

## Policy CS30 – Requirements for Green Infrastructure

Summary of Comments Received	Recommended Response
Either point 1 of Policy CS30 should be altered to "maintain and enhance <u>existing biodiversity and geodiversity assets</u> , landscape features etc" to refer to biodiversity or point 4 of Policy CS30 should be altered to say: " <u>protect</u> and enhance any biodiversity and geodiversity assets and their settings; contribute towards net gains for biodiversity...in line with Policy CS33", to protect the assets themselves rather than just their setting.	No change is recommended as point 1 of Policy CS30 is intended to refer to landscape and amenity and the existing references in point 4 of Policy CS30, to contributing "towards net gains for nature" and preserving and enhancing the setting of biodiversity and geodiversity assets, will already include their protection under Policy CS33 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity.
Policy CS30 needs to say that " <u>Action will be taken to assess cumulative impacts of piecemeal development on biodiversity assets and wildlife corridors, and protection, mitigation or compensation required, as appropriate</u> ", to prevent small developments adding up to block a wildlife corridor or isolate a biodiversity asset.	No change is recommended as point 4 of Policy CS30 already provides for the enhancement of ecological networks and Policy CS33 – Biodiversity and Geodiversity provides for the protection of biodiversity and geodiversity assets and coherent ecological networks.
Paragraph 22.3 should read "wildlife <u>and</u> ecosystem services" not "or", as green infrastructure is expected to be multi-functional.	Accepted. It is recommended that paragraph 22.3 is amended to read "...securing a resilient, coherent network of interconnected landscapes, wildlife <u>and</u> ecosystem services..."
Policy CS30 needs to refer to the " <u>protection and creation of corridors...</u> " as it is difficult to protect corridors such as linked areas of large gardens protected, for example, for butterflies.	No change is recommended, as point 2 of Policy CS30 already refers to the protection of green networks and point 4 of Policy CS30 to the enhancement of ecological networks. More detailed proposals are more appropriate to be included in a site-specific Local Plan.
A detailed study of green infrastructure is required to consider the need to include or exclude other open spaces besides those already designated in the Unitary Development Plan, which should be consulted on to allow land owners to comment on proposals which may affect their land.	No change is recommended, as paragraph 22.4 already refers to the intention to prepare a Green Infrastructure Strategy and any site-specific proposals must in any case be subject to statutory consultation.
The word 'unavoidable' in the last bullet point in paragraph 22.6 is unnecessary.	No change is recommended, as some losses to green infrastructure will be unavoidable if new development needs to be accommodated to meet the requirements of national policy.
Paragraph 22.6 should also refer to " <u>Identify possible Biodiversity Offsetting areas for as many habitats as possible.</u> "	No change is recommended, as the first bullet point in paragraph 22.6 already refers to identifying the role and function of existing green infrastructure and any gaps or opportunities for enhancement.
Paragraph 22.8 should say: " <u>Biodiversity off-setting, the Community Infrastructure Levy or other similar mechanisms may be used to enable developers to contribute towards Green Infrastructure.</u> "	No change is recommended, as paragraph 22.8 already refers to the policies for development management set out in Section 26 of the Core Strategy, which includes Policy CS45 – Developer Contributions.

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Paragraph 22.6 should also refer to " <u>map strategic wildlife corridors and stepping stones which will help wildlife to move in response to climate change</u> "	No change is recommended, as the first bullet point in paragraph 22.6 already refers to mapping the role and function of existing green infrastructure and any gaps or opportunities for enhancement and the fifth bullet point to the role of green infrastructure in relation to mitigation and adaptation to climate change.
Paragraph 22.8 should record that Policy CS30 can also be delivered through Policy CS12 - Wirral Waters, Policy CS21 – Criteria for New Housing Development and Policy CS43 - Design, Heritage and Amenity.	No change is recommended, as paragraph 22.8 already refers to the policies for development management set out in Section 26 of the Core Strategy, which includes Policy CS43 – Design, Heritage and Amenity and which Policy CS12 and Policy CS21 will also apply.
Improving water quality is a key objective of the EU Water Framework Directive. Watercourse hydromorphology enhancement requiring the removal of redundant features and watercourse restoration should be specifically required in line with the North West River Basin Management Plan.	Accepted. It is recommended that Point 6 of Policy CS30 is amended to read: "...in line with Policy CS34 and CS35, including improvements to water quality and watercourse <u>hydromorphology, including the removal of redundant features and watercourse restoration</u> , where relevant."
Viability needs to be taken into account.	No change is recommended, as the need for "reasonable provision" will be dealt with under Policy CS45 – Developer Contributions and the viability of Core Strategy requirements is currently being assessed as part of the forthcoming Core Strategy Viability Study.
The Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework needs further work before it can be used as it does not, at present, show corridors and stepping stones effectively but merely enlarged buffer zones round existing sites.	No change is recommended, as it is still relevant to refer to the Ecological Framework and work to further refine the Ecological Framework is ongoing. The forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy referred to under paragraphs 22.4 to 22.6 should also satisfy some of these concerns.
The Wirral Biodiversity Audit defines some obvious corridors such as railway lines but does not look in detail at other features such as lines of large gardens within the urban area or corridors of substantial hedges in the rural area to examine whether they do or could act as wildlife corridors.	No change is recommended, as it is still relevant to refer to the Biodiversity Audit. The forthcoming Green Infrastructure Strategy referred to under paragraphs 22.4 to 22.6 should satisfy some of these concerns.