



Blackpool
Green and Blue
Infrastructure Action Plan

DECEMBER 2018
FINAL DRAFT

Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan

This Action Plan:

- Sets out the actions to realise the vision and meet the objectives over the next 10 years;
- Identifies priority sites against each action; and
- Identifies key stakeholders and deliverers against each action.

The 10 year action plan when approved, will be reviewed to create an annual action plan.

Funding

Funding to implement this long-term action plan will in the main come from external sources. Therefore the annual plan will include, the actions for that year based on priorities, opportunities and availability of funding sources.

Performance Monitoring

The annual Action Plan will generate a small number of Key Performance Indicators for that year. The long term indicators will be linked to the high level objectives of doubling the tree canopy and 5000 people involved in green initiatives in addition to enter Blackpool into Britain in Bloom.

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest’			
1.1 Celebrate Stanley Park, voted the UK’s Best Park in 2017, as Blackpool’s most prestigious heritage and visitor destination and promote links to other parks in Blackpool, Fleetwood and Lytham St. Annes.	1.1.1 Achieve the Green Flag Award, and Green Flag Heritage Accreditation. Stanley Park was previously a Green Flag Award winner, and the application should be reinstated to promote the benefits that green spaces provide to the local community and visitors to Blackpool.	Parks & Leisure Friends of Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure

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Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest’			
	1.1.2 Heritage Lottery Bid for further restoration of Stanley Park following previous successful bids.	Parks & Leisure Friends of Stanley Park Blackpool Conservation Officer	Parks & Leisure
	1.1.3 Use the park as a training centre for council led services and third sectors. Particular focus on apprenticeships and skills training.	Parks & Leisure PRU/Education Diversity	Parks & Leisure
	1.1.4 Continue and enhance the promotion of Stanley Park to the visitor market, including highlighting events and attractions directly to visitors, as well as travel agencies, visitor information services, on social media, etc.	Visit Blackpool	Visit Blackpool
1.2 Enhance GBI in housing areas, accepting that during housing transformation, greenspaces may be restructured to improve estate design and security, but overall GBI functionality should be enhanced.	1.2.1 Explore the aspiration to enhance the open space at Mereside in conjunction with the development of the western part of the open space so that it is of a higher quality than is there currently.	M.A.F.I.A Mereside and Friends in Action, LeftCoast and Blackpool Coastal Housing Better Start Planning Team	Mereside M.A.F.I.A
	1.2.2 Through the master planning process ensure that Whyndyke Garden Village delivers innovation in GBI design to promote physical activity and wellbeing.	Whyndyke Partnership Board Fylde Borough and Blackpool Councils Planning Team	Whyndyke Partnership Board

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	1.2.3 Complete the housing development on the site of the Queens Park flats including GBI plan.	My Blackpool Home Blackpool Coastal Housing Blackpool Council - Housing	Blackpool Council – Housing
	1.2.4 Through community consultation and involvement the potential for rationalising and enhancing existing open space within Grange Park should be reviewed and implemented.	Blackpool Council including Housing, and Planning BCH, @the Grange development group My Blackpool Home	Blackpool Council – Housing
1.3 Invest in Blackpool’s parks to acknowledge their importance in each local area, and ensure they are meeting Blackpool’s quality benchmark associated with Green Flag criteria.	1.3.1 There are 16 other parks in Blackpool which, along with Stanley Park, need to be recognised for the role they play in providing multiple GBI functions crossing environmental, social and economic benefits 1.3.2 Develop a Parks Development Plan informed by the Open Space Assessment 2018 which included quality audits for each park (and other open spaces across Blackpool). 1.3.3 Consider crowd funding and alternative funding sources.	Parks & Leisure Stakeholder Open Space Network	Parks and Leisure
1.4 Maintain investment in Marton Mere Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) as the premier site for promoting nature conservation across Blackpool.	1.4.1 Use Marton Mere as a nature conservation hub to promote other nature conservation.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure

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	1.4.2 Continue and enhance the promotion of Marton Mere to the visitor market, including highlighting events and attractions directly to visitors, as well as travel agencies, visitor information services, on social media, environmental groups, birdwatching clubs, etc.	Visit Blackpool Parks & Leisure	Visit Blackpool
1.5 Ensure all Biological Heritage Sites (BHS) and green corridors are protected for nature conservation, then the planning reference would be appropriate	1.5.1 There are currently 13 Biological Heritage Sites within the Blackpool Local Authority area identified and safeguarded by the Blackpool Local Plan Part 1 Core Strategy (adopted 2016) The Council is committed to maintaining the biodiversity and local distinctiveness of sites of nature conservation interest and will endeavour to safeguard, conserve and enhance any further sites that are identified as adding to the wildlife and amenity value of the network of Biological Heritage Sites.	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council Blackpool Council Planning Team	Planning
1.6 Invest in the promenade and headlands to connect people with the natural seascape.	1.6.1 Enhance the headlands for the local community. Facilities such as toilets should also be considered on the promenade.	Fylde Peninsula Bathing Water Management Partnership Planning Team	Blackpool Council – Environmental Services
	1.6.2 Investigate options to introduce GBI to the promenade.	Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Parks & Leisure
	1.6.3 Consider ways of enhancing the disused crazy golf area, North Pier.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
1.7 Protect and enhance GBI in streetscapes, quality corridors and the town centre.	1.7.1 Enhance road verges along key gateways, including Preston New Road, by introducing stretches of wildflower to provide an attractive setting for residents, commuters and visitors.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure

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Objective 1 Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'			
	1.7.2 Work with the Conference Centre contractor to plant trees to enhance existing green space in the town centre.	Leisure assets	Leisure assets
	1.7.3 Cease further use of artificial grass on roundabouts and verges and instead introduce stretches of wildflower to provide an attractive setting for residents, commuters and visitors. Identify funders for the works and ongoing maintenance through sponsorship.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
	1.7.4 Protect the existing number of street trees and hedgerows/shrubs in the Defined Inner Area from development and highway works through planning policy. Put Tree Preservation Orders in place where appropriate to protect the best trees in Blackpool.	Planning Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Planning
	1.7.5 Investigate the options for greening Bloomfield Road. This road forms part of the 'Wildlife Cycle Route' on the Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Cycle Map (2015) 'Heading inland from Blackpool Prom there are two cycle friendly explorer routes; Wildlife and Park, that take you to Blackpool Zoo and Stanley Park.'	Transport Strategy Parks & Leisure	Transport Strategy
	1.7.6 Introduce a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) policy whereby any trees and hedgerows/shrubs lost through development in the Defined Inner Area must be replaced with an agreed ratio.	Planning Team	Planning Team

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	1.7.7 Encourage hedgerows or shrubs in place of fences and railings to the front of properties within proposed developments during pre-application discussions.	Blackpool Council – Planning Team and Blackpool Coastal Housing Council Environmental Partnership Planning Team	Planning
1.8 Protect and manage GBI in corporate, business and industrial settings, enhancing it for biodiversity, sustainable drainage, and to create an attractive setting for the Enterprise Zone, the Town Centre, the Inner Area and other corridors and gateways identified in the GBI Strategy report.	1.8.1 Protect and enhance GBI associated with business parks, retail parks and other commercial setting and ensure they are adequately safeguarded from development wherever practicable.	Planning Team Growth and Prosperity Team Business Town Centre BID	Planning

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’			
2.1 Incorporate the creation of new GBI into the Town Centre Strategy Update and emerging Sustainability Strategy to ensure a greener town centre where each part of the public realm is considered as an opportunity for civic GBI.	2.1.1 Embed GBI such as trees, planters, groundcover and hedges into the Business Improvement District with long-term plans for management and maintenance.	Business Improvement District Team Planning Team	BID
	2.1.2 Work with Network Rail to incorporate GBI into the design of the planned tram extension at Blackpool North Station and the tram route to North Pier. This could include greening the tracks and creating green walls.	Network Rail, Transport Planners and Corporate Leadership Team could advocate. Growth & Prosperity Team Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity
	2.1.3 Incorporate GBI into the external spaces at the Conference Centre using civic space.	Leisure Assets Planning team	Leisure Assets
	2.1.4 Identify opportunities to green the Winter Gardens by approaching local businesses for funding for projects.	Leisure Assets Blackpool Conservation Team	Leisure Assets
	2.1.5 Work with local businesses owners to encourage and support the retrofitting of GI to their buildings using green walls and green roofs.	Business in the Community Business & Enterprise BID	Business & Enterprise
	2.1.6 Incorporate GBI into the Talbot Gateway Phase 2 planning.	Growth & Prosperity Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity

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Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’			
	2.1.7 Consider the green within the town centre as an urban community park and create a town centre friends group.	BID Planning Parks	Growth & Prosperity
2.2 Increase the overall tree canopy in Blackpool to 10%, starting with planting of 10,000 trees in the ten year period 2018 to 2027.	2.2.1 Develop a tree planting plan for Blackpool which addresses a range of priorities including air quality.	City of Trees Parks & Leisure Highways Transport Planning Growth & Prosperity Environmental Health Public Health	Environmental Health
	2.2.2 Develop a business plan for the full implementation of the community project to give every child at school a tree to plant in 23 and then follow it up till 33.	The Green Team St Georges High School Lancaster University Schools Forum Parks and Leisure Adult social care	Adult social care
2.3 Ensure multifunctional GBI is incorporated in new residential developments.	2.3.1 Create new open spaces in the Defined Inner Area as part of regeneration projects e.g. Rigby Road.	My Blackpool Home Planning Parks & Leisure Housing Strategy	My Blackpool Home

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Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’			
2.4 Incorporate GBI into the master plan for the Enterprise Zone to create a welcoming place for businesses.	2.4.1 Create open spaces within the Enterprise Zone for workers as well as being accessible to local residents. Open spaces could include Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS), perimeter planting, measured walking and running routes. Explore opportunities for local businesses to implement GBI and take stewardship of the GBI by delivering long term maintenance. Encourage innovative green elements in building design (e.g. roof-top planting, green walls, etc.)	Growth & Prosperity Leisure Team. Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity
	2.4.2 Deliver the Common Edge Sports Village Project.	Growth & Prosperity Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Parks & Leisure
2.5 Identify opportunities in the Leisure Quarter to embed GBI.	2.5.1 Explore opportunities to incorporate GBI within the Leisure Quarter. Explore opportunities for local businesses to take stewardship of the GBI by delivering long term maintenance.	Developers Place Department, Economic development team to advocate and business owners. Planning Team	Growth & Prosperity
	2.5.2 Explore opportunities to expand Illuminations through the use of lit trees potentially linking to LightPool.	BID Communications and Regeneration	Communications and Regeneration
2.6 Use GBI at the gateways and corridors into and around Blackpool (e.g. the ‘Green Line’) to provide attractive routes for residents, commuters, visitors and tourists and to encourage walking and cycling.	2.6.1 Explore the opportunity to create a ‘Green Line’ along the central corridor from south Station to the Town Centre, comprising a continuous green space/ series of green spaces that facilitates walking, running and cycling.	Enterprise Partnerships Highways Transport Strategy Parks & Leisure	Transport Strategy

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	2.6.2 Plant street trees on key transport gateways from the M55, including Yeadon Way, Progress Way and Westcliffe Drive/ Talbot Road.	City of Trees Enterprise Partnerships Highways Transport Strategy	Transport Strategy
	2.6.3 Encourage Sustainable Drainage System (SUDS) in proposed residential development as per Policy CS9: Water Management and with a new Supplementary Planning Document (SPD).	United Utilities and Environment Agency Coastal & Environmental Investments Planning Team	Coastal & Environmental Investments
2.7 Adopt a Planning and Development checklist to ensure GBI is incorporated in all new developments, linked to existing assets, and where on-site provision is not possible, an appropriate contribution is made to off-site GBI assets and networks.	2.7.1 Create a GBI design checklist to be included in the updated SPD for Open Space Provision for New Residential Development.	Planning Team	Planning
	2.7.2 Explore the opportunities to create and deliver new GBI provision for children and young people in Hawes Side and Common Edge where there is currently a deficiency.	BID Places	Places
	2.7.3 Temporarily green vacant sites in the Town Centre e.g. Bank Street Car Park prior to their development. Seek the support of local business to fund and manage such sites.	BID Places Planning	Places
2.8 In the Green Belt and Countryside Areas, restore elements of the landscape that contribute to character and biodiversity.	2.8.1 Develop a cemetery extension planting scheme.	Democratic Services Parks & Leisure	Democratic Services

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Objective 2 Create and Restore Green and Blue Infrastructure ‘Greening the Grey, and Creating new GBI in areas where it is most needed’			
2.9 Continue to expand and support the Allotment Society.	2.9.1 Create allotments in the north of Blackpool where there is currently a deficiency.	Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Parks & Leisure Planning

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
Objective 3 Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Making the Links, Improving Connectivity and Accessibility of GBI'			
3.1 Ensure the Council obtains maximum input to GBI from businesses and services.	3.1.1 Include specific.GBI opportunities in Social Value element of tendering for contracts	Procurement Parks & Leisure Public Health	Procurement
3.2 Create and/or upgrade the Blackpool Activity Trail which incorporates Gateways and Green Corridors to connect key GBI for people and wildlife, including the walking and cycling route from the Town Centre to Stanley Park, Zoo and Marton Mere.	3.2.1 Develop the Blackpool Activity Trail – cycling, walking, and nature trails. A vision for the Trail has been previously explored and should be implemented to widen opportunities for cycling, walking and nature trails. The Activity Trail links the National Cycle Route, Heron’s Reach Footpath Trail, Blackpool Heritage Trail, North Blackpool Pond Trail, and Blackpool Promenade.	HLF, SITA, Sport England and National Governing Bodies Parks & Leisure Transport Policy Planning Team,	Parks & Leisure
3.3 Promote and support initiatives that encourage active travel such as ‘Steps to Health’ and ‘Cycle for Health’ scheme.	3.3.1 Further develop the Living Streets: Walk to 2017-2020 programme.	Living Streets, Modeshift, Cycling UK, Active Blackpool Team and Heartwize Public Health	Public Health
3.4 Work with neighbouring local authorities to promote links to cross-boundary GBI provision.	3.4.1 Continue to work with Fylde Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council and Lancashire County Council in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding on promoting cross-boundary GBI provision.	Blackpool Council, Fylde Borough Council, Wyre Borough Council, Lancashire County Council Planning Teams and Fylde Peninsula Bathing Water Management Partnership	Blackpool Council Planning

Headline Actions (from GBI Strategy)	Projects/Programmes	Stakeholders	Lead Department/ Team
Objective 3 Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Making the Links, Improving Connectivity and Accessibility of GBI'			
	3.4.2 Work with Fylde Borough Council to create links from the outer housing estate at Mereside to the Whyndyke Garden Village and Marton Mere.	NHS and Fylde Borough Council (lead applicant) Blackpool Council Whyndyke Board	Whyndyke Board
	3.4.3 Promote the Lancashire Coastal Way (137 mile footpath following the coastline between Merseyside and Cumbria) to connect residents to neighbouring GBI and visitors and tourists to Blackpool.	Visit Blackpool	Visit Blackpool

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Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI ‘Changing Behaviour’			
4.1 Provide topical and user-friendly information on GBI, parks, open spaces and nature conservation sites, and how to get involved in activities and volunteering.	4.1.1 Create information packs for community hubs on the importance of their gardens and local green spaces for the benefit of people and wildlife. Information pack could include information about their local green spaces e.g. beach, Marton Mere, Kincaig Pond Trail. Also how to get involved and how to go about maintaining or improving the public realm.	Internal Communications Team, Friends of Groups, Parks Department and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside Open Space Network	Parks & Leisure
	4.1.2 Through planning policies where residents apply to change front gardens into car parking on a classified road or conservation area, ensure that plans maintain green wherever possible and facilitate drainage.	Planning Team	Planning
	4.1.3 Identify roads that could be closed at an agreed time and day each week/month to provide informal play space for children as part of Playing Out.	Playing Out Childrens Services – Early Intervention Highways	Childrens Services
	4.1.4 Encourage park led volunteering to engage residents with GBI for the benefit of physical and mental health and to promote stewardship of local spaces including junior park wardens.	Head Start and Better Start Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure

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Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI ‘Changing Behaviour’			
	4.1.5 Encourage local businesses to take stewardship of local green spaces by allowing staff to undertake Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) volunteering.	Business in the Community Parks & Leisure Business & Enterprise BID	Blackpool Council – Business & Enterprise
	4.1.6 Ensure that the new Integrated Neighbourhood Teams identify green gyms and cook and eat opportunities in next area and actively refer patients.	Public Health CCG Blackpool Council – Adults Services Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	CCG
	4.1.7 Establish a Men in Sheds Network for Blackpool, to coordinate GBI projects.	UK Men’s Shed’s Association Fulfilling Lives Public Health	Public Health
	4.1.8 Consider incentive scheme for green volunteering.	Growth and Prosperity Volunteer centre	Growth and prosperity
	4.1.9 Consider a focal point on a website to inform the public of all the volunteering opportunities available.	Growth and Prosperity Public Health FYI Volunteer centre	Growth and Prosperity

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Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'			
	4.1.10 Expand the remit of Street Scene workers to include stewardship of the green environment, working with volunteer groups to make the most of the public realm.	Friends Group Street Scene	Street Scene
4.2 Encourage and support Parks Friends Groups, Beach Guardians, Tree Wardens and other community led environmental stewards.	4.2.1 Identify further opportunities to support Friends of Groups to ensure their continuation and to increase members.	Keep Britain Tidy and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
	4.2.2 Beach Guardians to promote the educational and recreational value of the beach and sea.	Turning Tides Public Health	Public Health
	4.2.3 Further expand the work of the Council's Adult Services Green Team	Adult services	Adult services
	4.2.4 Support and empower street drinkers and others to become stewards of the town centre green space and help with its maintenance as part of their journey to recovery.	BID Community Safety Horizon Fulfilling Lives	Fulfilling Lives
	4.2.5 Consider the creation of Community Greenhouse Project whereby residents can contribute to the greening of Blackpool to growing plants at home.	Grow Blackpool Growth & Prosperity Parks	Growth & Prosperity
	4.2.6 Work with Highways and Blackpool Transport to consider the creation of a pilot green/growing bus shelter, to bring green into Street Scene.	Blackpool Transport	@ the Grange

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Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI ‘Changing Behaviour’			
4.3 Continue to support and promote the outdoor aspects of the Better Start and HeadStart Programmes and work with health professionals throughout the town to promote “green prescribing”.	4.3.1 Continue to promote and support the Better Start and HeadStart Programmes with the aim of building capacity for developing community skills and social mobility.	Better Start, National Lottery Programme, Parents of 0-3 year olds and Community Connectors Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure
4.4. Appoint a GBI Officer to take ownership and to deliver the GBI Strategy and Action Plan, forming partnerships with health, housing, town centre, schools, cultural and arts specialists.	4.4.1 GBI Officer to drive change in policy and delivery of GBI through new development, including developer contributions and bid writing.	Growth and Prosperity Public Health	Growth and Prosperity
4.5 Continue to deliver GI projects that promote food growing, gardening and stewardship of local green spaces.	4.5.1 Link Grow Blackpool @ The Grange, Grange Park, Cherry Tree Allotments and the Better Start programme to provide a network of sites.	Better Start and Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside	Groundwork
	4.5.2 Fully implement an Urban Farm @ The Grange with Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside.	Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire and Merseyside	Groundwork
4.6 Promote the use of GBI by educational institutions and incorporate GBI into the curriculum e.g. through Forest Schools.	4.6.1 Engage with the Schools Forum and colleges to encourage educational trips to local green spaces. Where the school has limited space, encourage schools to partner with local public green space in the delivery of GBI activities.	Curious Minds Blackpool Council – Childrens Services	Blackpool Council – Childrens Services

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Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI ‘Changing Behaviour’			
4.7 Incorporate GBI into the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy 2013-2018 when updated.	4.7.1 During the update of the Blackpool Sport and Physical Activity Strategy ensure GBI and its benefits are highlighted by targeting specific sports that use outdoor space.	Football Foundation, Sport England and National Governing Bodies.	Parks & Leisure
4.8 Encourage GBI implementation through the Arts and Culture Strategy.	4.8.1 Identify opportunities to create pop-up public art/ temporary GBI around Blackpool in isolation of or in conjunction with other events in Blackpool.	Arts Award Program, Urban Splash Program and Visit Blackpool	Blackpool Council – Culture
	4.8.2 Create an Arts Trail and promote it to residents, workers, visitors and tourists.	Grundy Art Gallery, Arts Award Program, Visit Blackpool and Urban Splash Program	Blackpool Council – Culture
4.9 Leadership of the GBI agenda.	4.9.1 Obtain a personal commitment to GBI from Councillors and senior Officers of the Council.	Cabinet Secretary Director of Adult services Director of Public Health Director of Community and Environmental services	Director of Community and Environmental services

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Objective 4 Promote the Benefits of GBI ‘Changing Behaviour’			
4.10 Create a social movement of residents and businesses to maintain and improve GBI in Blackpool	4.10.1 Develop and implement a social marketing strategy for GBI	Blackpool Sixth Form College Public Health	Public Health
4.11 Monitor the outcomes of this Action Plan from the residents perspective.	4.11.1 Ensure GBI and its use, is included in future residents surveys.	Blackpool Council – Research	Blackpool Council - Research
4.12 Incorporate GBI in all strategies for the built environment.	4.12.1 GBI impact assessment to be included in all Council policy and strategy papers.	CLT	CLT
4.13 Inspire Local Business – Promote GBI activities by Blackpool Council staff	4.13.1 Consider the potential to allow paid leave for employees to volunteer on green and blue projects in order to lead from the front as a Council and inspire businesses.	CLT	CLT



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