

Appendices

for

Suffolk Coastal Green Infrastructure Strategy

January 2011

Appendices

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Appendix 1
Policy Context

Policy Context

National policy

Planning Policy Statement 1: Delivering Sustainable Communities (2005)

PPS1 identifies the Government's commitment to protecting and enhancing the quality of the *natural and historic environment*, in both rural and urban areas. Planning policies should seek to protect and enhance the quality, character and amenity value of the countryside and urban areas as a whole. A high level of protection should be given to most valued townscapes and landscapes, wildlife habitats and natural resources. Those with national and international designations should receive the highest level of protection.

The policy statement identifies the role policies should take in relation to environmental issues including:

- mitigation of the effects of, and adaptation to, climate change
- the protection of the wider countryside landscape quality, the conservation and enhancement of wildlife species and habitats, the promotion of biodiversity, the provision of good quality open space; and the preservation and enhancement of built and archaeological heritage;
- the avoidance of new development in areas at risk of flooding and sea-level rise, and,

It provides support for the idea that local authorities should promote the sustainable use of water resources and the use of sustainable drainage systems in the management of run-off.

In relation to *sustainable economic development*, the policy statement identifies how the Government is committed to promoting a strong, stable, and productive economy that aims to bring jobs and prosperity for all. It supports the concept that planning authorities should recognise that economic development can deliver environmental and social benefits. Delivering sustainable development includes the provision of improved access to open space, sport and recreation, by ensuring that everyone can access services or facilities on foot, bicycle or public transport rather than having to rely on access by car. The statement recognises that this may be more difficult in rural areas.

Planning authorities should plan positively for the achievement of *high quality and inclusive design* for all development, including individual buildings, public and private spaces and wider area development schemes. Good design should contribute positively to making places better for people. Design which is inappropriate in its context, or which fails to take the opportunities available for improving the character and quality of an area and the way it functions, should not be accepted.

Planning and Climate Change: Supplement to PPS1 (2007) states that spatial strategies and any development should help deliver, amongst other things, green infrastructure and biodiversity as part of a strategy to address climate change mitigation and adaptation. It underlines the value of green infrastructure to 'urban cooling, sustainable drainage systems and conserving and enhancing biodiversity'.

A number of other planning policy statements are also relevant in relation to green infrastructure. These include:

Planning Policy Statement 5: Planning for the historic environment. (2010). The Government's overarching aim is that the historic environment and its heritage assets should be conserved and enjoyed for the quality of life they bring to this and future generations. Their objectives relevant to green infrastructure include recognition of the positive contribution of heritage assets to local character and sense of place, and consideration of the historic environment when promoting place shaping.

Planning Policy Statement 7: Sustainable Development in Rural Areas (2004) places an emphasis on landscape character conservation and enhancement, and the need to ensure the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, as well as providing

appropriate leisure opportunities to enable urban and rural dwellers to enjoy the wider countryside. The emphasis of continued protection of the open countryside for the benefit of all, with the highest level of protection for our most valued landscapes and environmental resources supports the aim of delivering high quality green infrastructure.

Planning Policy Statement 9: Biodiversity and Geological Conservation (2005); sets out how the planning system should contribute to biodiversity and geological conservation, including by ensuring that biological and geological diversity are conserved and enhanced as an integral part of social, environmental and economic development. In relation to green infrastructure the policy supports enhancing biodiversity in green spaces and among developments so that they are used by wildlife and valued by people, recognising that healthy functional ecosystems can contribute to a better quality of life and to people's sense of well-being.

Planning Policy Statement 12: Local Spatial Planning (2008): states that a local planning authority's core strategy should be supported by evidence of what physical, social and green infrastructure is needed to enable the amount of development for a proposed area, taking account of its type and distribution. This evidence should cover who will provide the infrastructure and when it will be provided. The core strategy should draw on and in parallel influence any strategies and investment plans of the local authority and other organisations.

Planning Policy Statement 17: Planning for open space, sport and recreation (2002) requires local authorities to carry out open space audits, assessments and to develop open space standards. It recognises that open spaces, sport and recreation all underpin people's quality of life. The policy guidance promotes local networks of high quality, well managed and maintained open spaces, sports and recreational facilities help create urban environments that are attractive, clean and safe; that open spaces within rural settlements and accessibility to local sports and recreational facilities contribute to the quality of life and well being of people who live in rural areas, and that they have a vital role to play in bringing together members of deprived communities, promoting healthy living and preventing illness.

Planning Policy Statement 22: Renewable Energy (2004). The PPS identifies the potential role for small-scale biomass projects in appropriate areas, and these could also contribute to green infrastructure networks. Small-scale projects can provide a valuable contribution to overall outputs of renewable energy and to meeting energy needs both locally and nationally. It encourages community involvement in renewable energy projects.

Planning Policy Statement 25: Planning and Flood Risk (2006); The aims of planning policy on development and flood risk are to ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process. Green infrastructure creation and management has a role to play in the shaping of development in areas at risk of flooding, and mitigating against impacts resulting from such development. The PPS identifies the benefits of green infrastructure for flood storage, conveyance and sustainable drainage systems (SUDs).

Regional policy

Regional Spatial Strategy: East of England Plan (2008)

Policy ENV1 of The East of England Plan focuses specifically on green infrastructure. Areas and networks of green infrastructure should be identified, created, protected, enhanced and managed to ensure an improved and healthy environment is available for present and future communities. Green infrastructure should be developed so as to maximise its biodiversity value and, as part of a package of measures, contribute to achieving carbon neutral development and flood attenuation. In developing green infrastructure opportunities should be taken to develop and enhance networks for walking, cycling and other non-motorised transport. The policy states that Local Development Documents should:

- Define a multiple hierarchy of green infrastructure, in terms of location, function, size and use levels, based on analysis of natural, historic, cultural and landscape assets, and the identification of areas where additional green infrastructure is required;

- Require the retention of substantial connected networks of green space in urban, urban fringe and adjacent countryside areas to serve the growing communities in key centres for development and change; and
- Ensure that policies have regard to the economic and social as well as environmental benefits of green infrastructure assets and protect sites of European or international importance for wildlife.

Assets of regional significance for the retention, provision and enhancement of green infrastructure include the Suffolk Coast & Heaths. It also identifies support for **Landscape conservation**. Planning authorities and other agencies should recognise and aim to protect and enhance the diversity and local distinctiveness of the countryside character areas. Support for **Bio diversity and Earth Heritage** is promoted through appropriate management and further expansion of wildlife corridors, having regard to the need for habitats and species to adapt to climate change and establishing networks of green infrastructure, and maximising their biodiversity value.

The regional economic strategy for the East of England, EEDA, 2008-2031

The Regional Economic Strategy (RES) sets the long term vision for sustainable economic development in the East of England. The strategy shows where we want to go and how we will get there. The strategy is owned by the region, and will be delivered through the collective work of political, business and community leaders and institutions.

A key goal is to ensure the region is an attractive place to live, work and do business. The RES identifies how region's success as an economy is increasingly dependent on its quality as a place to live, work and do business. The relevant factors for green infrastructure that attract and retain talented and highly skilled people and their families include:

- designing safe and exciting places for children
- improving the public realm and creating new spaces for community use and interaction
- access to high-quality green spaces and landscapes

The East of England is identified as having unique environmental and cultural assets that can differentiate it from other regions in the UK and abroad, and which contribute to the green infrastructure resource. This includes the distinctive heritage of the region's market towns, exceptional landscapes, habitats and coastal areas.

Local policy

LDF Interim Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, DPD, Interim Planning Policy; Suffolk Coastal District Council, June 2010

In March 2010, Suffolk Coastal District Council adopted the Core Strategy as Interim Planning Policy. The Core Strategy sets out in strategic terms the Council's overall approach to future development across the district until 2026. The District Council's vision for Suffolk coastal is that it should be a place where people 'want to live and invest, care for others and the environment'.

The priorities in the strategy are to:

- Develop a safe and healthy community with access to leisure opportunities
- Support our economy
- Protect and enhance the environment
- Meet housing needs

Cross-cutting issues are identified as young people, older people, equality and diversity, access to services and green issues. Green infrastructure can help deliver against all these issues but particularly young people and older people by providing green space close to where people live and play; access to services by providing sustainable ways of accessing green space and enhanced countryside access, and to green issues by providing opportunities for renewable energy including biomass cropping, waste management, through green composting and climate change mitigation.

Due to the proposed changes to the planning system, including those identified in the Localism Bill, including abolition of the Regional Spatial Strategy and regional housing numbers, a review of the Core Strategy, review or even revision of some policies, may now be needed.

Suffolk Coastal District Council Local Plan, second alteration 2006

Suffolk Coastal Local Plan recognises the natural beauty of the district with the coastal heathlands contrasting with the undulating farmland to the north and west, where the soil is heavier. It identifies how the river valleys and estuaries have a particular character and the contrast between the coastal area and the inland Suffolk landscape of rolling countryside and dispersed settlements.

About one third of the District has been recognised nationally for its landscape quality by its designation as an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Other important landscapes have been designated as Special Landscape Areas. The Area is also important for nature conservation, particularly the heathland, the mudflats and saltings of the estuaries, the status of some of which is recognised by particular designations. There are also a number of existing Conservation Areas within the Plan Area and other undesignated settlements that have special qualities or a pleasant character.

The sustainable community strategy for Suffolk Coastal; Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership, 2008

This Sustainable Community Strategy has been produced by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and tells the 'story of the place' – the distinctive vision and ambition for Suffolk Coastal, backed up by clear evidence and analysis. The Sustainable Community Strategy sets out the overall strategic direction and long-term vision for the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Suffolk Coastal District. The key issues that are a priority for implementation by the Local Strategic Partnership are:

- Access to services
- Strong, supportive communities
- Climate change and the environment
- Economy and skills
- Healthier lives for all
- Young People

Green infrastructure can support all these issues but particularly 'strong, supportive communities', 'climate change and the environment', 'young people' and 'healthier lives for all'. The other key issues for the district are:

- Community safety
- Coastal and estuary management
- Housing
- Support for vulnerable people to live independently in their community

An enhanced green infrastructure network can deliver particularly against 'coastal and estuary management'.

Suffolk Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA2)

This identifies key priorities and targets for the county, reflects the issues and priority areas where the County and its partners are either already performing well but want to improve or, where there is an evidenced need for improvement. Suffolk's LAA contains 28 targets chosen from a list of 189 National Indicators, as well as 10 locally developed targets that are particularly pertinent to Suffolk. It also includes 7 statutory children and early years' targets which are directed by central government.

Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles announced in October 2010 that the agreements, which require councils and their partners to pick from a set of national performance indicators, were to be scrapped.

Suffolk Minerals and Waste Development Framework

The current national planning system requires the replacement of the existing Minerals Local Plan with a Minerals and Waste Development Framework (M&WDF). This process entails the preparation of a set of Minerals and Waste Development Documents to guide minerals and waste planning for the next 15 years. The revised Minerals and Waste Development Scheme was approved in June 2007. The Scheme sets out the timetable for producing the documents comprising the Minerals & Waste Development Framework.

The existing Suffolk Minerals Local Plan has policies to safeguard the environment, including designated landscapes, trees and hedgerows and scrub, during extraction, and for the restoration of extraction sites afterwards, including to forestry, nature conservation and recreation uses.

Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan, In Step with Suffolk, Suffolk County Council, 2006-11

There are approximately 3,400 miles of public rights of way in Suffolk that form an integral part of the county's transport network. The network provides vital links to services and settlements, as well as from the towns and villages to the countryside and opportunities for healthy exercise, for both local residents and visitors alike. In Step with Suffolk provides an assessment of the network as well as a statement of action as to how that network will be improved. This plan has been integrated into the county Local Transport Plan

Other guidance

Natural England: Green Infrastructure Guidance (2009)

This guidance provides a comprehensive overview of the concept of green infrastructure and signposts to other relevant information such as Natural England's green infrastructure definition, policy statement and track record in driving delivery. It also maps out wider policy priorities and drivers for green infrastructure.

Natural England's definition of green infrastructure is: 'Green Infrastructure is a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features...' Green infrastructure also relates to the rural environment. In the wider countryside, green infrastructure is often viewed at a larger scale, encompassing large country or regional parks; extensive habitats, major landscape features such as river corridors and flood meadows landscapes, and the identification of wide green corridors and ecological networks. Green infrastructure at this scale can provide the wider framework and context for planning green infrastructure at a more local level.

Natural Economy Northwest: The economic benefits of Green Infrastructure: The public and business case for investing in Green Infrastructure and a review of the underpinning Evidence

This report reviews and summarises the evidence showing that Green Infrastructure does have a significant economic value, and it classifies the ways in which the functions of Green Infrastructure deliver this economic value under eleven thematic headings. This report seeks to demonstrate that economic benefit can be linked directly to investment in the enhancement and management of Green Infrastructure.

Cabe: Grey to Green: How we shift funding and skills to green our cities, 2009

CABE's **Grey to Green campaign**, argues that a shift is needed in public spending from grey projects, like road building and heavy engineering projects, to green schemes, like street trees, parks, green roofs and waterways. At present, for instance, flood protection requires large stormwater pipes. But a combination of living roofs, large trees and soft landscaping can absorb heavy rainfall, store and recycle it for summer irrigation; save energy through roof insulation; provide shade for offices to cut the need for air conditioning; and make cities more beautiful, so encouraging exercise and improving public health.

Landscape Institute: Green Infrastructure: connected and multifunctional landscapes, 2009.

The position statement argues that Green Infrastructure must have the same priority as more conventional infrastructure. It identifies that with a wide range of environmental, social and economic challenges we need to ensure that our environments are resilient to the changing climate, maintain adequate supplies of water, manage flood risk, secure food and energy supplies and safeguard against biodiversity loss. It goes on to describe the role that GI assets perform as *ecosystem services*. The statement further emphasises the multifunctional nature of green infrastructure assets, which means that they can deliver a diverse range of *benefits* which includes climate change adaptation and mitigation; water and waste management; food production; biodiversity enhancement; recreation and health; economic values; local distinctiveness; education and stronger communities.

Paying for parks: eight models for funding green space. Cablespace, 2006.

Cablespace identifies that there is increasing recognition of the value of well-designed, managed and resourced parks and green spaces. Yet finding funding, in particular long-term revenue funding remains a significant challenge. 'Paying for parks: eight models for funding urban green spaces' responds by setting out the main funding mechanisms for green spaces in the UK and abroad. Some could be replicated immediately, while others will take longer to implement and may require fiscal or legislative change. Paying for parks is a useful reference for parks and green space managers and regeneration professionals, as well as a call for a strategic rethink about how we resource these valuable assets.

The countryside in and around towns: A vision for connecting town and country in pursuit of sustainable development. The Countryside Agency and Groundwork, 2005

The Countryside Agency and Groundwork set out their vision for connecting town and country within this document. At the heart of this vision is the need to ensure a high quality of life for all whilst reducing our impact on the resources that we share.

The report sets out ten key functions for the countryside in and around towns to contribute to a high quality of life for all, in addition to reducing collective impacts on scarce resources. Key functions are defined as the creation of a bridge to the country and a gateway to the town, in addition to providing a health centre, a classroom and a centre for recycling and renewable energy. Other functions identified include the role of the countryside as a productive landscape, a cultural legacy, a place for sustainable living, an engine for regeneration and a nature reserve.

Biodiversity by Design: A guide for sustainable communities, Town and Country Planning Association, 2004

The Town and Country Planning Association document provides guidance on how to maximise the opportunities for biodiversity in the planning and design of sustainable communities. It offers exemplars from international projects on successful design and management of environmental infrastructure, benefiting communities, to demonstrate new approaches which have the potential for replication in the UK. The document considers core design principles which relate well to biodiversity, examines methods of analysing a site and its context, advises on how new Green Infrastructure can be created that links to existing networks, and considers detailed design and long term management.

'Accessible Natural Greenspace Standards in towns and cities' English Nature (2003)

A space for nature, Natural England (English Nature) 1996

This leaflet summarises the findings from English Nature's (Natural England) research on accessible natural greenspace, and, in particular, the role it plays in children's lives. This report outlines how:

- Everyday contact with nature is important for well being and quality of life

- Everyone should be able to enjoy this contact, in safety, without having to make any special effort or journey to do so
- Natural green spaces in towns and cities can play an important part in helping safeguard our national treasure of wildlife and geological features
- Accessible natural green spaces give everyone an excellent chance to learn about nature and to help protect it in practical ways

This summary document also sets out the standards for accessible natural greenspace developed by English Nature (Natural England).

The Regional Social Strategy: A strategy to achieve a fair and inclusive society in the East of England, EERA, CLG and EEDA, 2004

The Regional Social Strategy sets out a vision, objectives and actions to achieve a fair and inclusive society for the East of England. A key objective presented is SO6: To support the development of sustainable communities. The strategy highlights the strong links between proximity to nature and social wellbeing.

Action Point 3 of the strategy is as follows:

'To directly promote the development of strategic networks of green space that benefit physical and mental well being, particularly in areas of deprivation, by providing for more contact with nature for all across the Sustainable Communities Plan growth areas'.

Woodland for life: The regional woodland strategy for the East of England, EERA and the Forestry Commission, 2003

The regional woodland strategy sets out a vision and a series of action plans to enable trees and woodlands to deliver high quality and sustainable benefits within the region. Key themes include:

- Quality of life
- Spatial planning
- Economic development
- Renewable energy
- Education and learning
- Natural environment

The strategy considers the advantages that trees can bring to the urban fringe and the built environment, stating that trees and woodlands in and around the built environment can contribute towards creating places where people want to live and work and help to define the cultural identity of urban areas.

Appendix 2
The Brief

Suffolk Coastal District Council

Brief for Consultants

April 2010

SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL (SCDC)

TENDER BRIEF

THIS IS A STUDY IN TWO PARTS:

PART 1.

PREPARATION OF A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY FOR THAT PART OF THE DISTRICT NOT CURRENTLY COVERED BY THE HAVEN GATEWAY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY (APRIL 2008); AND

PART 2

PREPARATION OF A GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES PAPER FOR THE WHOLE SUFFOLK COASTAL DISTRICT COUNCIL AREA WHICH REVIEWS KEY CHANGES SINCE PRODUCTION OF THE HAVEN GATEWAY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY IN 2008, SUCH AS THE UPDATED DISTRIBUTION FOR DEVELOPMENT AND COUNTYWIDE LANDSCAPE CHARACTER INFORMATION NOW AVAILABLE, AND THE WORK OUTLINED IN PART 1.

PARTS 1 AND 2 WILL BE USED ALONGSIDE THE EXISTING HAVEN GATEWAY GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THE COUNCIL'S LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS

Introduction

1. The Study will be prepared for Suffolk Coastal District Council who is the commissioning authority for the work.

2. Suffolk Coastal District Council is one of the partners who comprise the Haven Gateway Partnership (HGP) which commissioned the original Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Study (HAGGIS). However, the Suffolk Coastal District Council area extends beyond the boundary of the Haven Gateway. In order to provide district wide information in relation to the need or otherwise for green infrastructure across it, it is therefore necessary to commission additional work to address this (the Extended Green Infrastructure Study) and this will form Part 1 of the Study. The timing of this additional work has been held in abeyance pending a decision on the Councils Local Development Framework Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, and in particular a decision in relation to the proposed distribution for new housing. That decision was taken by the Council at its meeting on 18th March 2010.

3. The original HAGGIS was a high level study and for the purposes of comparison and consistency of approach, Part 1 of this study will be undertaken and provide information at that same high level utilising the methodology and principles developed for that original study. The second part of the study will identify the issues that could arise at a district level based on a combination of the conclusions of the existing HAGGIS and the Extended Green Infrastructure Study but updated to take on board the current availability of county level landscape character assessment data and the now agreed development strategy for the district. (Council resolution 18/03/10)

Aims for Green Infrastructure

4. The aims set out below reflect those in the original HAGGIS.

5. Sustainable development recognises that growth must support society and the environment as well as the economy. The natural and historic environment makes an

essential contribution to the quality of life in the study area and is one of its principal assets, attracting tourists and workers as well as providing essential recreational opportunities.

6. Principles for the management of the East of England's natural, built and historic environment are set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy – East of England Plan 2008. Extracts from the Plan are at Appendix 1. Policy ENV1 relates to green infrastructure. The broad aims for green infrastructure underlying these policies, drawn from Natural England's Strategy for the United Kingdom are to:-

- a) conserve and enhance the natural and historic environment, including landscapes, biodiversity, natural resources and historic and cultural heritage;
- b) Increase the number, diversity and frequency of people enjoying the natural environment;
- c) Increase everyone's understanding of, and ability to take action for, the natural environment;
- d) Improve places for people to enjoy the natural environment.

Role of the Extended Green Infrastructure Study (Part 1.)

7. The role identified reflects that of the original HAGGIS which:

- a) assesses the interplay of the five main components of green infrastructure, namely:
 - i) physical resources and natural systems;
 - ii) ecological assets
 - iii) landscape character
 - iv) historical and cultural assets; and
 - v) access networks and recreational facilities.
- b) establishes an holistic and co-ordinated spatial framework for the delivery of high quality multi-functional green infrastructure over the next 20-25 years, complementing and supporting planned housing and employment growth.

8. The proposed strategy is intended to meet that requirement and together with the original HAGGIS inform the preparation Suffolk Coastal Development Plan Documents as envisaged in policy ENV1 of the RSS. All those crucial to the success of the SCDC Local Development Framework will need to engage with this strategy. A list of stakeholders is provided at Appendix 2. Other relevant plans and strategies are provided at Appendix 4.

Definition of Green Infrastructure

9. The RSS describes green infrastructure as, *"networks of protected sites, nature reserves, green spaces, waterways and green linkages"* It goes on to state *"By providing for multi-functional uses, i.e. landscape, wildlife, recreational and cultural experience, it contributes to liveability, whilst delivering biodiversity and other benefits including, potentially, flood relief."*

10. Appendix 3 lists those assets agreed as comprising green infrastructure in the Haven Gateway Sub-Region, but revised to relate only to the Suffolk Coastal District Council area.

Scope of the Extended Green Infrastructure Study

11. The focus of the study is the Suffolk Coastal District Council Area. For Part 1 of the study the focus is on the un-shaded area shown on Map 1. However, the study and the strategy should address green infrastructure features outside the study area which are or could in the future be used by its population, as these contribute to the functionality of the network. Likewise, the strategy should have regard to expected growth in other parts of neighbouring districts and the impact that this, along with existing demand, may have on green infrastructure within the Suffolk Coastal area or future provision.

12. The following will be essential components of the work:

- a) (Part 1) compilation of a consistent asset database on GIS layers using GIS layers provided by the Council's Representative or as otherwise agreed at the start of the contract. Appendix 3 sets out categories of information to be provided. In order to remain consistent with the original HAGGIS, sites under 2 hectares should not generally be included. However smaller sites may, together, form strategically important corridors and the consultants will need to assess this balance;
- b) (Part 1) a broad assessment of data on existing green infrastructure. Any recommendations for future surveys to fill gaps and deficiencies arising from Part 1 of the Study should be addressed in Part 2 of the study subject to clarification and written agreement with the Project Manager. Any issues of data quality should be reflected in caveats to the strategy.
- c) (Part 1) Applying the evidence-based methodology developed for the original HAGGIS to the remaining Suffolk Coastal District Council area.
- d) (Part 1) Analysis of the interplay of the five elements of green infrastructure referred to in paragraph 6a), particularly in relation to the proposed development areas as reflected in the Suffolk Coastal Core Strategy & Development Management Policies - Settlement Hierarchy and the needs of the increased population. The analysis should included the identification of existing multi-functional corridors and key green infrastructure features, gaps, sensitivities, areas of conflict, potential future conflicts and strategic opportunities for improving the functionality of the green infrastructure network for both the current and future population.;
- e) (Part 1) Discussion of the analysis from d) at a stakeholder event and any necessary revision required in response to that stakeholder event. This event should provide the opportunity for identification of specific green infrastructure projects insofar as they relate to the Extended Suffolk Coastal District Council area, including any which may result from development and population pressures from neighbouring local authority areas,
- f) (Part 1) Use and apply the principles developed for the original HAGGIS to re-draft a prioritised and phased implementation plan with approximate costings, including recommendations on sources of funding and delivery mechanisms.
- g) (Part 2) Preparation of a green infrastructure issues paper for the whole Suffolk Coastal District Council area (including the extended area covered in the work outlined in part 1) in order to review key changes since production of the Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure study in 2008, such as:
 - a. the updated distribution for development
 - b. the finalisation of the countywide landscape character assessment
 - c. the relationship of deficiency areas in relation to population at parish level both now and in the future
 - d. opportunities for refinement of areas of priority for new green infrastructure including project prioritisation
 - e. review of any limitations in the scope of the mapped datasets and the resultant deficiency mapping. e.g. the use of ANG criteria and standards to guide dataset selection and standard setting

13. In undertaking the work identified in paragraph 12, the implications of other relevant plans and strategies should be taken into account. Three areas of particular importance are:-

- a) The adopted Regional Spatial Strategy – East of England Plan and the Local Development Frameworks for each of the neighbouring Local Authority areas;
- b) Future coastal and estuarine management including the Shoreline Management Plans and coastal open access.
- c) the 2006 Countryside Agency /ECC funded project “Access to the Countryside in and around towns” all as referred to in the original HAGGIS.

14. In addition, in relation to both Parts 1 and 2 of the study consideration should also be given to the potential impact and opportunities that may arise in relation to green infrastructure requirements and provision should the government decide to confirm Sizewell as a site for additional nuclear power generation. It is expected that this aspect of the assessment will be based upon the most up to date and publicly available information available at the time. A list of the source data to be used will need to be agreed with the Project Manager at the appropriate time through the study period.

Presentation of Outputs

15. The outcome of the work in paragraphs 12-14 should be presented in the form of a written technical report with maps and appendices accompanied by an executive summary at A4 size. Maps should be produced at the appropriate scale both for the technical report and for more detailed use. The scale to be agreed with the Project Manager.

16. The material should be supported by digitised GIS layers showing existing green infrastructure assets both individually and combined, contextual socio-economic information, identified gaps and deficiencies in provision and proposals for new projects. The GIS layers should be available to all stakeholders at the end of the project in order that they can be used and updated as part of existing geographical information systems.

17. Four hard bound copies of the technical report and executive summary and 2 versions on CD Rom should be provided. A PDF version of the technical report and executive summary should be made available to be placed on the Council's website.

Final Report and Copyright

18. The copyright of the final report and executive summary and GIS layers will belong to Suffolk Coastal District Council which will reserve the right to distribute and publish the material in part or in whole.

Project Management

19. The Representative for the Council and first point of contact will be Hilary Hanslip and in her absence Matt Deakin (see contact details in Appendix 5)

20. Regular progress reports to the Representative will be required, the details of which are to be agreed at the inception meeting. The inception meeting is to be held no later than 2 weeks from the signing and dating of the attached contract document.

Appendix 3
Documents and GIS datasets consulted as part of this study

Physical resources and natural systems (topography; rivers, estuaries, coast and floodplain, mineral resources)

- Draft final Shoreline Management Plan (sub-cell 3C), *Suffolk Coastal District Council, Feb 2010.*
- East Suffolk Catchment Flood Management Plan summary report, *Environment agency 2009*
- Greenways Countryside project <http://www.greenlivingcentre.org.uk/greenways>

Ecological assets

- Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan
<http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/Environment/Biodiversity/BiodiversityActionPlans.htm>
- Alde / Blythe project <http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/living-landscapes/blyth-alde>
- Natural Connections – a shared vision for Suffolk's natural environmental future

Landscapes

- The European Landscape Convention – A Framework for Implementation; *Natural England in partnership with Defra and English Heritage; (October 2007)*
- European Landscape Convention; *Natural England's 2009/2010 Action Plan*
- Suffolk Landscape Character Assessment, *Suffolk County Council.*

Archaeology, historical and cultural assets

- A Framework for the Eastern Counties 1; resource assessment edited by J. Glazebrook, 1997.
- Farming the historic landscape: caring for archaeological sites on arable land *English Heritage, 2004.*
- Farming the historic landscape: caring for archaeological sites in grassland *English Heritage, 2004.*
- Coastal Defence and the Historic Environment *English Heritage, 2003.*
- Guidance on the management of conservation areas *English Heritage, 2006.*
- Suffolk Historic Landscape Characterisation mapping *SCC Archaeological Services, 1998/99*
- Suffolk Coastal Zone Rapid Assessment Survey. Archaeological survey: targeted inter-tidal survey; Everett, L; 2007
- The Aggregates Landscape of Suffolk: the Archaeological Resource; *SCC Archaeological Service, 2007.*

Access networks and recreational facilities

- Sandlings Forest Recreation Strategy, *Forestry Commission, 2006.*
- 'In step with Suffolk': Suffolk Rights of Way Improvement Plan *Suffolk County Council 2006-2016*
- Marine and Coast Access Act, *DEFRA, 2009*

Socio-economic

- LDF Interim Core Strategy and Development Management Policies, DPD, Interim Planning Policy; *Suffolk Coastal District Council, June 2010*
- Suffolk Coastal District Council Local Plan, second alteration *2006*
- Strategy and Action Plan 2007- 2009; *Suffolk Tourism Partnership*
- Suffolk Coastal District Council Economic development, Tourism & regeneration Strategy *2004 – 2009*
- Suffolk Local Area Agreement 2008-2011 (LAA2)
- The sustainable community strategy for Suffolk Coastal; *Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership, 2008*
- Suffolk Rural Action Plan, *Suffolk Rural Partnership 2008-2010*

Haven Gateway

- Smarter solutions for sustainable growth, *Haven Gateway Partnership, 2008-2011*
- Haven Gateway Green Infrastructure Strategy, *Haven Gateway Partnership, 2008.*

Regional

- 'Our environment, our future'; The regional environment strategy for the East of England, *EERA and EEEF, 2003.*
- Regional Spatial Strategy: East of England Plan, *EEDA, 2008*
- Woodland for life: The regional woodland strategy for the East of England, *EERA and the Forestry Commission, 2003*
- East of England tourism business plan, *2009-2010*
- Chapter 9, Delivering Healthy Futures, Regional health strategy; *EERA, 2005-2010*
- The regional economic strategy for the East of England, *EEDA, 2008-2031*

Map-based datasets consulted as part of this study.

Existing information	Source	Notes
Physical resources and natural systems (topography, rivers, estuaries, coast and floodplain, mineral resources)		
Flood plain Areas at flood risk	SCDC	ArcView GIS shape file format on a CD
Rivers and coast		Available via OPENDATA
Agricultural Land Classification	DEFRA	Available via MAGIC
Ecological assets		
Designated sites BAP habitats Areas targeted for Environmental Stewardship	Suffolk Biological Records Centre Suffolk Wildlife Trust Natural England	Available via MAGIC
Other information - LOWs	Natural England	ArcView GIS shape file
Landscape		
Suffolk Landscape Character Area Assessments	SCC	Available via MAGIC
National Character Areas	Natural England	Available via MAGIC
Historic landscape characterisation mapping	SCC	Web-based mapping + report and user guide
Access networks and recreational facilities		
Accessible natural green space (includes all sites > 2has with public access)	SCC SCDC	Available via Natural England ANGSt study base data
Other recreation areas > 2 has which form a key part of green infrastructure	SCDC	Only play spaces available from SCDC
Public rights of way, cycle routes, other permitted access (bridleways etc)	SCC	ArcView Web-based mapping for cycle routes
Strategic GI visitor attractions and tourism infrastructure	AONB/SCC/SCDC	Web-based information Or available via MAGIC
Water based recreational opportunities	EA	Not accessed
Navigable waterways	EA	Not accessed
Small ferries	SCDC	Web-based mapping
Countryside management (AONB boundary)	SCC SCDC	Available via MAGIC
Access information (A and B roads, railways etc.)	SCC	Available via OPENDATA
Socio / economic data		
Development sites	SCDC	Interim Core Strategy for major sites
Current and future population figures	SCDC	Raw spreadsheet data available
Index of multiple deprivation	SCDC/SCC	Web-based mapping + report
Strategic mineral extraction	SCC	Web-based Minerals Specific Site Allocation DPD proposals map (2009)
Areas for health walks	SCDC	ArcView GIS shape file
Archaeology, historical and cultural assets		
Scheduled Monuments	English Heritage/SCDC	Available via MAGIC
Registered Parks and Gardens	English Heritage/SCDC	As above
Listed Buildings	English Heritage/SCDC	As above
Conservation Areas	SCDC	As above

Appendix 4
Stakeholder consultation

The consultation event for the extended green infrastructure strategy consisted of a facilitated half-day workshop at Framlingham Technology Centre on October 6th 2010 with attendees representing 12 No. organisations. The workshop provided an opportunity to present the approach to the study, summarise the existing resource and ANG deficiencies, and identify any gaps or errors in the database, and to seek support for the principles and objectives informing the strategy that have been adapted from the HGGIS strategy. Small facilitated break out groups then had an opportunity to discuss the draft vision plan for the extended study area and identify the key opportunities for delivery or enhancement of the vision.

The full programme for the day consisted of:

	<i>Coffee/tea/networking</i>	
14.00	Welcome, housekeeping and introduction	SCDC Hilary Hanslip
14.10	Approach to the study, the existing resource and deficiencies in ANG	TLP Catherine Bailey
14.35	Principles and objectives informing the strategy; draft 'Vision' plan	TLP Simon Neesam
	<i>Break for tea/coffee</i>	
15.15	WORKSHOP IN GROUPS: Discussion of the vision plan; identification of key opportunities for ANG/green links enhancement	
16.15	Feedback from groups/Discussion	
16.45	Next steps	SCDC Hilary Hanslip
	<i>FINISH</i>	

Stakeholders had an opportunity to comment on the vision plan and identify key opportunities for ANG and green links. These comments and suggestions were incorporated into the Green Infrastructure Plan.

Stakeholders who attended the event are detailed below.

GI STAKEHOLDER EVENT	Attendees
Company	Representative
Natural England	Pat Williams
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	James Meyer
RSPB	Rob Machlin
Suffolk Coasts and Heaths Unit	Nick Collinson
Forestry Commission	Jim Smith
Environment Agency	Andrew Hunter
Sustrans Suffolk/Local Access Forum	Anthony Wright
Suffolk County Council	James Cutting
SCC	Edward Martin
SCC	Annette Robinson
SCDC	Anne Westover
SCDC	Hilary Hanslip

SCDC	Matt Deakin
SCDC	John Davies
SCDC	Luke Bennett
Woodland Trust	John Brown

Other stakeholders who were invited but could not attend included:

Company	Representative
Suffolk Wildlife Trust	Simone Bullion
English Heritage	Deborah Evans
Suffolk County Council	Peter Holborn
Sue Bull	Anglian Water

Appendix 5
Funding opportunities

Funding and Implementation

There are a range of ways of achieving and funding Green Infrastructure. A number of the sources are well established e.g. 106 Agreements while others are regularly changing with new and evolving government initiatives. Unlike the part of the district within the Haven Gateway sub-region where substantial development growth is anticipated, this more rural part of Suffolk Coastal District cannot expect that new developments will make a substantial contribution to new Green Infrastructure. It is likely that Green Infrastructure initiatives and projects proposed in the Strategy will involve a combination of funding sources and partnerships including developers, central government agencies, the voluntary sector and private landowners. The following provides an overview of the current key mechanisms.

Funding from planning and development opportunities

Planning Conditions

Planning conditions can be imposed on developers that relate to greenspace if they are consistent with national, regional and local planning policy and if they are justified in the particular circumstances of the proposed development. A residential developer may be required to provide sufficient greenspace to serve the proposed population. There must be a clear reason for the requirement of a condition. If these Green Infrastructure standards are adopted or incorporated into local standards, then the green infrastructure strategy can provide the evidence base to justify imposition of a greenspace condition on certain development sites. Conditions could be utilised to implement greenspace provision and also to ensure the continued management of greenspace.

Section 106 Agreements

These are associated with the development of land and are used to secure developer-funded initiatives which are closely related to the proposals, e.g. open access areas necessary to meet the local planning authority's open space requirements and recreation/sports facilities. Funding for greenspace/public access could be a combination of Section 106 and local authority contributions. Early discussions with site developers at masterplan stage are encouraged to ensure effective integration with the green infrastructure strategy. Capital costs for implementation and a commuted sum for maintenance are needed to secure new greenspace for the long term.

Community Infrastructure Levy

In April 2010, the Community Infrastructure Levy Regulations 2010 came into force. These new regulations include benefits for the local community, such as infrastructure improvements to the neighbourhood. In November 2010 the Coalition Government confirmed that the Community Infrastructure Levy, introduced by the previous Government would be continued but that the levy will be reformed to ensure neighbourhoods share the advantages of development by receiving a proportion of the funds councils raise from developers. These will be passed directly to the local neighbourhood so community groups can spend the money locally on the facilities they want, either by contributing to larger projects funded by the council, or funding smaller local projects like park improvements, playgrounds and cycle paths. These latter improvements could make a significant improvement to green infrastructure provision, particularly in urban or urban fringe areas.

The Localism Bill

The Localism Bill, published in December 2010, confirmed the abolition of Local Area Agreements (LAAs). With the Localism Bill, the government also announced that regional targets, captured in Regional Strategies, will be eradicated with the aim of restoring 'local decision-making' and that excessive documentation will be replaced with 'focused local plans that reflect the local area's vision'.

The Localism Bill proposes that local authorities are granted a General Power of Competence that will allow them to do anything which is not prohibited by law. The aim of this new power is to give local authorities greater opportunity to develop rapid, innovative responses to local challenges.

The Localism Bill also introduces new powers to enable communities to take greater responsibility for their local built environment. Firstly, it introduces a right to buy with the aim of giving community members the opportunity to take ownership of assets that are at risk of closure and subsequently manage them. This could include greenspace assets. Secondly, the Bill introduces a new right to build which gives residents the power to take forward development in their area without the need for planning permission, subject to meeting safeguards and having secured fifty percent support through referendum. This gives rural communities increased freedom to develop the homes and amenities, which could include new green infrastructure that they need.

Multiple Sector Partnerships

The Localism Bill also encourages cross-boundary collaboration and new ways of working, and introduces a new duty to cooperate with the aim of ensuring that local authorities and public sector bodies work together.

Partnerships are an essential element of the delivery of the multiple use of land. These could be between landowners, charities and trusts such as the Highways Agency, the County Council, the District Authority, and the RSPB for instance. To deliver the Green Infrastructure Strategy the role and approach of private landowners is particularly vital. Major landowners should be encouraged to identify land holdings that could make contributions towards the Green Infrastructure Strategy. The potential for countryside projects led by local communities in partnership with key landowners will be vital in enabling the rural network of Green Infrastructure to develop.

Charitable Trusts

These may be established to manage individual projects or a range of facilities. Trusts may be funded through a variety of sources, e.g. Section 106 agreement monies, grant-funding, bequests or charitable giving. Existing environmental trusts are also potential vehicles through which additional funding can be sought to help deliver some of the green infrastructure opportunities. These include the Wildlife Trust and RSPB.

Endowments

This focuses on ensuring the long-term sustainability of projects. Provision of an income generating fund or asset to assist with recurring running costs would facilitate the ongoing maintenance of the Green Infrastructure. The Land Trust, a limited company, launched in 2004 as the Land Restoration Trust with financial accountability to English Partnerships, aims to restore derelict, neglected or underused sites in this way, and maintain them for the community. A site in the ownership of the Homes and Communities Agency, for example, has been restored and protected in this way, at Vange Marsh, South Essex, where 4.5ha of undeveloped buffer land between the existing built up area and the wider countryside is now accessible to public use under the management of partner, RSPB. The freehold of the site was transferred to the Trust along with a dowry for the site's management and maintenance.

Private investment and Public-Private Partnerships

Private Finance Initiatives – PFI

Private Finance Initiatives may be appropriate where there is the prospect of a private investor being identified who could fund, operate and gain sufficient financial return to make the exercise worthwhile. This tends to apply to capital intensive public realm facilities such as schools, hospitals, motorways etc. where there is a secure income/payback stream. Such funding may be secured for Green Infrastructure components of PFI projects associated with sport provision, health care, roads and other infrastructure etc.

Public-Private Partnerships

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) may offer some scope and can be useful where a public authority owns land but does not have sufficient capital or expertise to establish manager facility. It is likely that active recreation and sports provision could attract PPP funding but it

is not considered that basic Green Infrastructure expenditure would yield anything like the return necessary to attract PPP funding.

Market Led Schemes and Income Generation

In areas of market demand, there may be scope to develop market led models and partnerships to deliver elements of green infrastructure. Income generation can also apply to certain facilities such as those associated with the National Trust and other Charities: tea rooms, shops, pay and display car parks. The use of income generating facilities and tourist facilities such as overnight accommodation in association with new recreational facilities such as long distance footpaths and cycle routes have the potential for growth in association with an enhanced network of Green Infrastructure. There might also be opportunities for franchising for specific facilities such as camping, boats, cafes, restaurants, boat/cycle hire within selected sites. Special events may also have the potential for income generation; however this would be highly dependent on the nature of the event concerned.

LEPS and the Regional Growth Fund

Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPS) are the organisations that nominally are going to replace the Regional Development Agencies (RDAs). They will be partnerships between local authorities and businesses and will aim to play a key part in promoting local economic development. LEPS' will have a key role in promoting and accessing the Regional Growth Fund (RGF), which is a new £1.4bn 3 year Fund from 2011-2014 that will operate across England to stimulate private sector led sustainable economic growth and employment. While all areas of England are eligible to bid for the RGF some parts of the country (particularly where there is currently high employment, low-levels of deprivation or a vibrant private sector) may struggle to demonstrate how they meet the second objective of the fund. It is conceivable that a large-scale development project with a substantial green infrastructure element could be supported in this way, although it is more likely to be funded within or at the fringe of one of the larger urban areas in Suffolk Coastal.

Tax Increment Financing

TIF is a tool that has been used for 50 years in the United States to use future gains in taxes to finance the current improvements that will create those gains. When a public project such as a road, school, or environmental improvement is carried out, there is an increase in the value of surrounding property and investments (new or rehabilitated buildings, for example). This increased site value and investment creates more taxable property, which increases tax revenues. The increased tax revenues are the "tax increment." TIF is designed to channel funding toward improvements in deprived or underdeveloped areas where development would not otherwise occur. TIF creates funding for public projects that may otherwise be unaffordable to localities. Again green infrastructure enhancements could be delivered on the back of a development opportunity, although this is more likely to occur within or at the fringes of one of the larger urban areas in Suffolk Coastal.

Specific funds and Grants

The Landfill Communities Fund (formally the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme)

The Landfill Communities Fund can generate finance for environmental, conservation and public amenity initiatives managed by registered environmental bodies, although these often preclude local authorities. Only projects located within 10 miles of an active landfill site are eligible and it must be recognised that with the emphasis moving away from landfill, this source of funding is likely to diminish. There are two methods of receiving funding through the LCF: either from a Distributive Environmental Bodies (DEBs), which includes bodies such as The Veolia Environmental Trust, Suffolk Environmental Trust or the Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts, or directly from a Landfill Operator (LO). The delivery of biodiversity conservation for UK species/habitats is one of the criteria often identified for funding and this mechanism has been successfully applied for Green Infrastructure projects elsewhere in the country, including by the RSPB at Vange Marshes in South Essex, and the Thames Chase Community Forest Partnership.

SITA Trust

SITA Trust launched its Enriching Nature programme back in September 2005 to encourage conservation and environment projects to apply for funding through the Landfill Communities Fund. The Enriching Nature Programme provides funding for biodiversity projects around any licensed and registered landfill site in England. Enriching Nature has been designed to support the recovery of species and habitats identified as a priority by both national and regional biodiversity action plans. SITA Trust has committed new funds to the Enriching Nature Programme that will enable it to run for three years from 2010 - 2012. The Trust has committed £8m in new funds to this programme. In 2011 a total of £2.7m has been allocated, equivalent to £300,000 for each of England's nine biodiversity regions. Applicants may request up to £120,000 for an individual project. There are two application deadlines in 2011.

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF)

Natural England's ALSF Grant Scheme aims to support projects that reduce the effects of aggregate extraction on local communities and the natural environment. The fund supports projects which involve and deliver benefits for one or more of the following themes:

- Landscape and Nature Conservation
- Access and Informal Recreation
- Health and Well-being
- Education and Understanding
- Evidence Gathering

The ALSF grant scheme is currently closed, and is not expected to reopen in financial year 2010/11. Should funds unexpectedly be made available this will be made known via the Natural England website.

Environmental Stewardship

Environmental Stewardship is an agri-environment scheme that provides funding to farmers and other land managers in England to deliver effective environmental management on their land. Entry Level Stewardship provides a straightforward approach to supporting the good stewardship of the countryside. It is open to all farmers and landowners. Higher Level Stewardship involves more complex types of management and agreements are tailored to local circumstances. HLS applications are assessed against specific local targets and agreements offered where they meet these targets and represent good value for money. Defra has confirmed the details of spending on Higher Level Stewardship until 2014. More money is to be spent on protecting wildlife and reducing water pollution and less on farm renovations and access to the countryside. Spending on Higher Level Stewardship (HLS), which delivers the biggest benefits for biodiversity and the natural environment, will increase by over 80% by 2013/14 compared with 2010/11. However, access revenue payments will be stopped in new HLS agreements although payments under existing agreements will continue as before. This could have a negative impact on potential green infrastructure access projects.

English Woodland Grant Scheme

These grants, which are being administered by the Forestry Commission, under the Rural Development Programme for England provide funding support for landowners wanting to create new woodland and carry out sustainable woodland management, particularly where it protects and enhances the woodland's environmental or social value. Landowners and tenant farmers should be encouraged to apply for the grants wherever possible. The English Woodland Grant Scheme can fund new woodlands planted under Section 106 agreements or under other Conditions of Planning (depending on the usual eligibility entry criteria attached to the scheme).

Lottery Funding

Big Lottery Fund

The Big Lottery Fund is responsible for distributing half of the money that the National Lottery raises for good causes.

Awards for All

The Awards for All England programme aims to help improve local communities and the lives of people most in need. The fund can support environmental projects and would suit small-scale community based projects run by Parish Councils or Neighbourhood Forums. Grant funds can be between £300 and £10,000. with a short and simple application form, and a response time of six weeks.

Community spaces

Community Spaces is a £57.5 million open grants programme that is managed by Groundwork UK's Open Grants Department. The programme helps community groups in England create or improve green, open spaces to enhance people's quality of life. Applications must be from community groups defined as 'people living in one particular area and focused on a neighbourhood who are considered as a unit because of their common interests, background, nationality or other circumstances'. The grants programme closes on January 7th 2011.

Heritage Lottery Grants

These are site/topic related (e.g. Public Parks initiative) which usually involves the restoration of existing features. They can be applied for and administered by local government, quasi public organisations and charitable trusts etc. Individual projects can start applying for funding in late 2007 for 'Changing Spaces'. This programme aims to help communities in England improve their environment through three strands: community spaces; local community enterprise; and access to the natural environment. Up to £234 million is available until 2009 to improve local environments and create a greater sense of community ownership of them.

New Parks for People Programme

The Parks for People Programme offers grants ranging from £250,000 to £5 million for projects that will improve public parks in the UK, and create new opportunities for communities to learn about and enjoy their local environment. For the purposes of this scheme, the term 'public park' refers to an existing designed urban or rural green space, the main purpose of which is for informal recreation and enjoyment. Such parks are usually owned and managed by a local authority, although applications from other not-for-profit organizations that own public parks are welcomed. A number of criteria, including the park meeting the local social, economic and environmental needs, need to be met for funding to be granted. Importantly both capital work and revenue activities will be supported. From December 1st 2010, reduced match-funding criteria were introduced to enable projects to keep moving forward at a time of economic hardship.

Reaching Communities

This programme, originally launched in 2005, has two strands:

1. Reaching Communities – funding from £10,000 to £500,000 for revenue projects and/or smaller capital projects up to £50,000
2. Reaching Communities buildings – funding of between £100,000 and £500,000 for large capital projects

The programme's aims include improvement of community life skills, improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy, and healthier and more active people and communities. These aims all give opportunities for green infrastructure assets to be enhanced. The fund is open to voluntary and or community organisations, schools, a local authority, not for profit organisations or social enterprise.