

**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER PLANNING****PROJECT CLOSURE REPORT ON THE 6CS STRATEGIC GREEN  
INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMME****Purpose of the Report**

1. To report on the work undertaken through the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure (SGI) Programme and the Project Closure Report.

**Information and Advice**

2. Natural England defines Green Infrastructure as “a strategically planned and delivered network comprising the broadest range of high quality green spaces and other environmental features...designed and managed as a multifunctional resource capable of delivering those ecological services and quality of life benefits required by the communities it serves and needed to underpin sustainability. Its design and management should also respect and enhance the character and distinctiveness of an area with regard to habitats and landscape types.” It also considers that Green Infrastructure (GI) “needs to be delivered at all spatial scales...accommodating both accessible natural green spaces within local communities and often much larger sites in the urban fringe and wider countryside.”
3. The Three Cities (Derby, Leicester and Nottingham) and the Three Counties (Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire), or 6Cs, Growth Point came into being in 2006, as one of 29 areas proposed nationally for significant housing growth under the Sustainable Communities Plan.
4. The 6Cs Growth Point Partnership was co-ordinated through a Programme Management Board and this Board took a decision to top slice 10% of Growth Point funding to develop and deliver strategic GI. This was strongly recommended by the Department of Communities and Local Government (CLG) but was not a mandatory requirement and was testament to the 6Cs Growth Point Partnership's commitment to the importance of delivering strategic GI to support growth.
5. A Strategic Green Infrastructure Board was formed to co-ordinate the delivery of an agreed programme comprising:
  - the production of the 6Cs GI Strategy and Action Plan to provide a long term vision and strategic framework for the delivery of GI across the sub-region and a robust evidence base for the LDF process;

- administration of Growth Point funding for SGI;
- championing GI and promoting best practice.

Membership of the Board includes Country Land and Business Association, Derby City Council, Derbyshire County Council, English Heritage, Environment Agency, Forestry Commission, Greenspace East Midlands, Leicester City Council (Accountable Body), Leicestershire County Council (Secretariat), Natural England (Chair), Nottingham City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council (Vice Chair) and the voluntary sector through East Midlands Environment Link.

6. The programme is now coming to a close and the Project Closure Report will provide detail on the work undertaken on each strand of the programme. Key achievements from the Report are included here. The table below summarises the total programme budget and expenditure:

<b>SGI Growth Fund Programme</b>	<b>Capital £</b>	<b>Revenue £</b>
Current Programme Totals	3,002,441	369,239
Unallocated	98	0
<b>SGI Lifetime Budgets</b>	<b>3,002,539</b>	<b>369,239</b>

11 Strategic GI projects have been delivered through the Programme and details of these, with budget allocations are included in the table below:

<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Contract Value</b>
Derby City Greenway	Riverside Path & Access improvements and biodiversity enhancements	£318,000
Derwent Valley Greenway	New high quality multi-user trail in a green corridor (Greenway)	£131,000
Erewash Valley Trail	Formation of walking and cycling trail with improvements to the quality of the route, enhancing biodiversity interest and providing information about the valley.	£453,086.86
National Forest Cycling Centre	Trails, Interpretation and Way Marker aspects of wider creation of a specific cycling centre.	£300,000
Abbey Meadows	Enhancement and creation of a series of connecting habitats, improved access and increased visual amenity.	£110,330.13
Rally Park	Improvements to Rally Park to provide enhanced GI for existing and new communities.	£484,669.87
Shipley Lakeside Nature Reserve	Purchase 148.2 acres to establish the land as a nature reserve and extension to Shipley Country Park	£608,954

Soar Valley Signage	A programme of branded signage improvements to link the city centre with the Soar Valley GI corridor	£68,000
Syston Land Purchase	Purchase of 9.5ha former gravel extraction site for nature reserve for the benefit of wildlife and people and improved access to quality green space.	£26,400
South Hucknall GI	Upgrading accessibility/functionality of pedestrian/cycling corridors to the south of Hucknall, enhancing the biodiversity value of the routes and the green spaces they connect.	£203,000
Leen Corridor Enhancement	Enhancing the accessibility, recreation value and biodiversity of a 3km stretch of the River Leen Corridor	£299,000

### Other Options Considered

7. Not applicable.

### Reason/s for Recommendation/s

8. The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Programme has been very successful, setting high standards for delivering GI projects with a range of partners and attracting interest from government and partnerships in other parts of the country. In November 2010, the Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy won the East Midlands RTPI 2010 Regional Award for Rural Areas and Natural Environment.

### Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### RECOMMENDATION/S

10. To note the work undertaken through the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Programme and the highlights of the Project Closure Report .

**Sally Gill**  
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**For any enquiries about this report please contact: Heather Stokes, Conservation Team Manager (0115 969 6508)**

#### **Constitutional Comments (SHB.15.05.12)**

11. There are no constitutional comments as the report is for noting only.

#### **Financial Comments (DJK 15.05.12)**

12. The contents of this report are duly noted; there are no financial implications.

#### **Background Papers**

The 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Strategy , advice sheets and information on projects:

<http://www.emgin.co.uk/default.asp?PageID=192>

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

#### **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

Hucknall	Beauvale	Beeston North
Beeston South & Attenborough	Bramcote & Stapleford	Chilwell & Toton
Eastwood	Kimberley & Trowell	Nuthall
Arnold North	Arnold South	Calverton
Carlton East	Carlton West	Newstead
Bingham	Cotgrave	Keyworth
Radcliffe-on-Trent	Ruddington	Soar Valley
West Bridgford Central & South	West Bridgford West	