

Green and Blue Infrastructure Action Plan 2024-2033

This Action Plan:

- Sets out the actions to achieve the four strategic objectives for Blackpool's GBI over the next 10 years
- Identifies responsible parties and stakeholders for each action
- Proposes a timescale for short, medium and long term actions with specific and measurable outcome criteria

Headline Action	Project/Programme	Lead Team	Stakeholders	Timeline	Measurable Outcome
Objective 1: Protect and Enhance Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Protecting the Best, Enhancing the Rest'					
1.1 Enhance and promote Blackpool's parks, delivering 17 Green Flag Award Parks by 2029	1.1.1 Agree requirement for park improvement criteria (e.g. Green Flag Award standard) and assess each of the 8 main parks' status	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding of current status and next steps needed for each park, and details added to all action points below to create an action plan for each park.
	1.1.2 Achieve Green Flag Award status for Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure Friends of Stanley Park	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Green Flag status in marketing & communications, take steps to measure increased engagement and footfall, increased satisfaction and wellbeing.
	1.1.3 Achieve Green Heritage Site Accreditation for Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure Friends of Stanley Park Blackpool Conservation Officer	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use Heritage Accreditation in marketing & communications, take steps to measure increased engagement and footfall, and any advantage in funding bid success.

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	1.1.4 Submit Heritage Lottery Fund Bid for further restoration of Stanley Park	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure Friends of Stanley Park Blackpool Conservation Officer	18-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If bid is won deliver improvements through asset restoration, communicate benefits through marketing channels and measure engagement and satisfaction.
	1.1.5 All 8 major parks to achieve Green Flag Award	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	12-24 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Green Flag status in marketing & communications, take steps to measure increased engagement and footfall, increased satisfaction and wellbeing.
	1.1.6 All 17 parks to achieve Green Flag Award	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	3-5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use Green Flag status in marketing & communications, take steps to measure increased engagement and footfall, increased satisfaction and wellbeing.
	1.1.7 Update Open Space Assessment (OSA)	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify key areas within Blackpool with deficiencies in provision, quality, value and accessibility. Establish a realistic but ambitious target for eliminating deficiencies of concern.
	1.1.8 Prepare a full parks development programme aiming to eliminate the OSA deficiencies.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 months 6-12 months 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish a timeline for the parks development programme and secure Council support in principle Produce a 5 year Parks Development Programme. Monitor and review timeline as

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				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 years 	<p>and when is required to ensure the town's parks are tackling OSA deficiencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aim to have eliminated deficiencies of concern
	1.1.9 Complete a review of funding sources	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure and Planning Team	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a full review of funding sources and create a 'tracker' to be able to review and monitor new and old funding sources. Incorporate into Parks Development Programme
	1.1.10 All buildings within parks to increase use for council and community led services, especially skills training	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and review the use of park for community led services, such as skills training through undertaking questionnaires at the start of every month.
	1.1.11 Coordinate promotion of all parks and open spaces, starting with review of current advertising	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	3-6 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centralised and measurable promotion of all parks and green spaces should increase footfall and wellbeing but also provide useful data on effective campaigns, events and actions.
1.2 Enhance overall GBI functionality in housing areas	1.2.1 Use OSA and Ecological/ BNG information to inform which green spaces (such as Mereside) should be protected or developed for the Local Plan	M.A.F.I.A Mereside and Friends in Action, Left Coast and Blackpool Coastal Housing Better Start Planning Team	Mereside M.A.F.I. A	12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of all ecological, BNG and OSA information. This review will be used to decide which green spaces are to be developed and or protected to provide evidence for the Local Plan. Lost green space through development will need to be

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					created or improved in another suitable location.
	1.2.2 Review Whyndyke Garden Village and NHS guidance to create best practice vision for promoting physical activity with GBI	Whyndyke Partnership Board Fylde Borough and Blackpool Council Planning Team	Whyndyke Partnership Board	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once vision is created periodic review should be undertaken to ensure the vision is updated and aligns with the most up to date guidance from the NHS.
	1.2.3 Create supplementary planning document for green space management and quality assurance of green spaces and habitats	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Once created, this supplementary planning policy document for green space management should be reviewed periodically to be in-line with up to date national planning policy and legislation.
1.3 Maintain and enhance all Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) following the template plan for Marton Mere Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)	1.3.1 Use Marton Mere Management Plan (MMMP) objectives and actions to inform this GBI action plan once it is approved by Natural England	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure resources are in place to implement MMMP once it is approved
	1.3.2 Use Marton Mere hub to inform coordinated management plan for all LNRs	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council	Parks & Leisure	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collate relevant baseline ecological data and information required to create all LNR management plans. Once Management Plans (MP) for all LNRs are created the MPs should be periodically reviewed to ensure it aligns with relevant up to date legislation and information.

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	1.3.3 Assess what water quality data is needed for LNRs and plan for data collection and monitoring	Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Lancashire County Council	Parks & Leisure, United Utilities and Environment Agency	3 months 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial meeting with stakeholders to determine scope and testing requirements Data collection completed and monitoring plan implemented
	1.3.4 Appoint full time Wildlife Officer within the council, working with enforcement	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	12-18 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periodically review the need for Wildlife Officers (WO) and their role within Blackpool Council (BC). Does their role suit the needs of BC? And review BC's need for more WO's.
	1.3.5 Ensure promotion of LNRs is included in marketing and promotion activity to residents and visitors	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor and review the interest within the LNRs. Review the number of visitors to each site and push out more marketing material if numbers are low. Identify best marketing campaign tactics to employ.
1.4 Protect and manage all wildlife corridors and Biological Heritage Sites	1.4.1 Start specific collaboration with Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Public Protection and Planning to identify green corridors.			12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create management plan for BHSs Consider designation for green corridors in local plan
	1.4.2 Conduct a Biodiversity Audit of quantity, quality and value of habitats and green corridors	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange a meeting with Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Public Protection and Planning departments to identify key sites for green corridors.

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	1.4.3 Create Management plan for BHSs and wildlife corridors, ensure it is funded and implemented	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current legislation and add further emphasis to Biological Heritage Site protection within the Local Plan. Identify key protections levels.
1.5 Increase local use of coastal GBI	TBC Ref input from coastal team and Fylde Council Coastal Strategy (2015-2032)				<ul style="list-style-type: none">
1.6 Protect and enhance GBI in streetscapes, quality corridors and the town centre, industrial and commercial/enterprise zones.	1.6.1 Create and implement management plan for wildflower verges to measure total area 'left to grow', starting with community engagement and following up with signage, marketing communications and call for sponsorship	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a review of Blackpool's verges identifying those able to be re-wilded as part of biodiversity audit. Identify local residents who are happy to be involved in this plan before setting numerical target. Implement a seeding and management strategy to enable the wildflower verges to be accurately managed. Implement signage and marketing materials to promote the wildflower verges.
	1.6.2 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	Planning Parks & Leisure Planning Team	Planning	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Map/audit existing trees and hedgerows Consider online tools like 'TreePlotter' and complete cost/benefit proposal. Provide a public online register of trees



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	Orders in place where appropriate to protect the best trees in Blackpool.				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider 'Tree of the Year' schemes, photo competitions and Tree Warden engagement ideas.
	1.6.3 Create policy to enforce protection of hedgerows and align with design standards	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure and Planning Team	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the information the council currently holds regarding hedgerows and enforcing the retainment of them. Create a new supplementary planning document or policy to enforce the protection of hedgerows and align this with design standards and potentially BNG
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 Contribute to accelerated greening of the Town Centre	2.1.1 All actions listed in section 1B of the Town Centre Action Plan			Ongoing	Work towards supporting Town Centre team with current GBI actions Appendix A Town Centre Action Plan - 6th February 2023.xlsx (blackpool.gov.uk)
2.2 Increase tree canopy coverage in Blackpool to at least 10% in all wards by 2040	2.2.1 Engage with local tree groups or Woodland Trusts to determine best way to engage citizens in community tree planting project, identify appropriate sites and deliver community tree planting scheme	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce a list of current tree groups. Engage with the Woodland Trust to determine best way to engage citizens of Blackpool. Push out marketing material and monitor interest within the tree planting project.



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	2.2.2 Map tree planting opportunity areas to accommodate long term Canopy cover target of >10% in 20 years	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	2 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial mapping and feasibility study could be completed in 2 years.
	2.2.3 Plant trees to increase tree canopy by 20% from current figure by 2030	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure	5-10 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm resources, planned locations and maintenance requirements within 12 months. Increase canopy cover by 20% from 2023 level by 2030.
2.3 Multifunctional GBI to be incorporated into all residential developments	2.3.1 Create a design guide for best practice guide for GBI, with GBI Planners checklist to be included in SPD for Open Space provision for new developments.	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure and Planning Team	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current local design guides for GBI relevant details Summarise the framework and create a set of easy wins that can be implemented on all new residential developments. Implement the easy wins within the new SPD for new developments.
	2.3.2 Create funding plan to show all contributions to GBI (section 106, BNG, etc) and ensure long term maintenance	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure and Planning Team	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review current funding for GBI Implement a tracking form to be able to track all forms of contributions to GBI including section 106 and BNG. Ensure some funding is set aside for long term maintenance and management.
	2.3.3 Coordinate all SPDs to deliver GBI within the Local Plan, consider proposal of	Parks & Leisure	Parks & Leisure and Planning Team	6-12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure all SPDs align and are implemented within the local plan.



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	Urban Greening Factor SPD alongside other policies				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the need for more policies and include for an SPD for Urban Greening Factor.
	2.3.4 Review and update BNG policy for allocated sites and land bank			2 years	
2.4 Incorporate GBI into the master plan for the new Enterprise Zone	TBC – awaiting info from Rob Green				
2.5 Create attractive 'green line' routes for residents, commuters and visitors	2.5.1 CHECK LANCASHIRE LOCAL CYCLING & WALKING PLAN for specific actions				
	Blackpool cultural walking trail – wayfinding and promotion (awaiting input from Jane)				
	How to describe SUDS action promoting CS9 policy and new SPD (awaiting input from Jane)				
2.6 Plan to enhance green belt and countryside areas that contribute to	TBC – ref local Landscape Character Assessment				

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character and biodiversity					
2.7 New developments will contribute to usable green space	2.7.1 All new developments to correct any areas of OSA deficiency identified in action 1.1.7 [check x-ref]				
Objective 3: Connect Green and Blue Infrastructure 'Making the Links, Improving Connectivity and Accessibility of GBI'					
3.1 Connecting all services across the council with GBI	3.1.1 Ensure GBI is specifically included in Social Value element of contract tenders				
	3.1.2 Build GBI into project management and decision-making framework across the council				
3.2 Review and enhance walking, cycling and activity trails	TBC – consider information from other depts				
3.3 Promote active travel	TBC – consider information from other depts				
3.4 Connect with neighbouring authorities	3.4.1 Create wayfinding strategy to link accessibility, health and wellbeing, LNR strategy, wildlife routes, ponds trail and footpaths				
Objective 4: Promote the Benefits of GBI 'Changing Behaviour'					



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4.1 Plan, deliver and monitor a communications strategy and plan for all GBI in Blackpool	4.1.1 Survey residents to determine priorities for GBI and public/play spaces				
	4.1.2 Expand distribution of existing GBI information packs to other community hubs – determine a relevant list of centres and arrange delivery				
	4.1.3 Create website or webpage linked with social media to promote community initiatives and chats, volunteering opportunities.				
	4.1.4 Target for completion of 5x parks development plans each year, Parks dept to conduct annual review of plans				
	4.1.5 Design and launch permeable gardens and driveways programme including community information and engagement, target % permeability, local skills and contractors training/ supply chain engagement				
	4.1.6 Collaborate with healthcare colleagues to				

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	bring social prescribing, green gyms etc into the GBI communications and action plan				
4.2 Build a strong network of volunteer groups to return to pre-COVID levels of engagement	4.2.1 Increase volunteering and stewardship in parks, linking with Parks Development plans and supporting junior park wardens (target for at least one each in all 17 parks)				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Targeted efforts in those areas which these schemes are mostly likely to be successful can provide improved numbers of businesses sponsoring/ adopting GBI features. Integrate with communications plan to measure engagement and promotion of local businesses (aim for 3 x case studies per year)
	4.2.2 Review success business stewardship and adoption of green spaces, with recommendations for further sponsorship and promotion of local businesses				
	4.2.3 Use survey feedback to decide on incentive schemes for green volunteering (including non-financial rewards – stickers etc)				
	4.2.4 Collaborate with healthcare colleagues to bring social prescribing, green gyms etc into the GBI communications and action plan				



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	4.2.5 Highlight case study of street scene workers taking on stewardship of green spaces to encourage further uptake.				
	4.2.6 Provide increased support for Friends of Groups by updating the Friends of Handbook, and parks management plans.				
	4.2.7 (check coastal strategy/ feedback for actions on Beach Guardians)				
	4.2.8 GBI activities to be promoted among council staff and local business for CSR/team building days, with case studies to promote			6-12 months 1 year onwards	Launch and promote scheme on council website and media. Produce 3 case studies per year including details of benefits to green spaces, participants and businesses.
4.3 Integrate GBI with Health, Sports, Transport and Education services	4.3.1 – Increase work with Adult services - Paul				
	4.3.2 Expand scheme for shelter residents and street drinkers to take on stewardship and maintenance of Town Centre GBI as part of their recovery – provide case study				



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	4.3.3 Green bus shelters – awaiting info from highways				
4.4 Council Leadership and coordination	4.4.1 Update GBI impact assessment to include BNG opportunities, decide on data and monitoring evidence required				
	4.4.2 Follow up on personal commitments to GBI from councillors and senior officers with actions and examples				
	4.4.3 Consider further education and use of GBI valuation tools and direct links to economic measures like footfall and dwell time.				
	4.4.4 Review Council policy documents for Air Quality, Marine Strategy, Flood Management (check for others to add) to ensure they align				