

Green Infrastructure & Natural Environment

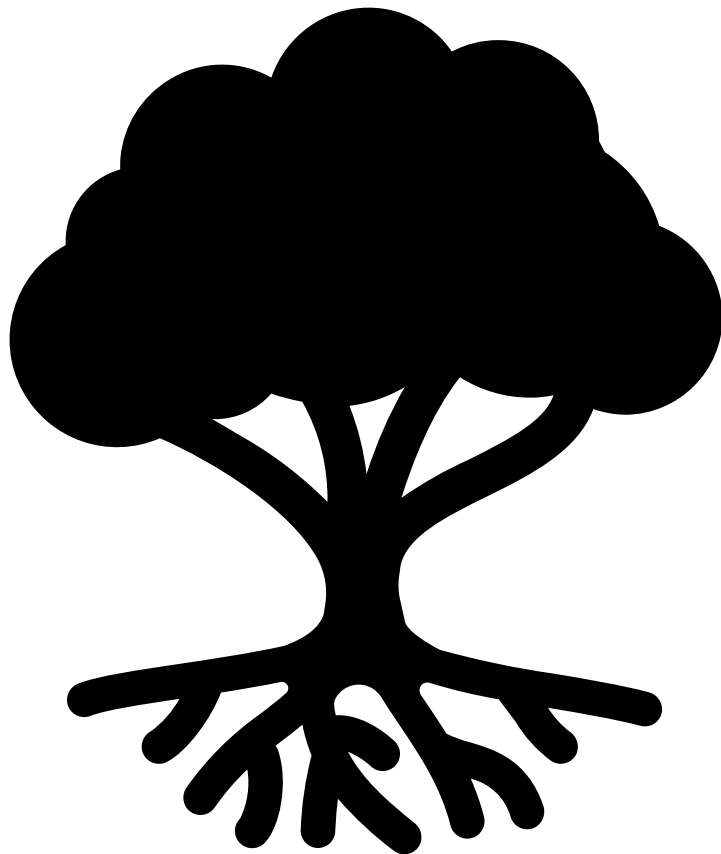




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8. Green Infrastructure & Natural Environment

Introduction

- 8.1. Trafford's natural environment is a mixture of urban, semi-urban and rural green and blue assets with a wide variety of primary uses such as recreation, climate resilience, flood mitigation and wildlife habitat. The assets provide a range of services and benefits for people, places and biodiversity including ecological connectivity, habitat and species protection, nature recovery networks, place and local identity, improved health and wellbeing, mitigating climate change and improving water and air quality.
- 8.2. The policies in this chapter seek to protect, enhance and manage the green infrastructure network, locally designated sites and landscape character, as well as identify Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity Opportunity Areas, and inform new development.

Corporate Plan Priorities



Policy Exclusions from the Local Plan

- 8.3. The Local Plan needs to be read alongside Places for Everyone (PfE) and national policy / guidance. Policy requirements which are adequately covered by other existing policies have, where possible, not been duplicated in the Local Plan. This includes policies in the Greener Places chapter.



Landscape Character

Policy GI1: Landscape Character Areas

- A. Development proposals which protect or enhance the landscape character, biodiversity, geodiversity and conservation value of its natural and landscape assets, having regard not only to its immediate location but its surroundings and context, and comply with other relevant policies, in particular Policies BE1 & BE2 (Design & Heritage Assets), will be supported.
- B. Development will not be permitted where it would have a significant adverse impact on the special quality and sensitivity of a landscape character type, as shown on the Figure 8-1.
- C. Any development that could have an adverse impact on landscape and or character should be accompanied by a Landscape and Visual Impact Appraisal, the scope of which would be determined through consultation with the Council.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G1; JP-G3; JP-G4; and JP-P2.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO2; SO3; SO7; SO9

8.4. The Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (GMLCSA) assessed the quality and sensitivity of different landscapes. Out of the ten identified landscape types, four are relevant to Trafford, notably:

- Broad Urban Fringe Valleys - along the Mersey Valley and Bollin Valley to the south;
- Historic Parks and Wooded Estate Farmland - centred around the Dunham Massey estate;
- Urban Fringe Farmland - in the southeast of the Borough around Davenport Green;



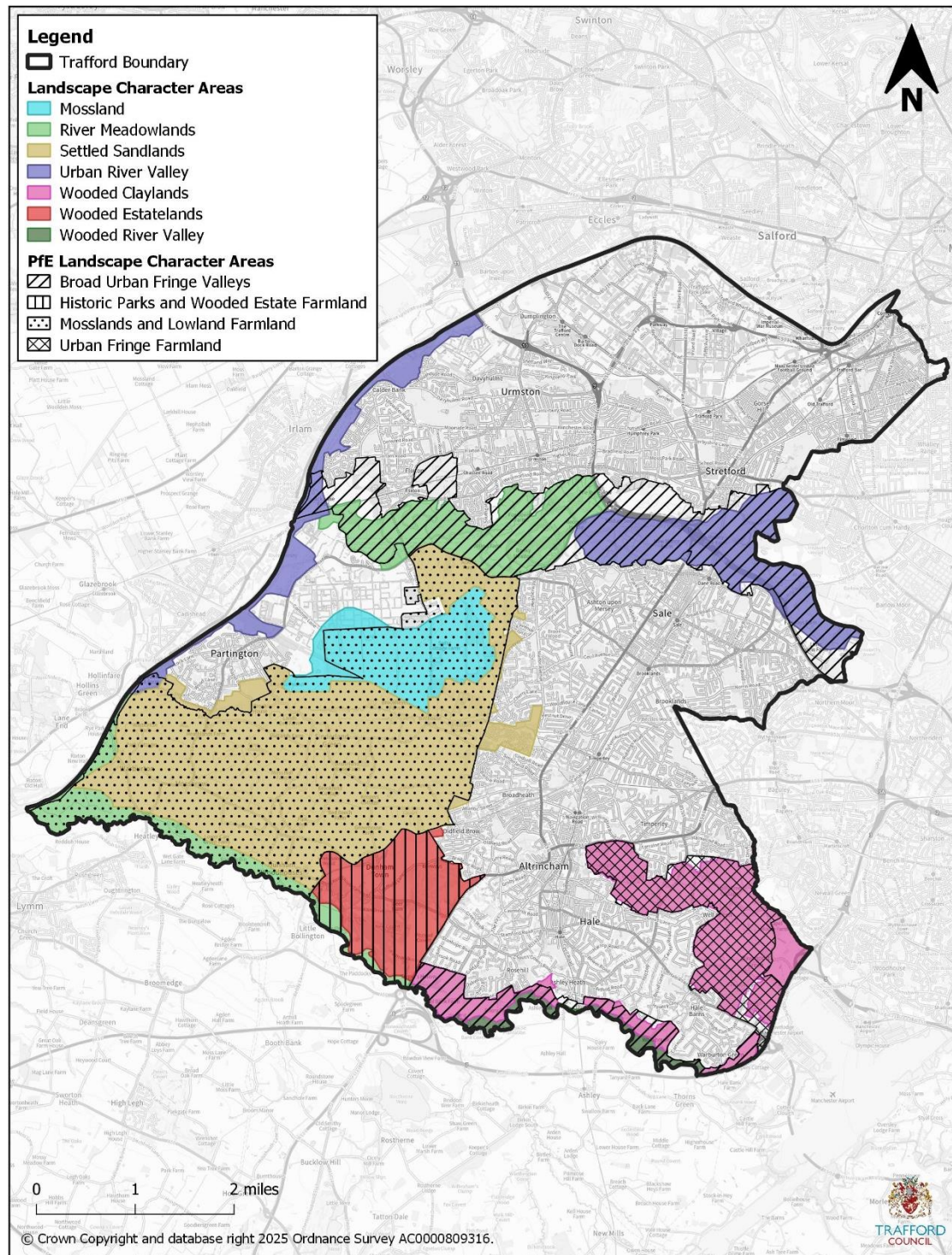
- Mosslands and Lowland Farmland - across the southwest of the borough surrounding Warburton and Carrington Mosses.

8.5. In addition to those identified at GM level, Trafford has identified seven character types through the Landscape Strategy (2004). These are as follows:

- Wooded Claylands – Timperley Wedge and open areas adjacent to River Bollin;
- Wooded Estate lands – centred around the Dunham Massey Estate;
- Settled Sandlands – Dunham and Warburton;
- Mossland – Carrington Moss;
- River Meadowlands – low-lying areas of the River Bollin and Mersey;
- Wooded River Valley – east section of the River Bollin from M56 to A56; and
- Urban River Valley – Manchester Ship Canal and canalised River Mersey.



Figure 8-1: Combined Trafford and PfE Landscape Character Areas



8.6. Planning applications must clearly demonstrate (taking a proportional approach) that they are informed by:



- Greater Manchester Landscape Character and Sensitivity Assessment (2018);
- Trafford's Landscape Strategy (2004);
- Trafford Design Code (2024); and
- Appropriate site-based investigations;

8.7. And have regard to:

- Topography, geology and drainage;
- Land use and field patterns;
- Semi-natural habitats and woodland cover;
- Archaeology and cultural heritage;
- Settlement, road pattern and rights of way; and
- Views and perceptual qualities.

8.8. Applications which are considered to have potentially significant adverse impacts on landscape and visual amenity should be informed by a Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment (LVIA) and appropriate landscape mitigation. Applications with potential to impact upon sensitive landscape areas may require a Landscape Appraisal, even if they do not meet the criteria for a full LVIA. Landscape Appraisals and LVIAs should be completed in accordance with the Guidelines for Landscape and Visual Impact Assessment 3rd Edition published by the Landscape Institute and Institute of Environmental Management and Assessments. Applicants will be advised at a pre-application stage whether a Landscape Appraisal or LVIA is likely to be required, and the scope of assessment including viewpoints will be agreed.

8.9. To ensure development proposals do not have a detrimental effect on the distinctive landscape character, condition, features, and sensitivities; including amenity and experiential qualities, the GMLCSA and Trafford's Landscape Strategy must be considered by applicants and will be used



by the Council to assess the impact of development proposals and the suitability of any proposed mitigation measures. There may also be occasions when the Landscape Character Assessments of neighbouring local authorities are of importance to a particular scheme or proposal.

Consultation Question 8-1

Do you support Policy GI1? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



Trafford Green Infrastructure Network

Policy GI2: Green Infrastructure Network

- A. The Council will seek to protect, enhance, and manage Trafford's Green Infrastructure (GI) as an accessible network of connected, varied, multi-functional green and blue spaces, which respond to local character.
- B. Development proposals will not be permitted, which adversely impact upon any of the services and benefits of GI, including but not limited to:
 - i. Supporting nature rich beautiful places, nature recovery networks and facilitating the movement of wildlife species.
 - ii. Supporting active and healthy places.
 - iii. Contributing to resilient and climate positive places.
 - iv. Supporting improved water management and improving water quality; and
 - v. Contributing to thriving and prosperous places.
- C. The Council, working in partnership with stakeholders including local communities, will produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy, which will set out how green infrastructure (including blue assets) will help to create greener, beautiful, healthier and more prosperous neighbourhoods, with a thriving nature network that can reduce air and water pollution, support sustainable drainage and help places adapt to climate change.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G2

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO2; SO3; SO7; SO8; SO9

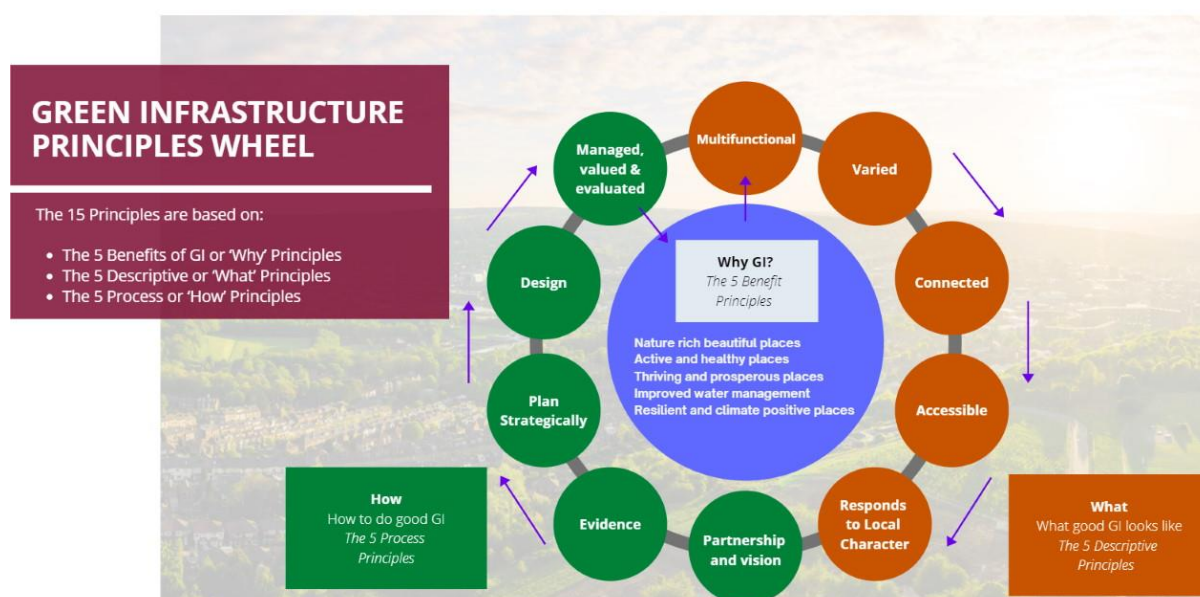
- 8.10. Components of Trafford's green infrastructure network range from large country parks, open spaces, active travel routes, wildlife corridors, woodlands and countryside areas to smaller parks, allotments, amenity green spaces, street trees and green roofs and walls. It also includes



rivers, streams, canals, and other waterbodies, sometimes called “blue infrastructure”. For the purposes of this policy “green infrastructure” also includes blue assets or infrastructure.

- 8.11. Due to the varied scale of green infrastructure components, it is not possible to identify them all on the policies map. Nevertheless, it is important to recognise the cumulative role that small pieces of green infrastructure have in contributing to the wider network.
- 8.12. The Natural England GI principles wheel, as shown on Figure 8-2, describes what good green infrastructure looks like, and that it is multifunctional, varied, connected, accessible and responds to local character. Development proposals will need to consider the 15 GI principles as set out by Natural England.

Figure 8-2: Natural England Green Infrastructure Principles



- 8.13. Green Infrastructure is a key component in Trafford’s strategy for climate change adaptation and resilience. The network plays an important role in managing the local micro-climate, improving air quality, carbon capture and sequestration, and mitigating the impacts of flooding and urban heat.
- 8.14. By prioritising the enhancement and expansion of the green infrastructure network and not supporting development that harms its integral role, Trafford will create a more sustainable, resilient, and liveable environment



for all its residents and businesses, in turn, meeting the '5 benefit principles' of GI (Figure 8-2).

Consultation Question 8-2

Do you support Policy GI2? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.

Wetlands Nature Improvement Areas

Policy GI3: Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (NIA)

- A. Development proposals within the Great Manchester Wetlands NIA must have regard to the objectives and priorities of the area to deliver enhanced ecosystem services.
- B. Proposals for wetland improvement and restoration, a key priority of the NIA, will be supported.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G2; JP-G4; and JPA 30

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO2; SO3; SO7

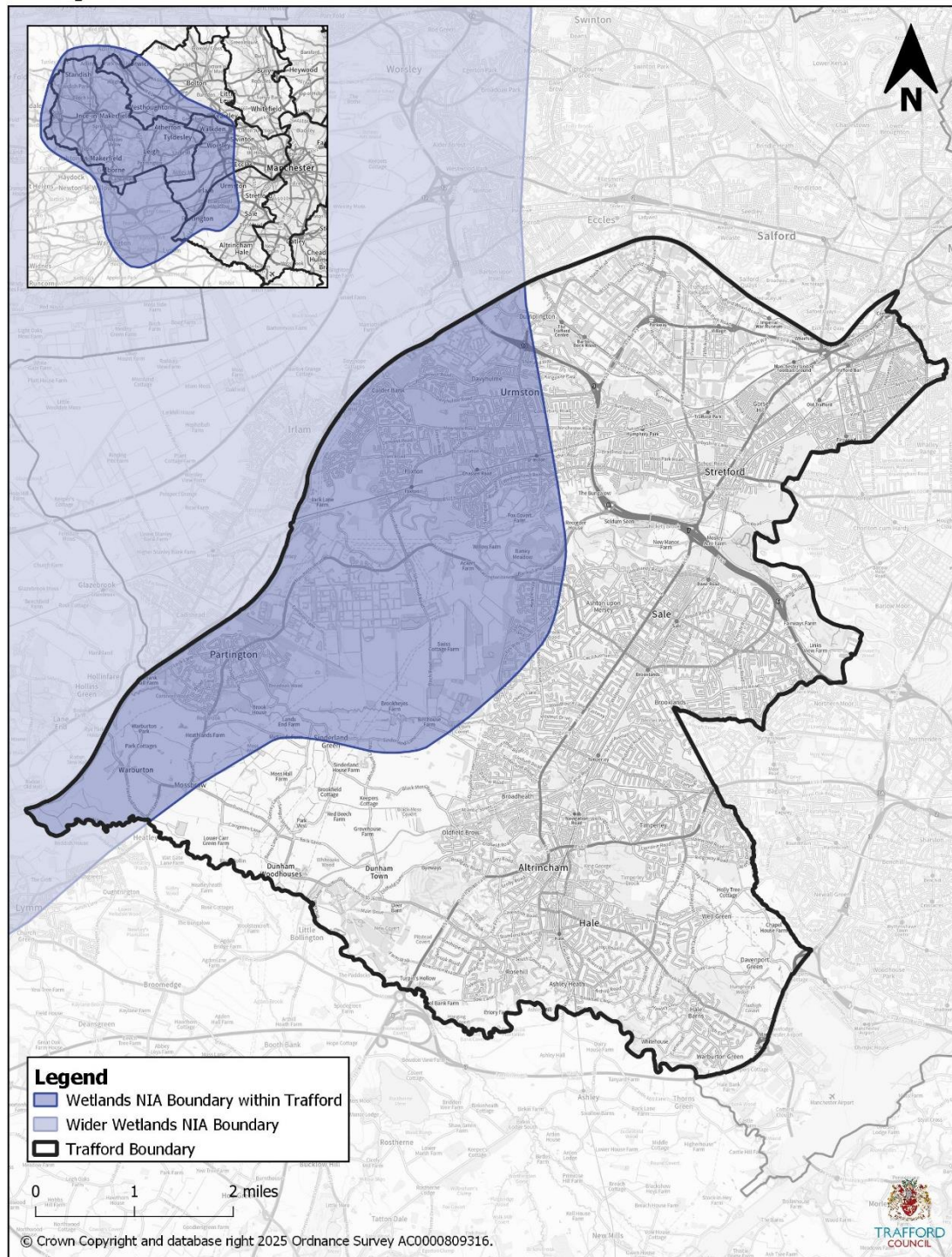
- 8.15. Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs) seek to create joined up and resilient ecological networks at a landscape scale. The Great Manchester NIA is a partnership of local authorities, local communities and landowners, the private sector and conservation organisations, with support from government bodies, including Natural England.
- 8.16. As set out in Places for Everyone policy JP-G2 Green Infrastructure Network, the Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (NIA) is identified as a 'Green Infrastructure Opportunity Area'. The opportunity



areas are identified as having particular potential for delivering improvements to the Green Infrastructure Network in Trafford and beyond.



Figure 8-3: Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area



- 8.17. The Great Manchester Wetlands Nature Improvement Area (NIA) includes a range of internationally, nationally and locally designated nature conservation sites. The NIA seeks to deliver a living landscape between Greater Manchester and Merseyside through identified wildlife corridors



and through the complementary creation of, or restoration of, wetland habitat.

- 8.18. The NIA area within Trafford largely relates to the lowland and mossland areas of Carrington, Partington and Dunham, as well as areas in west Trafford along the Manchester Ship Canal Corridor. It is part of a wider peatland area that spans the Mersey Valley, which includes Manchester mosses and other wetlands. Much of the area within Trafford has historically been used for agricultural and industrial activities, notably Carrington Moss which was used for the deposition of night soil. As a result there are significant opportunities to enhance habitats and this wider green infrastructure network in the area.
- 8.19. The NIA in Trafford also includes part of the New Carrington strategic allocation (PfE Policy JPA30) and the allocation masterplan will therefore identify opportunities to enhance and / or restore wetland habitats, having regard to the wider NIA objectives.

Consultation Question 8-3

Do you support Policy GI3? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



Mersey Valley

Policy GI4: Mersey Valley

- A. To protect and enhance the Mersey Valley's important strategic role within Trafford's natural environment, the Council will support proposals which help to achieve one or more of the following:
- i. Reduce and / or mitigate the effects of flood risk from the Mersey Valley on the surrounding built environment.
 - ii. Improve public access via walking, wheeling and cycling, to maximise opportunities to improve the health of Trafford resident.
 - iii. Improve walking, wheeling and cycling connections to the Mersey Valley, Bridgewater Canal and Trans Pennine Trail and other routes that contribute to Trafford's integrated active travel network.
 - iv. Improve connections between areas of greenspace, particularly those with high biodiversity / habitat value, within or adjoining the Mersey Valley; and/ or
 - v. Contribute to locality specific opportunities identified in Policies GI4N, GI4C & GI4W.

Policy GI4N: Mersey Valley in North Trafford

- A. Within Trafford North, the Council will support and encourage:
- i. Opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offer at Stretford Meadows (particularly woodland) and Turn Moss, where they respect and support the area's natural (blue and green) environments and biodiversity value.



Policy GI4C: Mersey Valley in Central Trafford

- A. Within Trafford Central, the Council will support and encourage:
- i. Opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offer, including improvements to recreation infrastructure, at Sale Water Park, where they respect and support the area's natural (blue and green) environments and biodiversity value.
 - ii. Protection of Sale Water Park Flood Storage Area, in accordance with Policy WA2: Flood Storage Areas.

Policy GI4W: Mersey Valley in West Trafford

- A. Within Trafford West, the Council will support and encourage:
- i. Opportunities to improve access to nature and the recreation offer at Urmston Meadows and Wellacre, where they respect and support the area's natural (blue and green) environments and biodiversity value.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G1; JP-G2; JP-G3; JP-S4; JP-C6.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

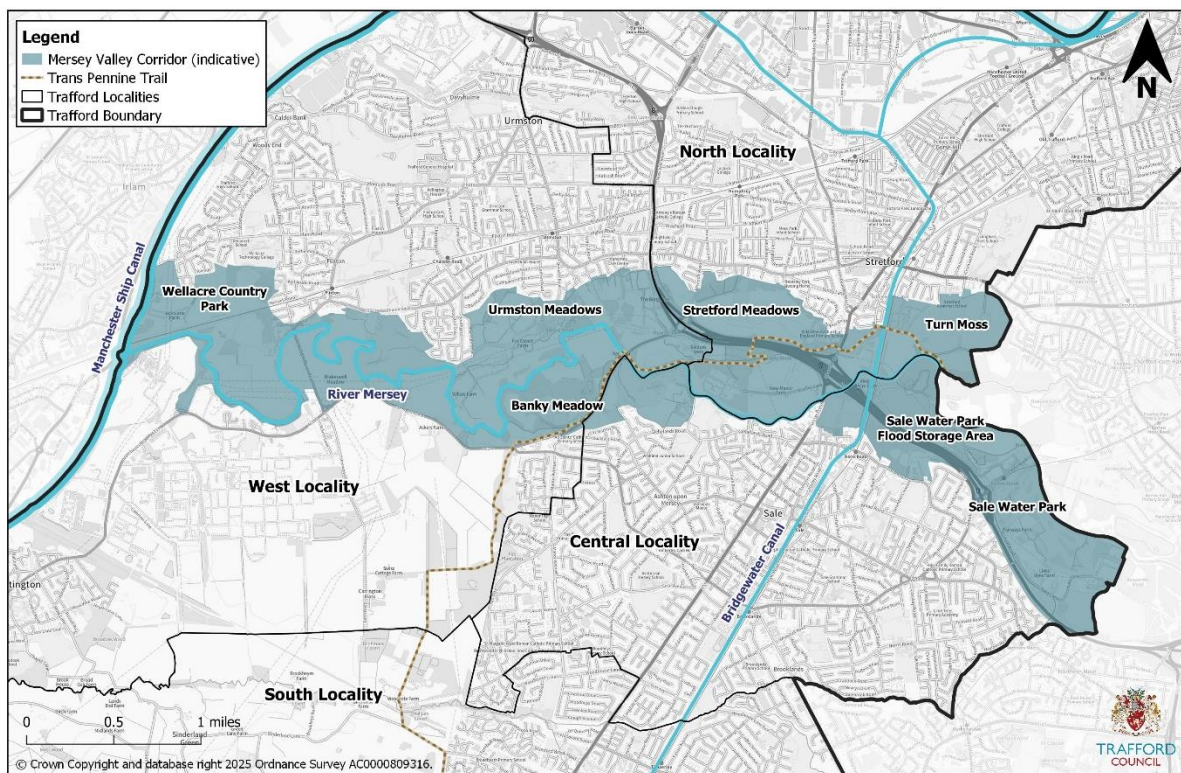
SO2; SO3; SO7; SO8 and SO9.

- 8.20. The River Mersey runs east to west across Trafford, separating the urban areas of Urmston and Stretford from Carrington and Sale. It is dissected by the M60 and A56. The valley either side of the river forms a unique green wedge of land which is predominately meadowland and agricultural land in the floodplain, containing few buildings and protected from development by its designation as Green Belt. It is a highly valued area for nature conservation and recreation in close proximity to populated urban areas and contains many Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs).
- 8.21. The area contains Sale Water Park, a regional centre for water sports and recreation whose popularity is ever growing, and which is the base for



volunteering and practical conservation projects across Trafford. Other prominent sites across the Mersey Valley include Stretford Meadows (former landfill site), Turn Moss, Banky Meadows, Urmston Meadows and Wellacre. The Trans Pennine Trail runs through the Mersey Valley from Carrington to Sale Water Park, crossing The Mersey via The Millennium Bridge close to the Carrington Spur before passing over the M60 close to Stretford Meadows and under the A56 alongside Kickety Brook.

Figure 8-4: Mersey Valley and Opportunity Areas



Consultation Question 8-4

Do you support Policy GI4? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



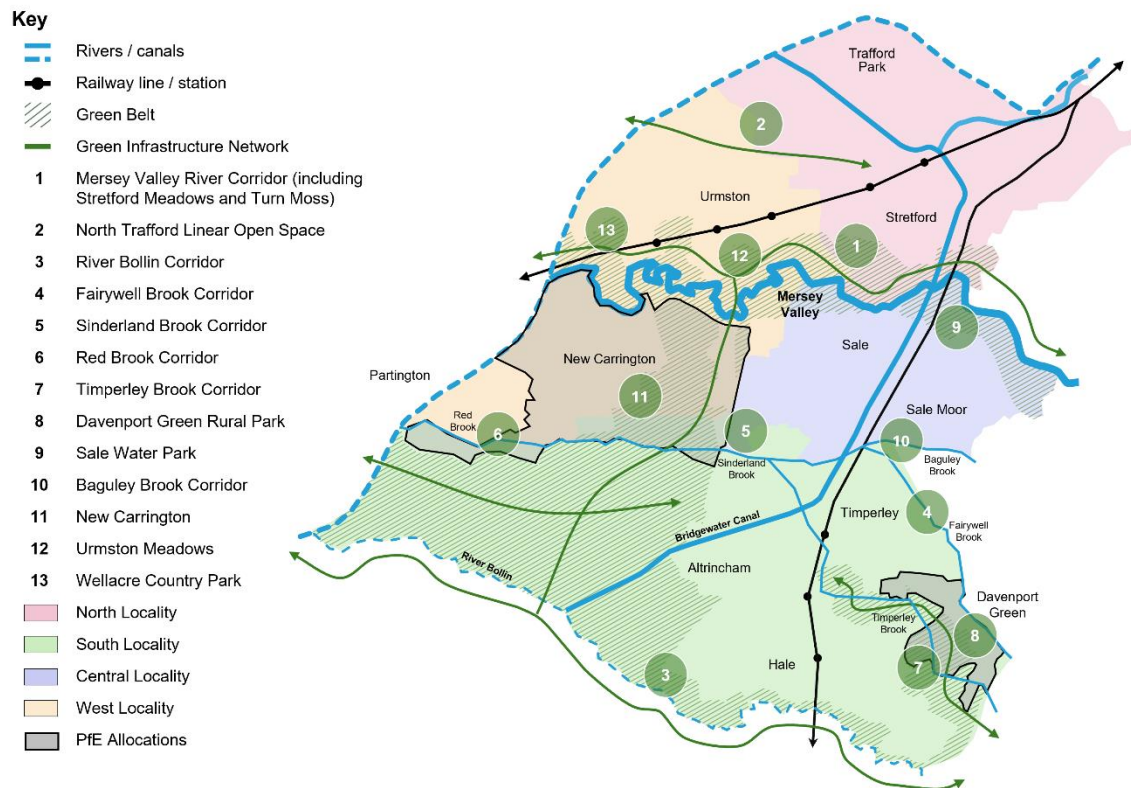
Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas

Policy GI5: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas

- A. Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas have been identified due to their scale, and ability to provide a network of multi-functional green and blue spaces and other natural features across the borough. See Policies GI5N, GI5S, GI5C and GI5W.
- B. Development proposals located within the Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas must demonstrate how they will:
 - i. Maintain and enhance the character of the area.
 - ii. Safeguard and enhance existing areas of valued habitats and sites of biological importance; and
 - iii. Improve public accessibility and opportunities for informal recreation via walking, wheeling and cycling routes.
- C. Proposals which strengthen green infrastructure links between the identified Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas, improving connectivity and expanding the network, will also be supported and encouraged.



Figure 8-5: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas - all localities



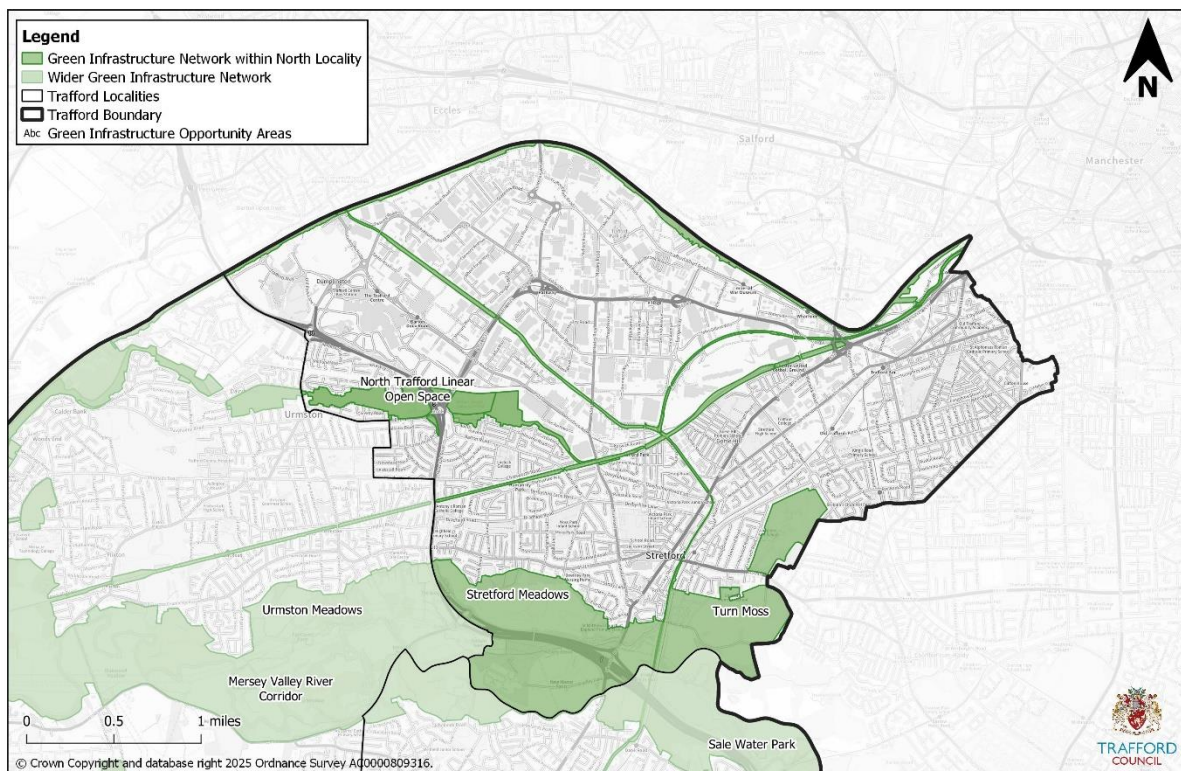
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Policy GI5N: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas in North Trafford

- A. Within North Trafford the following have been identified as Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas:
- Mersey Valley River Corridor (including Stretford Meadows and Turn Moss).
 - North Trafford Linear Open Space.

Figure 8-6: GI opportunity areas - North Locality

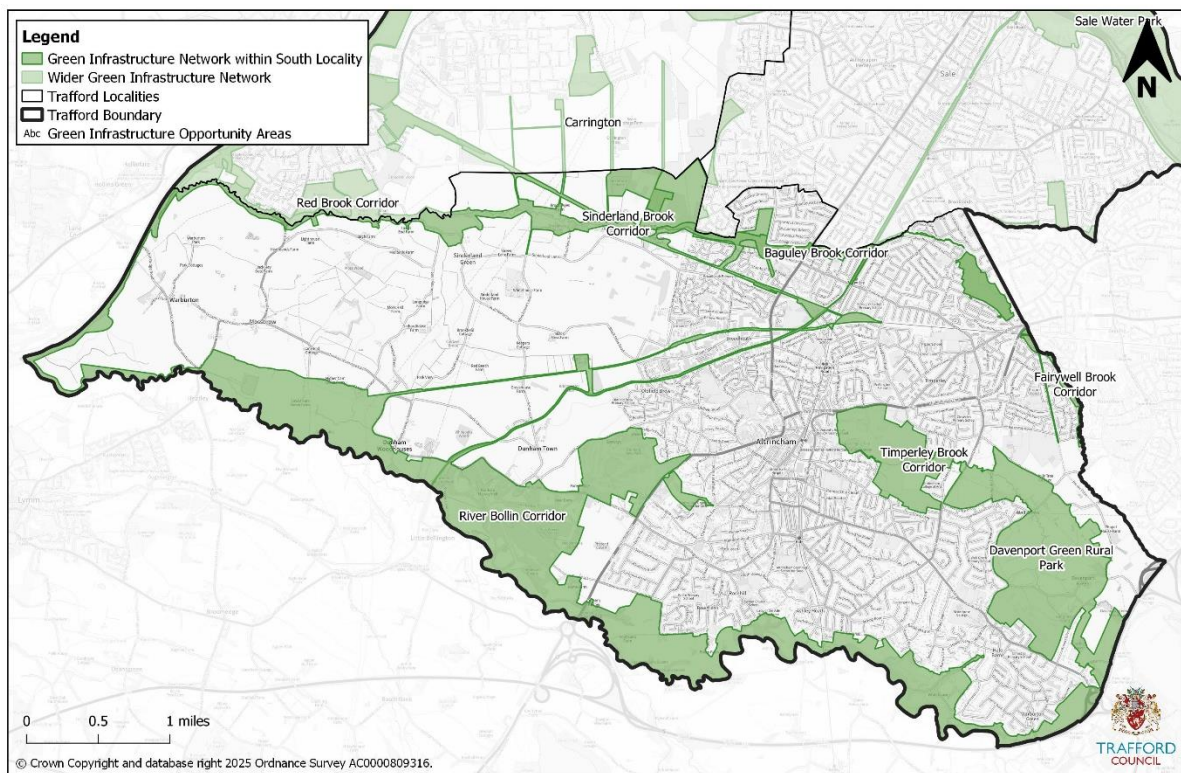




Policy GI5S: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas in South Trafford

- A. Within South Trafford the following have been identified as Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas:
- River Bollin Corridor.
 - Fairywell, Sinderland, Red and Timperley Brook corridors.
 - Davenport Green Rural Park.

Figure 8-7: GI opportunity areas – South Locality

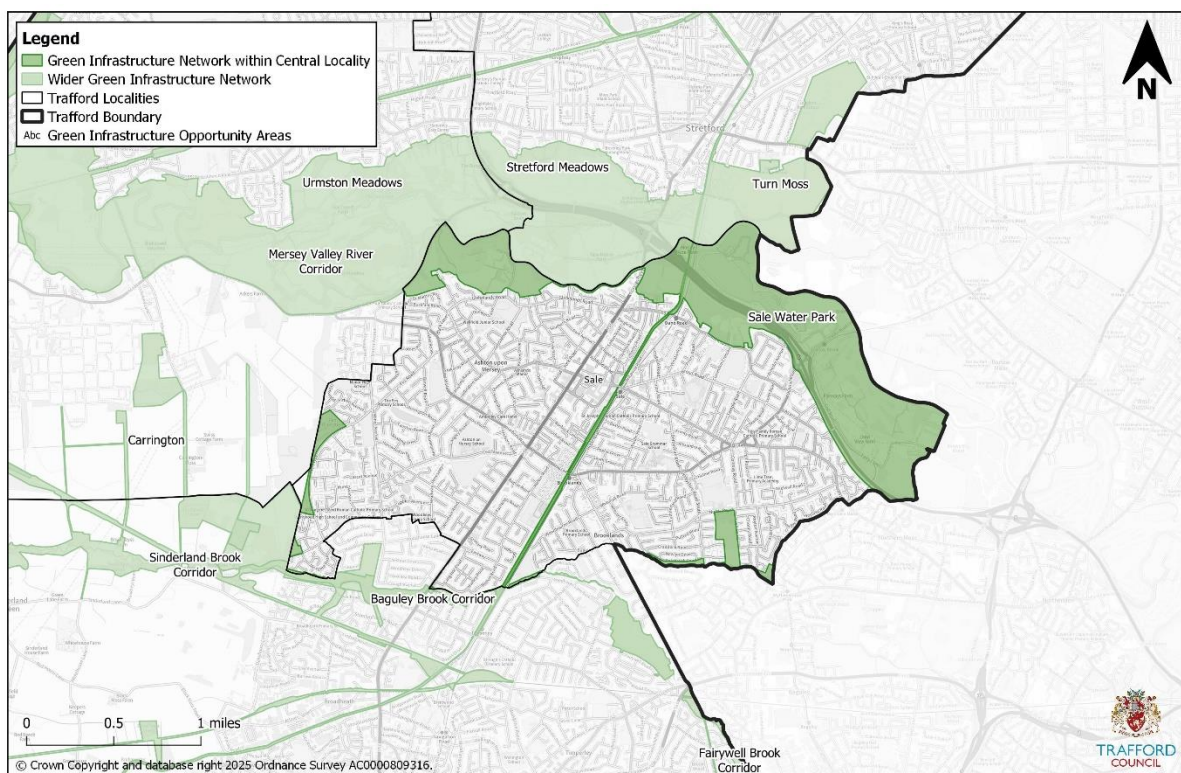




Policy GI5C: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas in Central Trafford

- A. Within Central Trafford the following locations have been identified as Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas:
- Sale Water Park (within the Mersey Valley River Corridor (JP-G2)).
 - Baguley, Fairywell and Sinderland Brook corridors.

Figure 8-8: GI opportunity areas – Central Locality

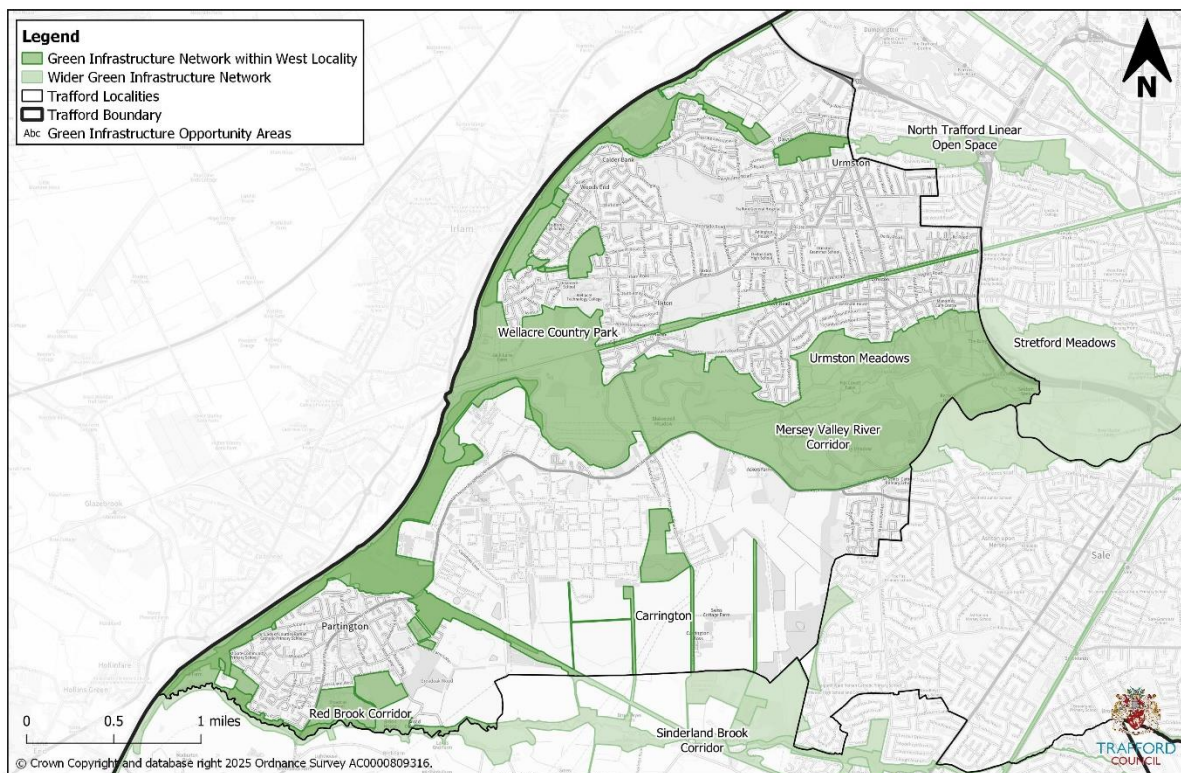




Policy GI5W: Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas in West Trafford

- A. PfE Policy JP-G2 identifies Carrington as a GI Opportunity Area.
- B. Within West Trafford the following additional locations have been identified as Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas:
- Urmston Meadows and Wellacre (within the Mersey Valley River Corridor (JP-G2)).
 - Red and Sinderland Brook corridors.
 - North Trafford Linear Open Space.

Figure 8-9: GI opportunity areas – West Locality



Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G1; JP-G2; JP-G3; JP-S4; JP-C6.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO2; SO3; SO7; SO8; SO9.



- 8.22. The Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas are in addition to those identified in PfE Policy JP-G2. They are areas which deliver important ecosystem services such as:
- a) surface water and fluvial flood management;
 - b) carbon storage and sequestration;
 - c) water quality management;
 - d) habitat and wildlife conservation and
 - e) public recreation and sustainable travel.
- 8.23. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out an overarching vision, individual priorities and targets for both habitats and species, along with a mapped Nature Network for Greater Manchester. This includes many of the Green Infrastructure Opportunity Areas, as well as a network of other sites.

Consultation Question 8-5

Do you support Policy GI5? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



New Developments

Policy GI6: Green Infrastructure in New Developments

- A. All development proposals must demonstrate how they will contribute to the protection, enhancement (including quality and/or the multi functionality), and expansion of the Green Infrastructure network. This includes incorporating green and blue infrastructure within schemes and considering its impact on connectivity, biodiversity, local amenity and heritage assets.
- B. Green Infrastructure and landscaping must be designed to:
 - i. Be fit for purpose and function.
 - ii. Be of a high quality and compatible with the surrounding landscape, and townscape character.
 - iii. Integrate with the drainage network to mitigate the effects of climate change and significant rainfall events.
 - iv. Be clearly defined as public or private space; and
 - v. Optimise the benefit to wildlife habitat including biodiversity net gain.
- C. All proposals for major development must be supported by a dedicated green infrastructure plan, which may be included within a site wide landscape strategy, and will be required to:
 - i. Include an Urban Greening Factor (UGF) calculation, in accordance with Natural England's latest guidance, demonstrating how the development will meet a UGF score of:
 - 0.4 as a minimum for residential development on brownfield development sites
 - 0.5 as a minimum for residential development on greenfield development sites
 - 0.3 as a minimum for non-residential development
 - ii. Demonstrate a landscape-led development, which responds to the context of the development site, including heritage assets, to retain and enhance landscape across the site and ensure green infrastructure is fundamental to the design;



- iii. Identify the developments contribution to nature recovery and the creation and restoration of wildlife rich habitats, including Local Wildlife Sites.
 - iv. Protect, provide and enhance green infrastructure in line with other local plan policies, in particular Policies OS1, OS4, NE1, NE4, GI10, and TM1;
 - v. Submit a long-term landscape management, maintenance and funding plan to demonstrate that the green features will remain effective throughout the life of the building, or minimum of 30 years.
- D. Where it is considered that the development will have a detrimental effect on the quantity, quality or function of existing green infrastructure, then the development will not be supported unless it can be demonstrated that an assessment has been made and suitable mitigation measures proposed. Any mitigation measures should be of equal or greater value than that which is to be compromised or lost through development.
- E. In the majority of cases, new green infrastructure will be required as on-site specific mitigation and enhancements and could also contribute to achieving requirements for Biodiversity Net Gain (Policy GI10 and PfE Policy JP-G8). Where specific circumstances justify off-site provision, a financial contribution will be sought as part of a S106 agreement.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G2; JP-G3; JP-G6; JP-G7; JP-G8; JP-S4; JP-C6.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO2; SO3; SO7; SO8; SO9

- 8.24. The 25 Year Environment Plan places particular emphasis on the importance of greening our towns and cities with an aim to improve existing green infrastructure, encouraging more investment in the environment and supporting more sustainable forms of development.



Natural England's GI Framework sets out the standards and principles for England. The Trafford Design Code (2024) also outlines a landscape-led approach to shaping design proposals.

- 8.25. The context of the development site should be appraised to retain and enhance landscape across the site. Nature based solutions such as SuDS, including green roofs, and rain gardens, should be an integral part of a development's green open space network. Development should aim to incorporate Green Infrastructure assets that are multi-functional by supporting as many of the benefits listed in Policy GI2 and requirements of this policy.
- 8.26. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) seeks to bring 50% of GM's Local Wildlife Sites into active management for nature conservation as well as the restoration and creation of 1,800ha of wildlife-rich land. Development proposals must demonstrate how they contribute to nature recovery and the aspirations of the LNRS through green infrastructure.
- 8.27. Developers must show how green infrastructure will be managed, maintained and monitored for a minimum of 30 years to ensure its longevity, in line with Natural England's GI Framework.

Urban Greening

- 8.28. Urban greening includes all standard blue and green infrastructure plus green roofs, living walls etc. Urban greening provides a wide range of benefits for air quality, noise, urban heat island effect, rainwater run-off, biodiversity enhancement, recreation, and health and wellbeing of Trafford's communities. This will increase in importance as weather patterns continue to change with rising average temperatures, summer droughts and more intense rainfall events periodically through the year. The inclusion of blue infrastructure such as rain gardens and rainwater harvesting can help to minimise water use.
- 8.29. Evidence demonstrates a positive correlation between urban greening and good mental and physical health. The provision of large green spaces



in Trafford's more densely populated urban environment is difficult to achieve. Small areas of soft landscaping, green walls and green roofs, associated with buildings and the public realm, will play a vital role in promoting wellbeing. Increased access to green spaces will be sought.

Urban Greening Factor (UGF)

- 8.30. The Urban Greening Factor (UGF) forms one of the five headline green infrastructure standards introduced in 2023 by Natural England as part of their Green Infrastructure Framework. UGF is a planning tool that can be used to improve green infrastructure delivery through the process of development and regeneration. UGF will be used to evaluate the amount of green spaces, landscape and permeable surfaces on all major development sites.
- 8.31. The UGF works by assigning a factor score to each surface cover type proposed in a planning application. Scores range from 1 for semi natural vegetation, through to 0 for impermeable sealed surfaces. The full list of factor scores for varying surfaces is based on Natural England's guidance and is provided in Appendix 2. It is calculated by multiplying the area of each surface cover type by its factor; each figure is then added together and divided by the total area within the development site boundary that is commonly referred to the red-line boundary.

Figure 8-10: Urban Greening Factor Calculation

$$\text{Urban Greening Factor Score} = \frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{Sum of each Surface Area type (m}^2\text{)} \\ \text{(Surface Area A} \times \text{Factor A} + \text{Surface Area B} \times \text{Factor B} + \text{Surface Area C} \times \text{Factor C, etc.)} \end{array}}{\text{Total site area (m}^2\text{)}}$$

- 8.32. The inclusion of UGF in new development will result in an increase in green cover across Trafford and should be integral to planning the layout and design of new buildings and developments. It should be considered from the beginning of the design process to achieve design excellence and a sense of place.



Developer Contributions

- 8.33. Where the scale of development would be too small to accommodate on-site Green Infrastructure provision, the Council will, where reasonable, seek developer contributions either towards the improvement of existing green spaces or towards the provision of new Green Infrastructure in an area of need.
- 8.34. Where compensation is required for the loss of existing Green Infrastructure, then the provision of new or enhanced Green Infrastructure as required by the scale of the development should be in addition to the requirement for compensation.
- 8.35. The Council will also seek developer contributions for the future management and maintenance of Green Infrastructure, where appropriate.

Consultation Question 8-6

Do you support Policy GI6? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



Trafford's Trees and Hedges

Policy GI7: Trees, Woodland and Hedgerows

- A. Trees, woodlands and hedgerows will be protected and enhanced. The Council will seek to significantly increase tree canopy cover to support biodiversity net gain and build resilience to climate change.
- B. For major development:
- i. A Tree Canopy Cover Assessment must be provided that demonstrates how the development will incorporate trees on-site, and:
- where there is no existing tree canopy cover, provide a minimum of 20% tree canopy cover (upon maturity) across the whole site area; or
 - where there is existing tree canopy cover, provide a minimum increase of 10% tree canopy cover (upon maturity over the existing onsite tree canopy cover); or
 - where there are existing ecological, historical, landscape or operational reasons that justify not meeting the canopy requirements (as applicable), provide evidence to support this and agree an alternative percentage of canopy cover with the Council; and
 - Where new streets form part of the proposal, tree lined streets must be integrated into the design, considering key constraints such as highway safety, street furniture, lighting and underground services. Planning applications will need to provide clear, justifiable and compelling reasons where this cannot be achieved.
- C. Development proposals will be supported where:
- i. they have been informed and influenced by the presence of trees and hedgerows on the site, through considerate careful siting and design, which avoids overshadowing of development, and with particular regard to any Tree Preservation Order designations; and



- ii. It can be demonstrated satisfactorily that the need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh any loss or deterioration of woodlands, hedgerows or trees of high amenity value.
- D. The Council will resist the loss of mature trees, trees of high amenity value (as identified in an Arboricultural Impact Assessment) or a tree, group of trees, area of woodland and/or vegetation of significant ecological, amenity, historic, and/or cultural value on, or adjacent to, a development site. The Council will also resist proposals which may threaten the continued wellbeing of such trees as specified above.
- E. Trees and woodland must be protected during the construction phase of development in accordance with an approved site-wide Arboricultural Impact Assessment, which includes a proposed Tree Removal, Replacement and Retention Plan and Tree Protection Plan that protects the trees of highest value.

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G7; JP-G2; JP-G6; JP-G8.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO3; SO7.

- 8.36. Planning applications must include an accurate survey of the location, size, condition and species of all trees on the site and whether the trees are used by bats or breeding birds. It is advised to not fell trees before a planning application has been determined in order to fully consider the retention of trees and the policy aim. Consideration should be given to the most appropriate species of tree for the location, with regard to their key purpose, i.e. air quality, climate regulation – urban cooling, enhancing wildlife and habitat, improved health outcome, improved place, water quality and flood management
- 8.37. Where trees and/or hedgerows are to be retained on a development site, buildings must be located at a sufficient distance to preserve levels of amenity for future users of the property, particularly in the case of



residential development, and rear gardens must not be unduly overshadowed. It will be a planning requirement, secured by condition, that adequate measures are taken to protect trees during construction.

Street trees

- 8.38. National planning policy sets out that policy and decisions should ensure new streets are tree-lined unless there are clear, justifiable and compelling reasons why this would be inappropriate. Landscaping proposals including proposals for tree-lined streets should be integrated with the strategy for sustainable surface water management.
- 8.39. Developers will be required to work with the Council to ensure the right trees are planted in the right places, in line with national planning policy. With regard to planting sizes, the preference is for planting sizes of 'heavy standards' or 'standards', rather than 'extra heavy standards'.

Arboricultural Impact Assessment

- 8.40. Arboricultural Impact Assessments (AIA) will be required where there is a potential impact on trees from a proposed development. The key components of an AIA include a tree survey; tree constraint plans; tree protection plans; and arboricultural method statement.

Consultation Question 8-7

Do you support Policy GI7? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



Safe Places for Nature

Policy GI8: Protection of Locally Designated Sites and Natural Environment Assets

- A. Development proposals must demonstrate a clear commitment to the protection and enhancement of Trafford's locally designated sites and natural environment assets, as defined on the policies map.
- B. Planning applications must demonstrate through a supporting statement how the development proposals protect and enhance the landscape character, biodiversity, geodiversity and conservation value of its natural environment assets, having regard not only to its immediate location but its surroundings and context.
- C. Where the council considers it necessary, in order to protect the natural environment, developers will be required to provide an appropriate ecological assessment report to enable the Council to properly assess and determine the merits or otherwise of the development proposal. All planning applications submitted for development within, or in close proximity to, any of Trafford's natural environment assets, must be supported by such a report.
- D. Developers must implement measures to prevent any harm to ecological features during the construction phase. Where appropriate, this includes the preparation of Landscape and Ecological Management Plans (LEMP), which will outline clear protocols for protecting biodiversity, managing pollution risks and mitigating disturbance, as well as the monitoring of these measures, throughout the construction phase and post-development.

Habitat Connectivity and Nature Recovery Networks

- E. Development proposals must contribute positively to habitat connectivity and nature recovery networks. This includes enhancing and maintaining wildlife corridors and ecological linkages that support the movement of species across the landscape.
- F. Development proposals will be required to demonstrate how they integrate with, and strengthen, the surrounding ecological networks.



Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G8.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO3; SO7

Protection of Locally Designated Sites and Natural Environment Assets

- 8.41. National planning policy states that Plans should identify and map components of the local ecological networks in order to protect and enhance biodiversity and to increase resilience to current and future pressures. These networks include the hierarchy of international, national and locally designated sites of importance for biodiversity, wildlife corridors and stepping stones that connect them.
- 8.42. Plans should also promote the conservation, restoration and enhancement of priority habitats, ecological networks and the protection and recovery of priority species; and identify and pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.
- 8.43. Trafford's natural environment and natural environment assets provide a range of services and benefits for people, places and biodiversity including ecological connectivity, habitat and species protection, nature recovery networks, place and local identity, improved health and wellbeing, mitigating climate change and improving water and air quality.

Construction and Operational Protection

- 8.44. To ensure the long-term protection of natural environment assets, developers must implement measures to prevent any harm to ecological features during the construction phase. This includes the preparation of Landscape and Ecological Management Plans (LEMP) that outline clear protocols for protecting biodiversity, managing pollution risks, and mitigating disturbance. The integrity of these natural assets should be maintained throughout the development process, and post-development management plans must ensure ongoing protection and enhancement.



Enforcement and Monitoring

- 8.45. The Council will ensure that appropriate conditions and legal agreements are imposed to guarantee that all mitigation, compensation, or enhancement measures are delivered, monitored, and maintained throughout the lifecycle of the development. Regular monitoring will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of these measures in achieving biodiversity objectives.

Nature Recovery Networks

- 8.46. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) sets out an overarching vision, individual priorities and targets for both habitats and species, along with a mapped Nature Network for Greater Manchester.
- 8.47. The Nature Network sets out areas already important for nature (Core Local Nature Sites) as well as opportunity areas (Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas) where there is potential to boost connectivity for nature across Greater Manchester through habitat creation or enhancement.
- 8.48. This policy will contribute towards the headline targets of the LNRS, which are to increase the amount of land designated for nature from 11% to 15% of Greater Manchester; bring 50% of Local Wildlife Sites into active management for nature conservation; restoration and creation of 1,800ha of wildlife-rich land; delivery of new wildlife-rich land and tree planting within the Nature Network.

Consultation Question 8-8

Do you support Policy GI8? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.



Encouraging and Improving Biodiversity

Policy GI9: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas

- A. The Council will support biodiversity and habitat improvements within the areas listed within Policies GI9N, GI9S, GI9C & GI9W, as well as any sites identified in any future Greater Manchester LNRS, or equivalent document.
- B. Development which would undermine or compromise biodiversity improvements in the Biodiversity Opportunity Areas identified in Policies GI9N, GI9S, GI9C and GI9W will not be supported.
- C. The Council will work collaboratively with other local authorities, conservation bodies, and the GM Natural Capital Group (Local Nature Partnership) to explore all opportunities to restore, protect, and enhance biodiversity, natural habitats and ecological networks within the above, including where appropriate the use of developer contributions.

Policy GI9N: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Trafford North

- A. Within Trafford North the following have been identified as priority sites for biodiversity enhancements:
 - i. Stretford Meadows
 - ii. Trafford Ecology Park
 - iii. Longford Park
 - iv. Turn Moss



Policy GI9S: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Trafford South

- A. Within Trafford South the following have been identified as priority sites for biodiversity enhancements:
- i. King George V Pool/Timperley Moat
 - ii. Rossmill
 - iii. The Devisdale

Policy GI9C: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Trafford Central

- A. Within Trafford Central the following have been identified as priority sites for biodiversity enhancements:
- i. Sale Water Park
 - ii. Priory Gardens

Policy GI9W: Biodiversity Opportunity Areas in Trafford West

- A. Within Trafford West the following have been identified as priority sites for biodiversity enhancements:
- i. Wellacre
 - ii. William Wroe Park (former municipal golf course)
 - iii. Davyhulme Millennium Nature Reserve
 - iv. Urmston Meadows
 - v. Dainewell Park and Woods

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G2; JP-G8.

Relevant Strategic Objectives

SO3; SO7



- 8.49. The sites detailed in Policies NE2N, NE2S, NE2C & NE2W have been identified as Biodiversity Opportunity Areas due to their location, scale and potential to support nature recovery networks, as well as offering significant scope to accommodate biodiversity net gain improvements.
- 8.50. The Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy maps the Nature Network for Greater Manchester, which consists of Core Local Nature Sites (already protected sites, such as SBIs) and Nature Recovery Opportunity Areas (where there are opportunities to expand and better connect core local nature sites).

Consultation Question 8-9

Do you support Policy GI9? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.

Policy GI10: Building Biodiversity into New Developments

- A. All development proposals should seek to enhance biodiversity beyond the minimum mitigation requirements, where appropriate and practical.
- B. All new development will be expected to incorporate measures to support biodiversity where appropriate and practical, such as the creation of new wildlife habitats; provision of practical conservation equipment (including of swift bricks, hedgehog highways, bat boxes and access tiles); the planting of native species; and the inclusion of green infrastructure (for example green roofs, wildlife ponds, and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) that provide ecological benefits).

Places for Everyone Links

Policy JP-G8.

Relevant Strategic Objectives



SO3; SO7

Biodiversity Net Gain

- 8.51. Natural capital refers to stock of renewable and non-renewable natural resources such as air, water, soils and minerals as well as plants and animals.
- 8.52. Ecosystem services flow from natural capital, whilst biodiversity constitutes the living component of natural capital. Maintaining biodiversity is important for maintaining the scale and resilience of ecosystem service delivery.
- 8.53. Supporting and/or enhancing natural capital is a key element of the Greater Manchester Natural Capital Investment Plan, which includes habitat banking as one of the key investment opportunities for the delivery of off-site Biodiversity Net Gain in line with the guidance and approach adopted across GM as part of the Urban Pioneer programme, a three-year DEFRA Pioneer project.
- 8.54. Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain will not only enhance biodiversity but also provide benefits for Trafford's stock of natural capital. There are additional opportunities alongside mandatory biodiversity net gain for development to provide ecological enhancements that help stop the decline of certain species, such as swifts, garden birds, bats, bees, and hedgehogs.
- 8.55. Biodiversity net gain can be achieved through measures such as the creation of new wildlife habitats, provision of practical conservation equipment (including of swift bricks, hedgehog highways, bat boxes and access tiles), the planting of native species, and the inclusion of green infrastructure like green roofs, wildlife ponds, and sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS) that provide ecological benefits.

Enforcement and Monitoring

- 8.56. The Council will ensure that appropriate conditions and legal agreements are imposed to guarantee that all mitigation, compensation, or enhancement measures are delivered, monitored, and maintained



throughout the lifecycle of the development. Regular monitoring will be undertaken to assess the effectiveness of these measures in achieving biodiversity objectives.

Consultation Question 8-10

Do you support Policy GI10? Are there any changes required which would improve the policy? Please provide any supporting evidence which you think is relevant.

Monitoring

8.57. Table 12.4 of Places for Everyone (PfE) sets out a monitoring framework for the green infrastructure and natural environment policies within that plan. Key indicators include the following:

- Gross area of new habitat created from the application of biodiversity net gain
- Number, area and condition of sites of biological importance (SBIs)
- Number of trees planted annually (metric to be determined with respect to tree planting programmes and on site delivery as a result of planning decisions where available)
- Number of hectares of green infrastructure (metric will consider publicly accessible GI where information is available).

8.58. The Local Plan will not replicate the above PfE monitoring indicators. The following additional indicators have been identified to monitor the delivery of the Local Plan Green Infrastructure and Natural Environment policies.

Indicator	Target
Proportion of households within 500m of a publicly accessible GI Network	Increase



Indicator	Target
Proportion of SSSI's in a Favourable Condition	Increase
Gross area of new/ improved onsite habitat delivered from the application of BNG in Trafford	Increase
Gross area of offsite BNG habitat created in Trafford	Increase
Proportion of new development approved with provision of practical conservation equipment	Increase
Gross area of new / restored habitat designated as wetland	Increase
Total number and proportion of major development applications approved with 0.3 UGF for commercial development and 0.4 for residential development on brownfield and 0.5 on greenfield sites.	Increase

Consultation Question 8-11

The Local Plan should be read alongside the Places for Everyone Plan and national policy / guidance. Where possible, the Local Plan has not repeated or duplicated policy.

However, are there any policy areas related to this chapter which you consider are missing and which should be included in the Local Plan?