



## **Partnership working and the Strategic Approach**

Chris Gordon (Natural England)

The 6Cs GI Strategy Consultation Draft presented is a culmination of work over a 12 month period and has involved the input of over 100 partners from across a variety of sectors.

- It would be great if you could emphasise the importance of taking a strategic and co-ordinated approach to environmental planning
- Also emphasise the importance and success that arises from partnership working and good communication
- And it would be great if you could close with some words showing Natural England support/endorsement for the approach that 6Cs Green Infrastructure has taken in developing the GI Strategy for the Growth Point – and if it's not too cheeky to ask (!) - that this is an approach which NE would advocate for other areas of the Region/Country

Natural England



Natural England works for  
people, places and nature,  
to conserve and enhance  
biodiversity, landscapes and wildlife  
in rural, urban, coastal and marine areas.

We conserve and enhance the natural environment  
for its intrinsic value,  
the wellbeing and enjoyment of people,  
and the economic prosperity it brings.

A reminder about Natural England's purpose, and the scope of our work.

Worth noting for a local authority audience that work in urban areas is important to us.

## Services a healthy natural environment provides



### The natural environment provides:

**The basic necessities of life** such as clean air, clean water and food

**Increased economic productivity**, providing raw materials for energy and construction and underpinning profitable tourism and recreation industries

**Security against climate change**, reducing our carbon emissions, moderating temperature extremes, helping to protect against the risk of flooding and the spread of diseases, biodiversity –

**Movement of species**.- this months new scientist

Deaths in summer heat– Henley

Our **natural health service**, making a major contribution to the health and wellbeing of the nation, free for everyone to use and enjoy

Our **cultural identity**, bringing pleasure to millions

In order for the natural environment to continue to provide these services we must ensure that there is:

Better management of the natural environment

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Reconnection of people and nature

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## Partnership & Boundaries



- **Green Infrastructure** includes **established green spaces** and **new sites** and should thread through and surround the built environment and connect the urban area to its wider rural hinterland.



Consequently, it needs to be delivered at all spatial scales –

regional,

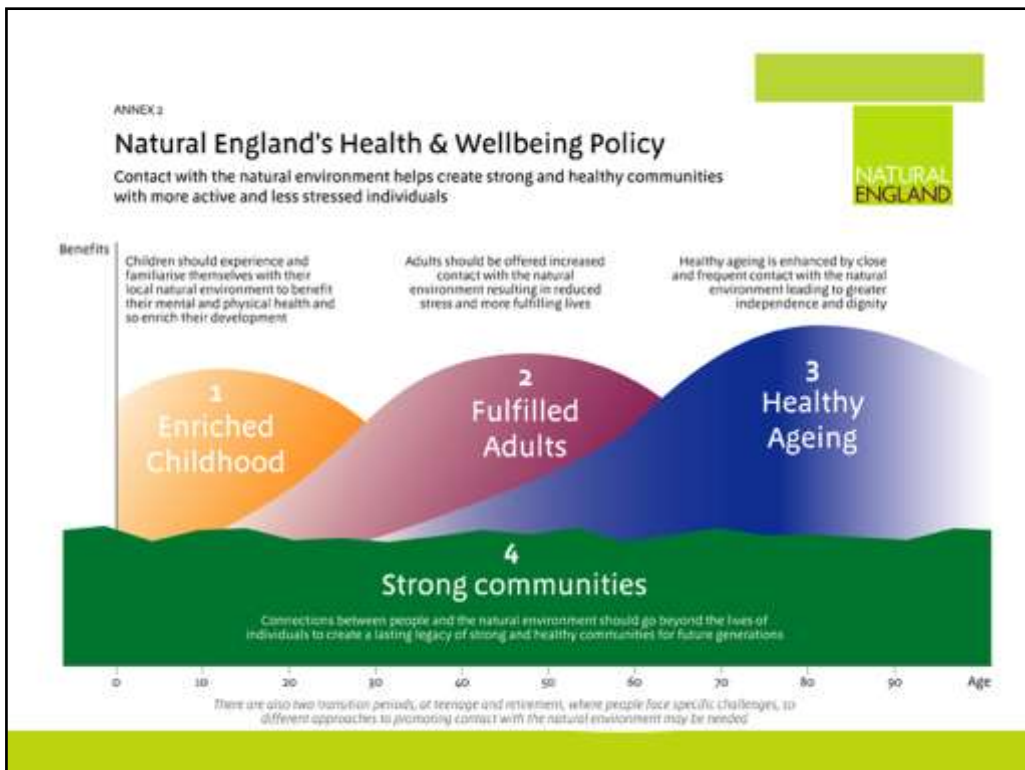
sub-regional,

local and neighbourhood levels,

accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.

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**Connecting Peoples lives**



## NE health Policy

### **We believe contact with the NE helps create strong & healthy communities with more active & less stressed individuals**

The two concepts of health and wellbeing are inter-connected. Without wellbeing good health is vulnerable, and without good health wellbeing fails to thrive. Good health does not guarantee wellbeing.

Better health and wellbeing are two of the major social and economic benefits we can secure through good management of the natural environment in both rural and urban settings.

Contact with the natural environment can help address some of the fundamental needs of society:

Children - developing their full potential.

Adults - improving their wellbeing and making live more fulfilling.

## Mental Health



- Mental illness affects 1 in 6 of the adult population
- 1 in 5 under 16yr olds have a mental disorder
- By 2020 the WHO claims that depression will be the second most prevalent cause of ill health



## Mental Health

Evidence has show us People's mental health also suffers as a result of reduced contact with nature

Mental illness affects 1 in 6 of the adult population

AND 1 in 5 of under 16yr olds have a mental disorder

By 2020 the Worldwide Health Organisation claims that depression will be the second most prevalent cause of ill health

## Inactivity, obesity and heart disease



Obesity levels doubled in the last 10 years for 6 year olds and trebled in 15 year olds

### **More specifically Inactivity causes Obesity and Heart disease**

In the last 10 years obesity levels have doubled for 6 year old **and trebled in 15 year olds**

Lack of contact with the natural environment is causing major problems for peoples' health

## Economic costs



£28 billion; (£17 billion)



£7 billion, approx



(£5.2 billion Health Service costs)



£8.5 billion, approx



£23 billion; (£7 billion)

10% boys, 5.5% girls 5-10 yrs have mental health disorder:  
rises with age

There is also an economic value; because costs of health treatment are reduced.

Costs (in order)

cardiovascular disease £28 billion; (£17 billion)

Obesity £7 billion (approx)

Diabetes (£5.2 billion Health Service costs)

Adult inactivity £8.5 billion (approx)

Mental health issues £23 billion; (£7 billion) 10% of boys and 5.5% girls between 5-10 years have a mental health disorder and this rises with age.

Natural England also announced the findings of the latest research from the Universities of Bristol and East Anglia which shows that - even after taking account of socioeconomic variations - people living more than 1/4 miles away from a park were less likely to be physically active and 27% more likely to be overweight or obese. The findings reinforce earlier research conducted by Glasgow and St Andrews Universities, which found that people who live near to green spaces live longer.

## Green Infrastructure in the East Midlands



Green infrastructure is a network of multi-functional green space, both new and existing, both rural and urban, which supports the natural and ecological processes and is integral to the health and quality of life of sustainable communities. (definition taken from PPS12)

**As part of NE's Commitment in the East Midlands we support the concept of Green Infrastructure as an integral element of the Growth Agenda because :**

**Providing Green Infrastructure offers opportunity to meet the challenges of growth, and the regions landscapes and biodiversity agendas,**

**reconnects people with nature by providing accessible natural green space,**

**delivers community health benefits**

**ameliorates the local effects of climate change and**

**contributes to an area's identity as part of the placemaking agenda.**