

# **Joint Scrutiny** **23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018**

## **West of England** **Green Infrastructure Plan**

# What is Green Infrastructure

## **WoE Green Infrastructure Framework (2011):**

GI is a planned network of green (and blue) spaces and corridors within, around and between towns and cities, which can be designed, maintained, and improved to meet the needs of local communities, wildlife and the environment.

A network of green infrastructure offers multiple benefits, which are essential to the sustainable growth of communities and the economy. These include:

- *Supporting resilient ecosystems and biodiversity*
- *Mitigating and adapting the natural and built environment to climate change*
- *Recognising and enhancing a legible network of physical green spaces and corridors*
- *Reducing and managing flood risks*
- *Improving mental and physical health, and the cohesion of local communities*
- *Increasing sustainable food production*
- *Maintaining and enhancing cultural heritage, landscapes and natural resources*

# JSP and Green Infrastructure

Initial GI assessment work based on WoE Framework themes used to:

- Assess GI for each Strategic Development Location

- List key WoE habitats and species

- Identify initial key strategic GI corridors

- Identify next steps – ambition for the GI Plan

# The Ambition for the GI Plan

- Opportunity for new green leadership. *'Greening the city regions opportunities for Metro Mayors (May 2017)\** report, supported need for WoE GI Plan.
- Bristol European Green Capital 2015
- Government ambition; A green future; Our 25yr plan to improve the environment

\* NT, WTs, CPRE, Campaign for better transport, Green Alliance

# JSP and Green Infrastructure

The JSP policy outlines the production of a GI Plan:

- To meet the requirements of the Habitat Regulation Assessment\* as agreed with NE
- To identify strategic GI measures and requirements (policy 6)
- To support delivery of place shaping principles (policy 5)

\*The Habitat Regulation Assessment outlines the GI Plan as a mechanism to delivery strategic mitigation for ecological sites

# West of England GI Plan – Project Initiation Document

**Priority** to provide evidence and guidance to support the JSP examination and preparation of local plans.

**Essential it is practical**, example driven document(s)

**GI Plan** may take form of a suite of interrelated documents

# The Project Deliverables

## Proposed Timetable

Ongoing to Sept 2018

March 2018– March  
2019

Ongoing to Sept 2018

Summer 2018

Late 2018

## A West of England Green Infrastructure Plan to include:

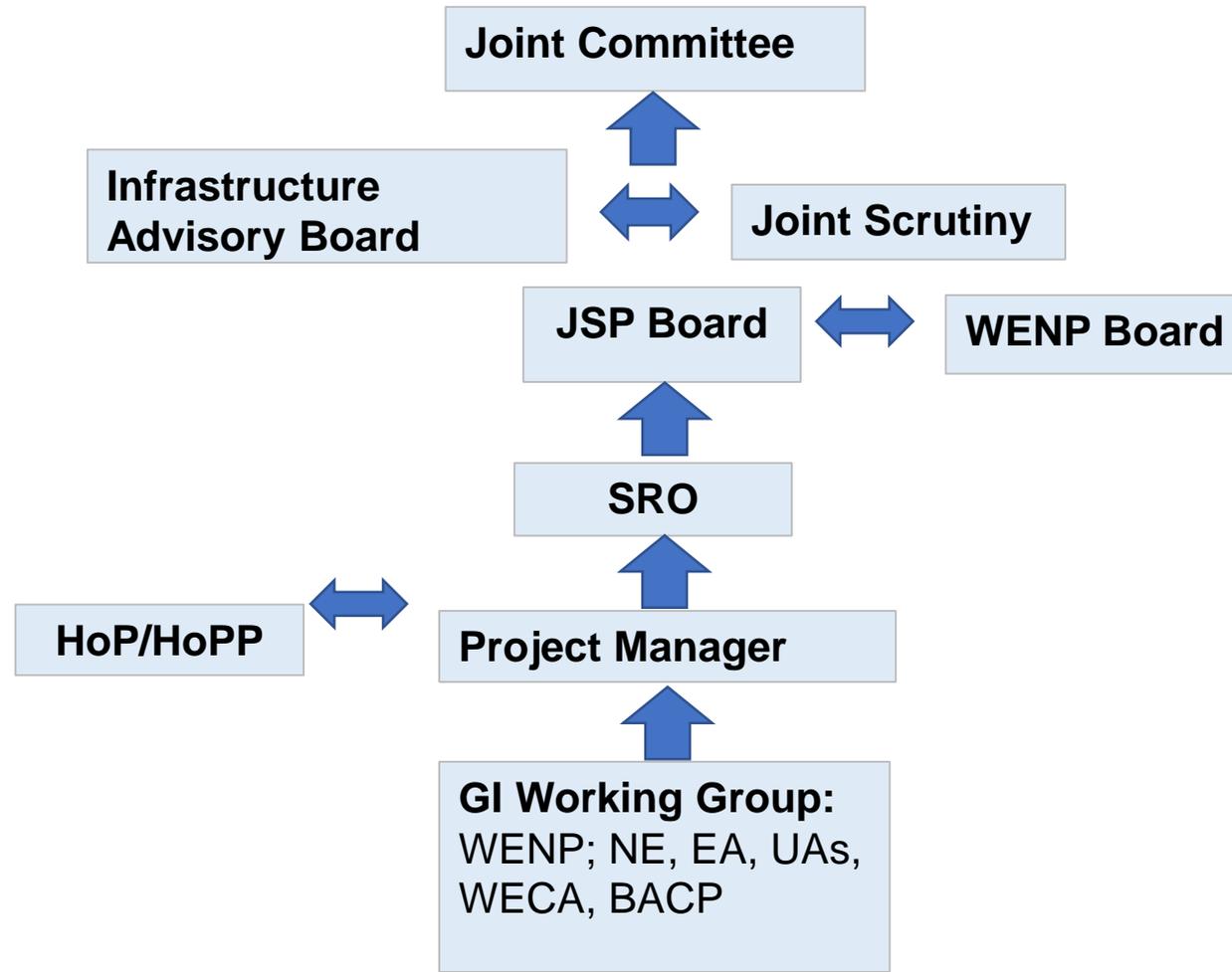
- 1. Baseline stock take of current position**– to identify existing evidence base and determine.
- 2. Core Document** - GI Vision and objectives; WoE targets and indicators, relationship to national policy and strategy.
- 3. HRA mitigation** – to advance the work undertaken for the HRA by reviewing impacts and further appraising mitigation required to deliver the strategic development locations in relation to sites of international and national importance.
- 4. Planning policy development and support** – to provide planning policy-related guidance at both the strategic and detailed level to be included within, or to support, local plans.
- 5. Delivery and implementation** – to investigate and identify the various delivery options and opportunities.

# Project Governance

As the Green Infrastructure Plan is a requirement of the JSP and is required to support its delivery, the plan and its component parts will be formally approved by the JSP Board.

**Senior Responsible Officer**– Laura Ambler (WECA)

**Project Manager** - Sarah Jackson (B&NES).



# Green Infrastructure Plan Objectives

## For discussion

1. To maintain and enhance a functional and connected strategic green infrastructure network maximising opportunities for enhancing networks of green corridors and open space.
2. To establish and maintain coherent and resilient ecological networks, by reducing fragmentation, and delivering habitat restoration, re-creation and biodiversity enhancement.
3. To provide natural solutions to help tackle the impacts of climate change, such as increased use of trees and green spaces to reduce urban heating, land uses that absorb carbon dioxide, and active travel solutions to reduce motorised transport.
4. To optimise the use of green infrastructure and natural ecosystem services to deliver sustainable water management, flood mitigation measures and reduce flood risk.
5. To improve the network of active travel routes and accessibility to green spaces to support healthy lifestyles and provide more opportunities for people to connect with nature.
6. To design and deliver high quality green infrastructure improving local sense of place to protect and enhance landscape character, and the natural, cultural and heritage services that they provide.
7. To recognise opportunities for local food production in urban and rural areas and increase food security by protecting the best and most versatile agricultural land.
8. To create attractive areas for inward investment by enhancing green infrastructure within and around housing and employment sites that demonstrate strong links to the wider green infrastructure network.