

## **Annex C**

### **Local Development Framework Core Strategy Preferred Options**

#### **Section 14: Green Infrastructure**

##### **Strategic Objectives Targets Policy CS13**

## **Strategic Objectives**

### **Nature Conservation**

- To conserve and enhance biodiversity having particular regard to the maintenance, restoration and re-creation of priority habitats and species;
- To maintain and increase the tree cover across York whilst ensuring specific protection for ancient woodland, aged and veteran trees;
- To preserve and enhance the River Ouse, Foss, Derwent and other waterways and their flood plains for biodiversity; and
- To promote accessibility, where appropriate, to natural greenspace, including country parks and woodland.

### **Open space (recreational and natural)**

- To protect existing open space provision;
- To enhance the quality of existing open space and promote biodiversity where feasible;
- To increase accessibility to existing open space;
- To create new areas of open space where needed; and
- To promote understanding of and interest in natural open space.

### **Green Corridors and Linkages**

- To maintain and enhance a city-wide network of green corridors that link the above as part of the wider green infrastructure network.

## **Targets**

### **Nature Conservation**

- No loss or damage to existing wildlife habitats;
- An increase in the number of sites incorporating management for biodiversity;
- An increase in woodland cover in York whilst protecting ancient woodland, aged and veteran trees;
- An increase in the area and extent of waterways and floodplains under management for biodiversity; and
- An increase in accessibility to natural greenspace, where appropriate.

### **Open space**

- An increase in the overall level of quality of provision across York;
- A reduction in the open space deficiencies identified in the PPG17 Study;
- All new developments meeting the standards as identified in the PPG17 Study; and
- An increase in the multifunctional quality of open space; and

### **Green Corridors and Linkages**

- An increase in the quality and extent of green corridors and linkages.

### **Policy CS13: Green Infrastructure**

The Council's approach to nature conservation, open space and the green corridors which link them is brought together in this policy and will be expanded on through a Green Infrastructure Strategy SPD which will ensure the protection, enhancement, management and maintenance of York's green corridors and wider green infrastructure network.

The SPD will act as a strategy that will support the Council to:

- **Promote effective stewardship of the city's wildlife through:**
  1. Identifying and safeguarding nature conservation sites identified through the Biodiversity Audit as well as national and international protected sites from inappropriate development including the provision of buffer zones where necessary to protect them from negative human impacts;
  2. Developing and maintaining a citywide network of local wildlife sites and wildlife corridors, links and stepping stones between areas of natural green space;
  3. Ensuring that development retains, protects and enhances features of geological, geomorphological or biological interest, and provides for the appropriate management of these features;
  4. Ensuring development seeks to produce a net gain in biodiversity by designing in wildlife, and ensuring any unavoidable impacts are appropriately mitigated;
  5. Supporting wildlife enhancements which contribute to the habitat restoration targets set out in the Regional Biodiversity Strategy and the emerging York Biodiversity Action Plan;
  6. Maintaining and increasing tree cover across the city and ensuring that important individual trees, groups of trees and hedgerows are protected and enhanced; and
  7. Ensuring that the Rivers Ouse, Foss and Derwent and other smaller waterways are maintained and enhanced for biodiversity as well as recreational activities.
  
- **Ensure that provision will be made for all levels of open space based on those required in the PPG17 Study by;**
  8. Protecting existing open space in York in areas where a deficiency has been identified;
  9. Implementing the open space standards identified in the PPG17 Study; and
  10. Identifying new open space sites through the Allocations DPD process both within new development sites and as freestanding spaces.
  
- **Promote good access to natural greenspaces by enhancing existing sites and creating new ones.**
  
- **Protect, enhance and create green corridors which promote walking and cycling for recreational and commuting purposes.**