.	Development proposals should meet local accessibility, quality and quantity standards for open space, and be designed to cater for the needs of the community.
<b>Stewardship of Green Infrastructure</b>	
Developers should provide details of the green infrastructure functions and maintenance requirements, and the party responsible for these, and demonstrate funding arrangements for their long-term delivery to the satisfaction of the local authority before construction starts.	

Additional suggestions and comments raised in discussion were:

- A supporting document expanding upon and explaining the policies would be helpful and should include how the policies might be used in the development of site briefs;
- Concern about the lack of capacity for enforcement within councils (particularly in relation to the stewardship of GI);
- Wide support for a suggestion that when the policies are in the public domain that they should be promoted and for uptake to be encouraged;

- Recognition that there is a need to harmonise the use of terminology associated with GI and that to many developers GI is just the new term for landscaping, which indicates that there is a lack of recognition of the importance of the functionality of GI.
- It was suggested that the next NPF/SPP should clarify the relationship between open space, green networks and green infrastructure.

## 2 Review of Local Authority Green Infrastructure Policies

In this section each local authority GI relevant policies are presented and assessed according to the methodology described in paragraph 5.2. The local authorities are presented alphabetically.

For each local authority a brief description of the plan that has been assessed with a highlight of the policies that include GI relevant text is then followed with tables which present the relevant policy text<sup>12</sup>. In a column alongside the policy text are brief comments relating to the extent of coverage of a particular assessment criteria (referred to by the appropriate letter, see Figure 5).

A similar approach follows the plan policies for relevant Supplementary Guidance.

Finally the completed Assessment Score Card for the local authority is presented.

**COPIES OF THE INDIVIDUAL LOCAL AUTHORITY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE POLICY  
ASSESSMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**

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<sup>12</sup> Only GI relevant policy text is included in the tables. The policy text in each local authority's plan or Supplementary Guidance has been edited to exclude irrelevant text.



