

## Appendix 1

Key Issue Raised	Council Response and Action
<p>Commend and support BCC for developing the plan which provides clear recognition of the critical role and benefits of GBI, including for ecosystems services, health and wellbeing and biodiversity.</p>	<p>We welcome the support given to our vision, together with the constructive comments and suggestions put forward in the responses we received.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
<p>Concerns were raised regarding target date being too long in the future. Some respondents suggested 2031 or sooner to reflect the climate emergency.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted.</b> The vision date aligns with the Belfast Agenda (BA) and new Belfast Local Development Plan (LDP) timeframe and is considered appropriate. The principles set out in the Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (GBIP) will immediately start to inform council operations and decision-making.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
<p>Concern raised over the implementation and delivery of the GBIP and its lack of actions and targets.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted</b> The GBIP is not intended as an action plan. It is an overarching strategy recognising the many benefits of green and blue infrastructure (GBI) and how these can be incorporated into projects and plans across the city. The effective delivery of the vision and principles will be implemented through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new LDP, Belfast Open Space Strategy (BOSS) and Local Biodiversity Strategy and council investment in projects. Also through engagement with other Government departments and bordering local Councils who have similar responsibility and functions.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
<p>Greater emphasis should be given to benefits of biodiversity and the council's duties in furthering biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Add reference to the WANE Act 2011 and the council statutory duty to further biodiversity, along with minor consequential wording edits in relevant sections of document.</p>
<p>Clarification required on definitions of ecosystems and their services.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Definitions of ecosystems and ecosystem services to be included in final GBIP.</p>

<p>Suggestion made for specific recognition of ancient woodland and long established woodlands and the multi-benefits associated from trees and hedges relating to biodiversity, air quality and flooding.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b> Trees are mentioned throughout the GBIP. It is accepted that ancient trees and hedges are not specifically referred to and it is agreed that mention should be made. However, the GBIP is a strategic framework document and is unable to include every possible natural asset for detailed discussion in the Plan.</p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Add references to ancient trees/hedges in introductory text.</p>
<p>Various suggestions for minor rewording to help clarify or emphasise key points throughout draft document.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted and agreed.</b></p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Minor wording amendments throughout document to aid clarity or emphasis that do not alter the overall direction or strategic principles set out in the draft document.</p>
<p>Suggestion that some of the mapping could be improved.</p>	<p><b>Comment noted and agreed</b> The GBIP is a strategic framework and the mapping is illustrative and not site-specific. Nevertheless, it is accepted that the environmental designations map may be confusing and could be simplified.</p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Simplification of the environmental designations map.</p>
<p>Suggestion that the diagram showing LDP and Belfast Agenda (BA) linkages could be improved.</p>	<p><b>Comment noted.</b> This diagram illustrates the potential linkages between GBI and the priorities of the BA and LDP. It is illustrative only. Nevertheless, it is agreed that a clearer description should be added, along with footnotes for data sources.</p> <p><b>Proposed action:</b> Revise the diagram description/heading and add footnotes.</p>
<p>Suggested that council should lead by example in GBIP.</p>	<p><b>Comment Noted.</b> The effective delivery of the vision and principles will be implemented through its influence on other plans, strategies, programmes and projects, including through the new LDP, the BOSS, Local Biodiversity Action Plan and council investment in projects.</p> <p><b>No further action required</b></p>
<p>Suggestions to revise the wording of the vision to simplify it and make it more explicit in relation to Biodiversity.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted.</b> The vision statement is concise and considered appropriate, given the nature of the document. It should be read in the context of the entire GBIP. Nevertheless, the proposed changes to clarify definitions and emphasise biodiversity outlined above will also help address suggestions made.</p> <p><b>No further action required</b></p>

<p>Comments stress the need to protect, enhance and preserve existing open spaces and create new open spaces, especially a city centre green space.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted.</b> This is addressed in the GBIP, which includes specific reference to opportunities to green the city centre. This will be delivered through other plans, strategies and projects by the council and its partners.</p> <p><b>No action required</b></p>
<p>Suggestion regarding management principles for a healthy public realm and natural environment.</p>	<p><b>Comments Noted.</b> The LDP includes planning policies in relation to the natural environment and public realm, which will address the concerns highlighted.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
<p>Comment that the rural portion of the area deserves a much more prominent and detailed emphasis.</p>	<p><b>Comment noted.</b> It is considered that this strategic framework document, including associated illustrative mapping, clearly shows how the urban area sits with its countryside setting and that all areas have a part to play.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
<p>Comment that sustainable transport should have greater emphasis and the importance of connectivity and to include wildlife corridors between green spaces.</p>	<p><b>Comment noted.</b> It is considered that this strategic framework document, including associated illustrative mapping, clearly recognises the opportunities for, and importance of, sustainable and active travel, including greenways. The GBIP aims to improve sustainable transport means and connectivity between greenspaces where possible and this will be implemented through the existing planning policies and the new LDP.</p> <p><b>No action required.</b></p>
<p>A number of respondents raised concern over the loss of green open space to development of 3G pitches - in particular Glassmullin Green.</p>	<p><b>Comments noted.</b> This is a site specific matter that is not directly relevant to the GBIP, which is a strategic framework document. This specific matter was subject to due planning process.</p> <p><b>No action required</b></p>