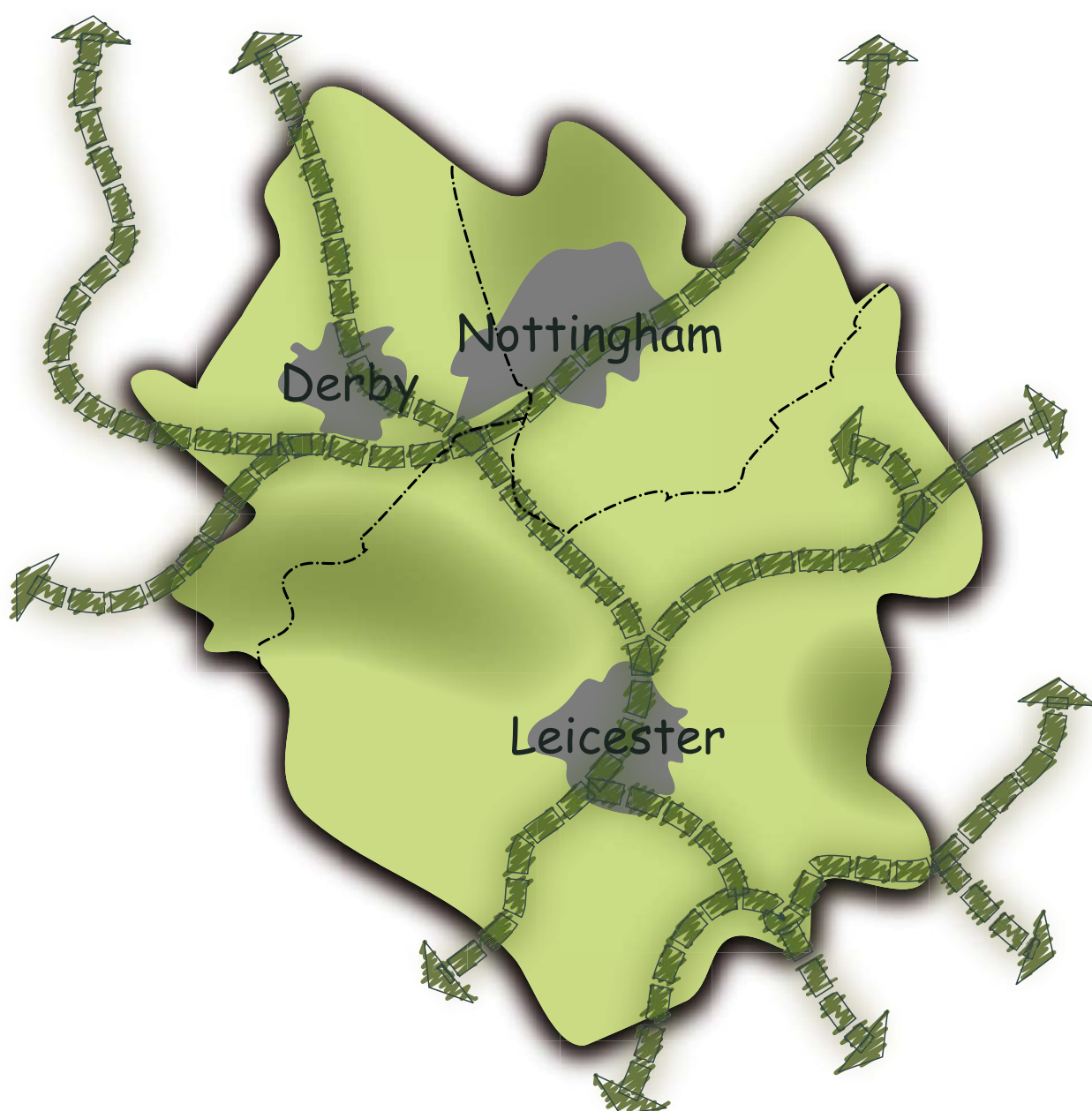
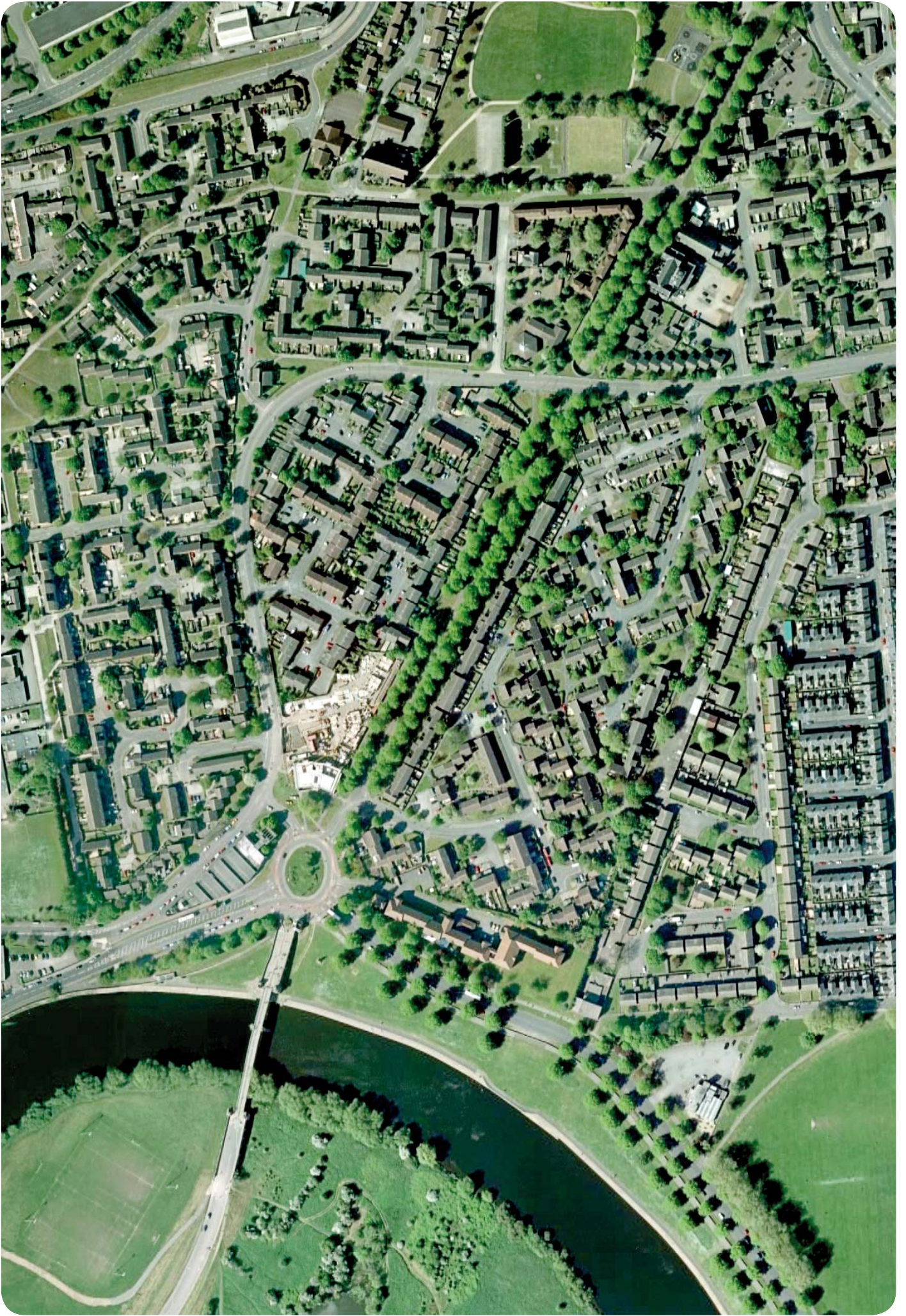


# Green Infrastructure Strategy

## Executive Summary





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## Background

The Three Cities (Derby, Leicester and Nottingham), and the Three Counties (Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire) – called the 6Cs sub-region - is one of 29 areas with Growth Point status proposed nationally under the Sustainable Communities Plan for significant housing growth. The East Midlands Regional Plan therefore allocates 177,600 new homes to be built in the area by 2026.

‘Green Infrastructure comprises the networks of multi-functional greenspace which sit within, and contribute to, the type of high quality natural and built environment required to deliver sustainable communities. Delivering, protecting and enhancing these networks require the creation of new assets to link with river corridors, waterways, woodlands, nature reserves, urban greenspace, historic sites and other existing assets.’

(East Midland Regional Plan, 2009)

**The 6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy provides an overarching strategic framework to 2026 for Green Infrastructure (GI) planning, investment and delivery by stakeholders working across the environmental, economic and social sectors. It has been produced to assist with and guide actions on the delivery of multi-functional GI within the sub-region as part of its long term sustainable development. The Strategy takes a long term and holistic view of GI requirements, and many of its recommendations would still be applicable in the absence of Growth Point status.**

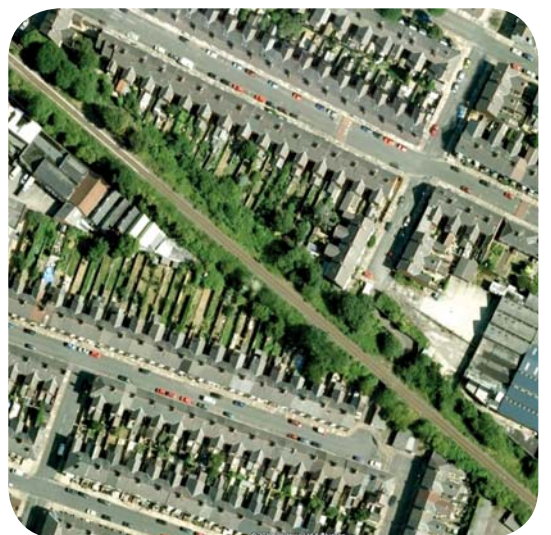
The Strategy was commissioned in 2008 by the 6Cs Strategic Green Infrastructure Project Board, a partnership of local authorities and environmental agencies with responsibility for overseeing the planning and delivery of GI across the 6Cs sub-region. It is based on recommendations of work developed in stages over 12 months by Chris Blandford Associates, and has been informed by extensive consultations with over 100 local stakeholders involved in planning, managing and delivering GI and sustainable development across the sub-region.

## Baseline Evidence

The Strategy is based on a wide ranging **study of existing GI assets** in the sub-region at both the sub-regional (Volume 3) and city scales (Volumes 4-6). This data and maps will form a valuable strategic evidence base for more detailed work at individual local authority level.




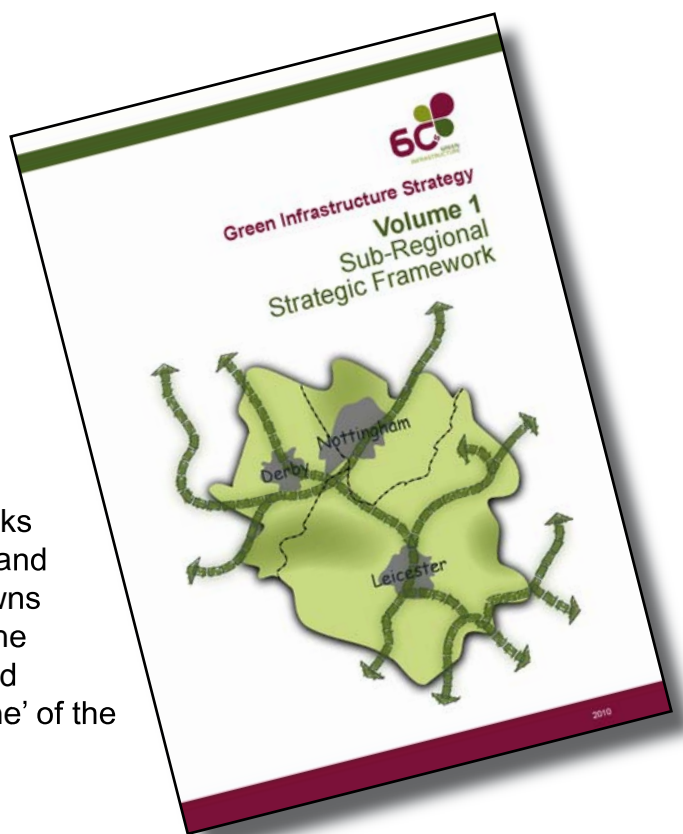
This baseline study should significantly reduce the amount of data required to produce local GI strategies and may be referenced and used as the basis of more local work.





## Proposed Vision for GI


Volume 1 sets out strategic aims and objectives for the 6Cs GI Strategy and a proposed Vision for GI in the 6Cs sub-region.


 The long term Vision for GI in the 6Cs sub-region is to maintain, enhance and extend a planned multi-functional GI network. This will comprise existing and new greenspaces, natural and cultural features and interconnected green links in and around the three cities of Derby, Leicester and Nottingham, connecting with their surrounding towns and villages as part of the sustainable growth of the sub-region. The river valleys of the Trent, Soar and Derwent and their tributaries provide the 'backbone' of the network, linking the three cities with each other.



 A major step-change in the scale, quality and connectivity of GI assets will be required to match the scale of new growth planned in order to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits. This will be achieved through the commitment of stakeholders involved in planning, delivering and managing GI and sustainable development across the 6Cs sub-region working in partnership to establish the network as a lasting legacy for future generations.

 The network will provide increased opportunities for communities in and around the three cities to access a variety of greenspaces on their doorsteps and in the wider countryside. It will be set within, and contribute to, a high quality natural, cultural and built environment that provides substantial quality of life benefits for residents and visitors, and is a focus for attracting and retaining economic investment in the area.

 The network will be a framework for delivering biodiversity benefits on a landscape scale, and as appropriate to the local landscape character, by protecting, connecting and creating a diverse range of wildlife habitats and providing ecological corridors for species dispersal and migration.

 Investment in the network will contribute to our environmental, economic and social adaptation and mitigation to the challenges of climate change.



## The Strategic GI Network

**GI planning and delivery operates at a range of scales, and involves a hierarchy of inter-connected networks where strategic investment in GI provision is considered to have greatest potential to deliver benefits for the 6Cs sub-region.**

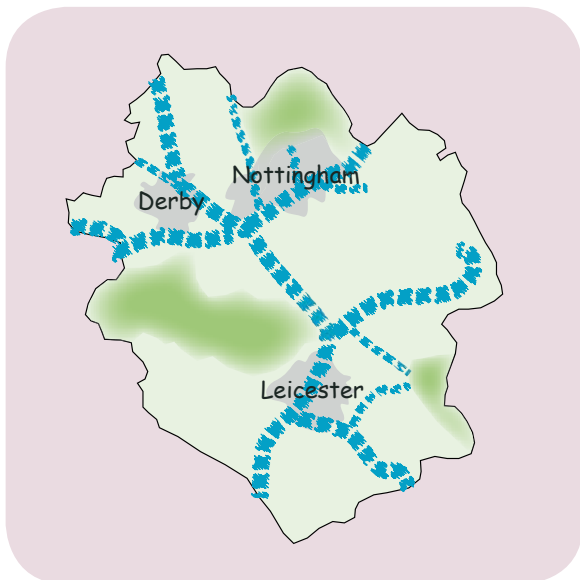
Commensurate with the strategic purpose of the Strategy, the datasets have allowed sub-regional strategic and city-scale indicative GI networks linking these key assets to be identified.

**The purpose of these networks is to provide the conceptual framework or ‘bigger picture’ for the delivery of large-scale enhancement projects and to form key elements in local GI studies.** These include policies in Local Development Documents that respond to locally identified needs and identify the scale and location of GI required to create linked networks of green space.

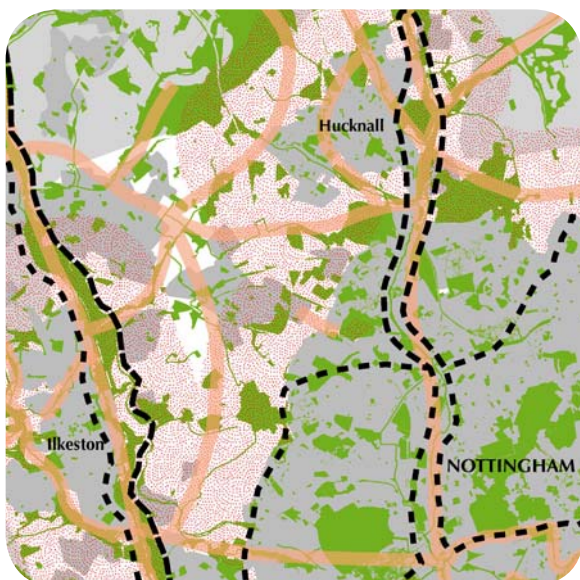
They are intended to help focus attention or priority on the strategic location of **land that needs to be safeguarded, managed or secured in positive ways to create a multi-functional network of green spaces and assets**, for which investment in GI can deliver the greatest range of benefits in the context of government policy priorities. It is recognised that the Strategic GI Network is intended to be flexible and responsive to opportunities - such as access to funding and development opportunities - that may change priorities for investment over time.

**The spatial framework for the strategic planning and delivery of GI within the 6Cs sub-region is illustrated at three spatial levels:**

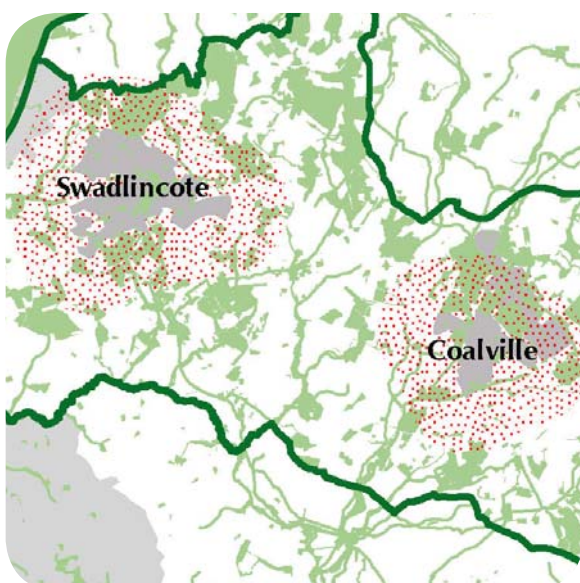
- **Sub-Regional GI Corridors** – to maintain the integrity of the GI Network in the long-term, and connect the 6Cs Network to wider Regional GI Corridors.
- **City-Scale GI Corridors** – to connect the sub-regional corridors, the urban fringe and the urban cores related to specific principal urban areas and sub-regional centres.
- **Urban Fringe GI Enhancement Zones** - to deliver GI benefits for both existing and new communities (Sustainable Urban Extensions) related to specific principal urban areas and sub-regional centres in the local areas where most development is likely to take place.



**Sub-regional GI corridors**



**City scale GI corridors**



**Urban fringe GI enhancement zones**

# The Delivery Framework

To assist in guiding the delivery of the proposed vision and network, Volume 1 of the Strategy also sets out:

- **key principles** for the short and long term **planning and delivery of GI** within the 6Cs sub-region.
- strategic **mechanisms and funding sources for delivery of GI**.
- a **framework for appraising GI projects** for funding.

The Delivery Framework recognises that Growth Fund available to the 6Cs partnership provides initial investment towards a step change in the scale and type of GI delivery. Long term funding and support for GI delivery will realistically come from a number of sources and different partners, particularly via new development and the voluntary sector and a creative use of potential funding sources will be needed which reflects the variety of sustainability benefits GI can deliver. It also notes the critical need to **identify, from the outset, ways of sustainably managing GI** in the long term, and suggests some of the creative ways this can be done.

Volume 2 sets out a stand alone **Action Plan** developed in consultation with partners and stakeholders. It identifies **priorities for action** related to promotion and advocacy of the GI principles, and existing and proposed strategic initiatives for delivering the Strategic GI Network.



## Next Steps for GI Delivery

To meet the requirements of the Regional Plan, the 6Cs GI Strategy needs to be fully integrated into the Local Development Frameworks for the sub-region, and supported by policies at a local level. This will establish local priorities for GI investment and action, and identify GI requirements in relation to the masterplanning and design process for individual development schemes at the site scale.

It is intended that the Strategic Framework and Action Plan are **kept under review**, and updated as necessary in the light of changing circumstances and new thinking, to continue providing a coherent sub-regional framework for GI planning and delivery in the 6Cs sub-region.

### Contacts

The Strategy is available to view and download via the 6Cs GI website hosted by the East Midlands Green Infrastructure Network.

[www.emgin.co.uk/6Cs](http://www.emgin.co.uk/6Cs)

For further information, please contact the 6Cs GI Development Coordinator:

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[\*\*www.emgin.co.uk/6Cs\*\*](http://www.emgin.co.uk/6Cs)

