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# Setting the standard for green infrastructure

Green infrastructure is essential in high quality and liveable places. It includes most green features in neighbourhoods such as **parks, play areas, nature reserves, street trees and other areas with plants** as well as **rivers, ponds and water features**. Green infrastructure provides numerous benefits to health and wellbeing, flood management and wildlife.

But there is still a lot of **uncertainty** amongst local authorities, planners and property developers on how to provide good quality green infrastructure. This means that the green infrastructure in new developments is often not sufficient to provide these benefits.

Promoting the form, role and benefits of GI and ecosystem services at a range of spatial scales

The role of research in establishing the evidence
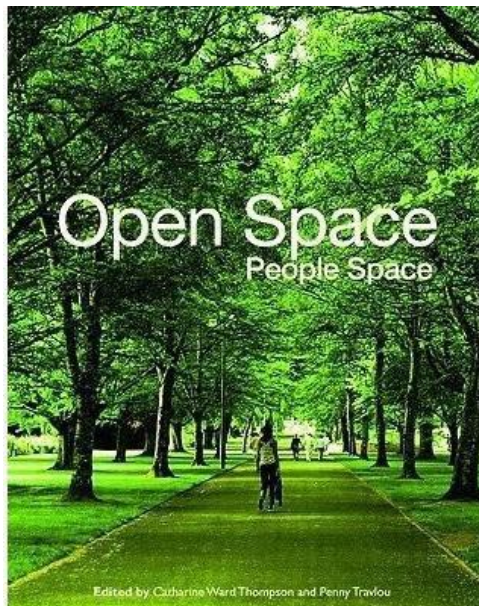
- Green Space and Stress: Evidence from Cortisol Measures in Deprived Urban Communities (Sept 2013)
- Woodland improvements in deprived urban communities: what impact do they have on peoples activities and quality of life? (Oct 2013)
- Do changes to the local street environment alter behaviour and quality of life of older adults? The DIY Streets intervention (Jun 2014)

Developing a benchmark for green infrastructure

Wellbeing Standards

ACHIEVE

- GI is **accessible and close to where people live** to promote health, wellbeing and active living
- The scheme encourages **all people to use and enjoy** GI, considering how the needs of local people may change
- GI is designed to be accessible at **all times of year**, employing street furniture and other features, to encourage optimal use

EXCELLENT

- The scheme supports **local health inequality priorities** (e.g. defined in JSNA) and the needs of vulnerable or excluded groups
- The scheme demonstrates innovative solutions to overcoming **social and cultural barriers** to the access and use of GI
- The scheme demonstrates that GI is integral to the **distinctiveness of place**

Breakout
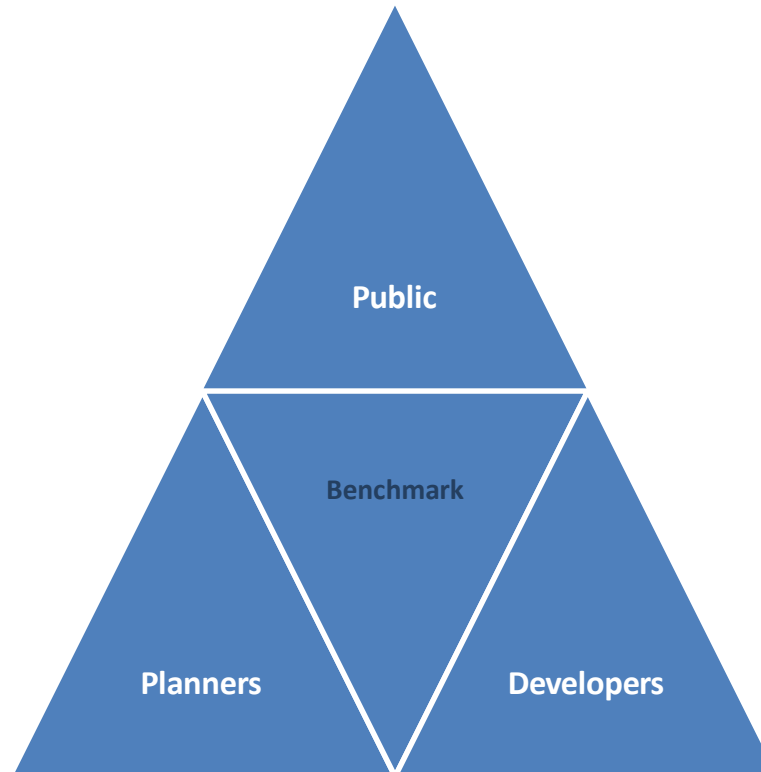
Question:
How will the benchmark help meet your interests in health & wellbeing?

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Portbury Wharf, North Somerset
2,600 homes, plus nature reserve
Accessible natural greenspace, net biodiversity gain

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Cambourne, South Cambs.
5000 homes, plus publicly accessible open space
Strength: connectivity (greenways), active transport (walking and cycle paths)

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Hanham Hall, Bristol
195 zero carbon homes, including 65 affordable homes
Strength: Management model – Community Development Trust will manage GI

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Applewood, Stroud.
78 homes, communal green space
Strength: houses facing onto community green space, reducing social isolation

5 Ways to Wellbeing — Connect · Be active · Take notice · Keep learning · Give

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Birmingham New Street Station
Green wall, train station refurbishment
Strength: "A green city is not just environmentally sustainable but also visibility green"

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Springhill Cohousing Community, Stroud
34 homes, communal green space/play area
Strength: green infrastructure approach to sustainable drainage; distinctive sense of place

Case Studies: What does good green infrastructure look like?

Malmo, Sweden
Swedish Green Roof Institute
trength: Biodiversity; reduction of urban heat island effect (UHIE); reduce surface water runoff

Group Discussion

Questions

1)   What tools do you currently use to influence the creation of good
        quality GI? Barriers to creating good GI?

2) What tools could help you work to overcome these barriers?
        Do you think the benchmark is useful framework for you to drive good practise?