

Green Infrastructure Policy Review Checklist – Appendix 3

Process Guide for Local Planning Authorities –
Developing Green Infrastructure Policies and
Strategies using the Green Infrastructure Framework –
Principles and Standards for England

September 2024

GI Policy Review Checklist

The following is an example checklist comprised of a series of questions. The checklist is intended to be a simple tool for Local Planning Authorities to use to self-assess their draft Local Plan GI policies and identify any gaps/further work required.

In appraising your GI policies, you may wish to use this example checklist:

Context

1. Have GI policies been demonstrably informed by an analysis of National / Regional / Sub-regional / Local Policies and guidance relevant to GI?
2. Has the LPA assembled evidence of key local GI deficiencies as guided by the Headline GI Standards (accessible greenspace and nature recovery); and needs and opportunities for other benefits and the services that can be provided by GI (e.g. BNG, active travel, flood risk reduction)? What are these? [Note the 5 'benefit' principles in the GI Framework; and the forthcoming updates to the GI Framework mapping].

GIF principles

3. Are the 'what' principles covered in policy - multifunctional, varied, connected (for people and nature), accessible for all, and responsive to an area's landscape/character?
4. Have the 'why' principles (focused on the range of benefits provided by GI) informed the GI policies and/or supporting text?

GIF standards

5. Has use of the Headline GI Standards been considered?
6. Has the need for management, maintenance and monitoring of GI on major developments for at least 30 years been covered in policy?

Policy integration

7. Has GI policy been integrated through vision/objectives and wider Local Plan policy (e.g. BNG, regeneration, climate change, SUDS, trees and landscaping, open space and health and wellbeing)?
8. Has the LPA considered the relationship between strategic area-wide policies and more site-specific policies?

Design guidance

9. Has the LPA considered developing design guidance on GI, or design code content on GI, or just a simple design checklist, to supplement the GI policy and make clear 'what good looks like' and how GI can help to meet wider policy requirements and what information needs to be submitted to demonstrate policy compliance?

Planning applications requirements

10. Have GI information requirements for planning application been clearly set out, taking into account links to other policies such as BNG?

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