

SW Green Infrastructure Task Group

Natural England wishes to lead a regional task group to promote best practice and technical know-how in the provision of high quality Green Infrastructure across the region.

This group sits within the Planting Places network (green spaces for sustainable communities) http://www.sustainabilitysouthwest.org.uk/projects/planting_places

The Green Infrastructure Task group aims to engage the environment sector in activity across the region that achieves high quality green infrastructure that is an integral part of planning, design and management for sustainable communities, and taken as seriously as grey infrastructure such as roads and power supply.

The group could have the following roles:

1. Inform the South West region of national policy and strategic plans that guide the successful inclusion of green infrastructure.
2. Ensure knowledge and awareness of Green Infrastructure planning in the region, sharing best practice.
3. Identify gaps in the region, where there is a need for influence and advocacy at highest levels, to work across boundaries and provide support where necessary.
4. Provide a flexible and responsive approach that enables most effective interventions to promote and advocate Green Infrastructure.
5. Provide sectoral advice on technical and procedural elements of planning and designing and implementing green infrastructure, for example:

- Regional Spatial Strategy policy
- National, regional and local evidence.
- Guidance and different approaches - regional to local
- Planning processes/Local Development Frameworks etc
- Community Infrastructure Levy and s106
- Multifunctionality/ecosystem services and their enhancement
- Water and other environmental enhancements/ protection
- Landscape management and design
- Green space and other Standards (eg. Access to Natural Green Spaces Standard) .
- Relationship with grey infrastructure (eg. Transport, energy. Schools.)
- Public realm, open spaces, connecting spaces

6. Provide and share good practice, exchanging information and working with Planting Places and other partnerships..
7. Support/lead and innovative activity which demonstrates good practice
8. To advise on the Green Infrastructure Approach within the Sub National Review

Potential Membership of the Green Infrastructure Task Group:

Governance bodies, planners and managers – Local Authorities, Parish Councils, Regional Development Agency, Government Office South West
Environment sector public orgs – eg. Natural England /Environment Agency/Forestry Commission
Environment sector voluntary organisations – RSPB, Wildlife Trusts, National Trust ,
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment
GreenSpace SW
Planting Places/Sustainability specialist – Sustainability South West