



Derry City & Strabane
District Council
Comhairle
Chathair Dhoire &
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Derry Cittie & Strabane
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Derry City and Strabane District Council

Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032

Non-technical Summary



DEVELOPED BY

THE DERRY & STRABANE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Green Infrastructure Plan 2019-2032

Non-technical Summary

Derry City and Strabane District Council and its partners have developed a draft Green Infrastructure (GI) Plan for the District. This Plan aims to improve areas with plants, trees and water across the District.

It sets out a new approach that requires a change to the way we think about and value these spaces. It highlights that these areas provide a range of benefits including helping fight the impact of climate change, improving public parks, play areas, food growing opportunities and the development of greenways. Our vision is:

'By 2032 the environmental, economic and social benefits of Green Infrastructure will be valued and maximised by all.'

The main themes of the GI Plan are illustrated below (Figure 1):

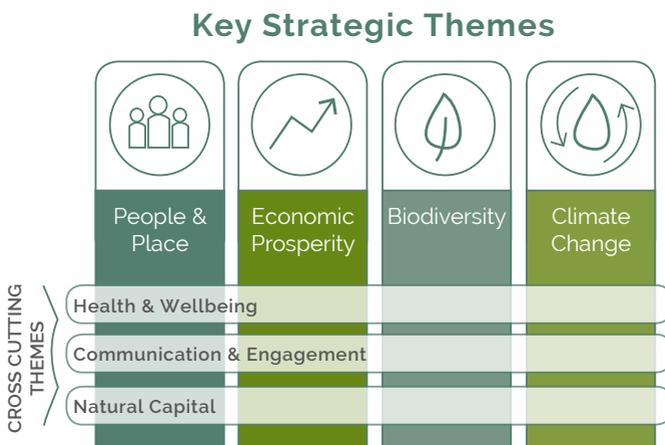


Figure 1 Green Infrastructure cross cutting and key strategic themes.

Key Strategic Themes

People & Place

The Plan will provide good quality green spaces and waterways. It will involve investment in parks, play areas and growing the greenway network.



Figure 2 Brooke Park, a high quality park with play facilities.

Economic prosperity

Green Infrastructure can make cities, towns and villages better places to visit, live and work in because:

- High quality, well maintained green spaces attract businesses and encourage people to spend more time and money in an area.
- The beautiful natural environment is a big draw for tourists, with the District located where the Wild Atlantic Way meets the Causeway Coastal Route.
- Creating space for growing food through allotments & community gardens improves people's access to healthy food and encouraging active living.
- It can create jobs, connecting more people with nature, developing career paths and increasing volunteering.



Figure 3 Food growing opportunities at St Columb's Park (Acorn Farm).

Biodiversity

Nature provides a range of environmental, social and economic benefits through ecosystem services (Figure 4). The Plan aims to address the main threats to nature such as habitat loss or damage, invasive alien species, climate change and pollution.

Figure 4 Ecosystem Services
(Source: Waterways Ireland's Valuing Ireland's Rural and Urban Inland Waterways, 2016).



Climate change

Climate change leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, duration and timing of extreme weather and climate events. Council is developing the first Local Authority Climate Adaptation Plan for the District, using GI approaches to reduce the impact of climate change.





Cross Cutting Themes

There are three cross cutting themes:

- **Health and wellbeing**
Green Infrastructure protects the environment (Figure 4) and provides opportunities to relax, exercise and experience natural surroundings to improve our physical and mental health.
- **Communication and Engagement**
Aims to increase awareness, understanding, appreciation and use of Green Infrastructure.
- **Natural Capital**
these are the natural assets that benefit people (Figure 4).

Public Consultation

Green Infrastructure Plan 2019 – 2032

Members of the public are invited to attend a public consultation event, to provide feedback on the draft Green Infrastructure Plan on:

- **Wednesday 20th March 2019, 13:00 – 20:00,**
Guildhall, Derry
- **Thursday 21st March 2019, 13:00 – 20:00,**
Ground Floor, Alley Theatre, Strabane, County Tyrone

Further information is available on www.derrystrabane.com/GI
Or by contacting Christine Doherty by **telephone: 028 71 253253** or
by **email: Christine.doherty@derrystrabane.com**

This information is available upon request in a number of formats including large print, Braille, PDF, audio formats (CD, MP3, DAISY) and minority languages)

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