

# Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

March 2022

Consultation report by Policy and Communications

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## Summary

Overall, the majority of respondents agreed with everything that was consulted on.

- 88.2% agreed with the draft vision and objectives
- 86.6% agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the landscape and heritage theme had been identified
- 83.2% agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the landscape and heritage theme
- 87.7% agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the biodiversity theme had been identified
- 87.7% agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the biodiversity theme
- 87.4% agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the water theme had been identified
- 86.4% agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the water theme
- 85.1% agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the recreation and open spaces theme had been identified
- 84.2% agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the recreation and open space theme
- 88.8% agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the access to the outdoors and connections theme had been identified
- 82.7% agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the access to the outdoors and connections theme
- 88.1% agreed with the broad priorities
- 85.0% agreed with the projects identified

The most important broad priority to respondents was 'Protect the existing Green Infrastructure network, including the Important Open Area and Green Corridors designated in the Local Plan'.

There were no themes to open questions, so each response will need to be considered separately.

## Introduction

'Green infrastructure' describes the networks of natural spaces and corridors across a given area. It can include a range of spaces from parks, playing fields and other open space to woodlands, allotments and street trees. It also includes 'blue infrastructure' like rivers, ponds and canals.

The purpose of the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy is to identify the valuable green infrastructure in and around Aldershot and Farnborough, to seek to protect, harness and sustain the benefits it provides, and to look for opportunities to improve what we have.

The draft strategy delivers on the commitment in the Rushmoor Local Plan (2019) to produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategy and evidence in this document will inform spatial planning and development management decisions the council makes.

The strategy includes:

- Information about our existing green infrastructure
- A draft vision and objectives
- Some key priorities
- Potential projects

The survey (appendix A) was designed to gain views on the draft strategy from the members of the public and other interested bodies.

## Method

The online survey advertised through the Council social media channels and details of the survey were sent to people who have signing up to receive news and details of consultations from the Council.

The survey ran for six weeks, from Thursday 10th February 2022 to Thursday 24th March 2022.

## Responses

In total 220 respondents started the survey. 94.5% (208 respondents) completed the survey as an individual, nine respondents (4.1% completed) the survey on behalf of an organisation, local association, community or group, three respondents (1.4 % completed) the survey as a borough / county councillor and one respondent (0.5%) completed the survey as 'other'. Five respondents indicated who they were responding on behalf of.

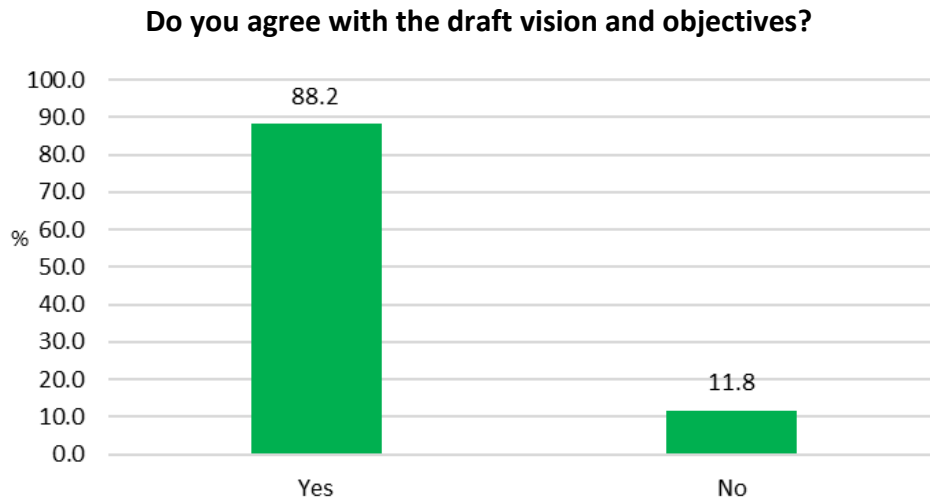
The survey had a 34% completion rate, this is the % of respondents that got to the end of the survey. The survey involved the respondent reading about each area asked about, a high drop out rate was expected.

## Results

### Draft Vision and Objectives

#### Question 2: Do you agree with the draft vision and objectives?

In total 178 respondents completed this question. The majority (88.2% - 157 respondents) agreed with the draft vision and objectives. 11.8% disagreed (21 respondents).



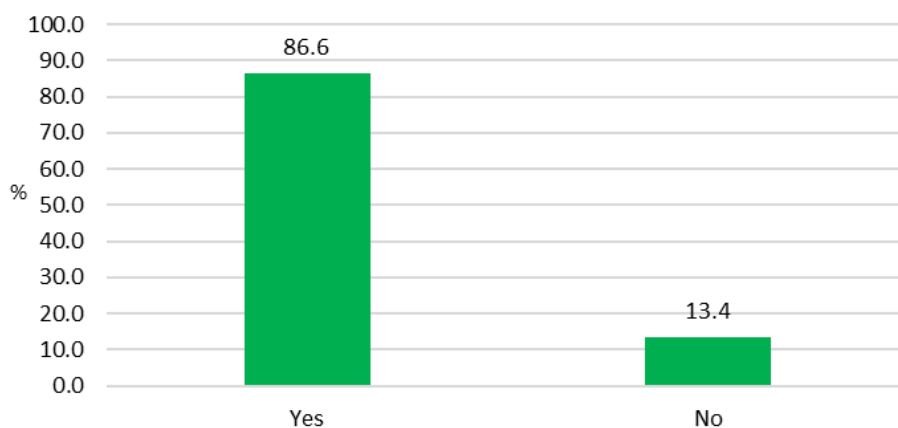
The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 27 respondents completed this part of the question.

### Green Infrastructure Assets - Landscape and Heritage

#### Question 3: Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the landscape and heritage theme?

In total 119 respondents completed this question. The majority (86.6% - 103 respondents) agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the landscape and heritage theme had been identified. 13.4% disagreed (16 respondents).

#### Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the landscape and heritage theme?

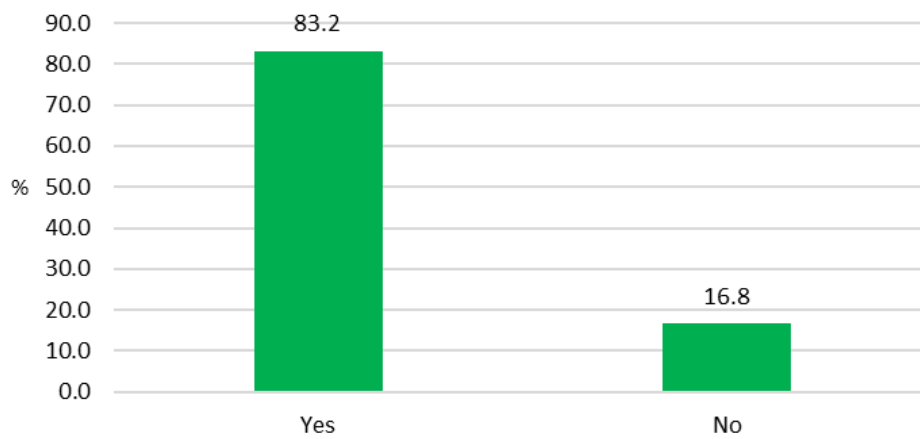


The question had an if you answered no, please tell us what we missed box. In total 17 respondents completed this part of the question.

**Question 4: Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the landscape and heritage theme?**

In total 119 respondents completed this question. The majority (83.2% - 99 respondents) agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the landscape and heritage theme. 16.8% disagreed (20 respondents).

**Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the landscape and heritage theme?**



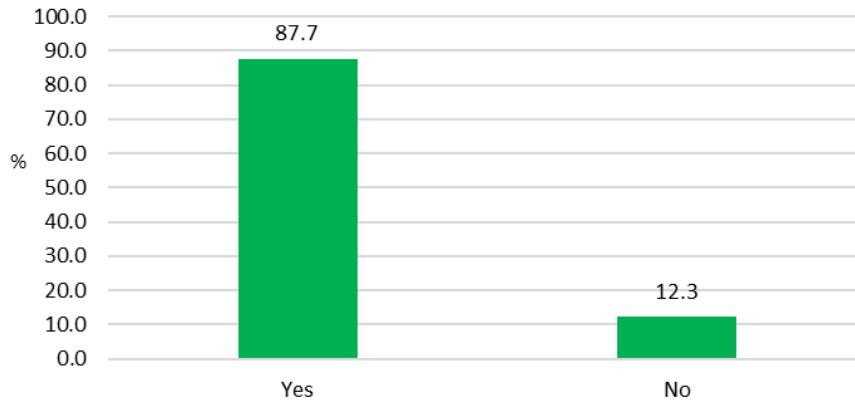
The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 18 respondents completed this part of the question.

**Green Infrastructure Assets – Biodiversity**

**Question 5: Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the biodiversity theme?**

In total 106 respondents completed this question. The majority (87.7% - 93 respondents) agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the biodiversity theme had been identified. 12.3% disagreed (13 respondents).

**Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the biodiversity theme?**

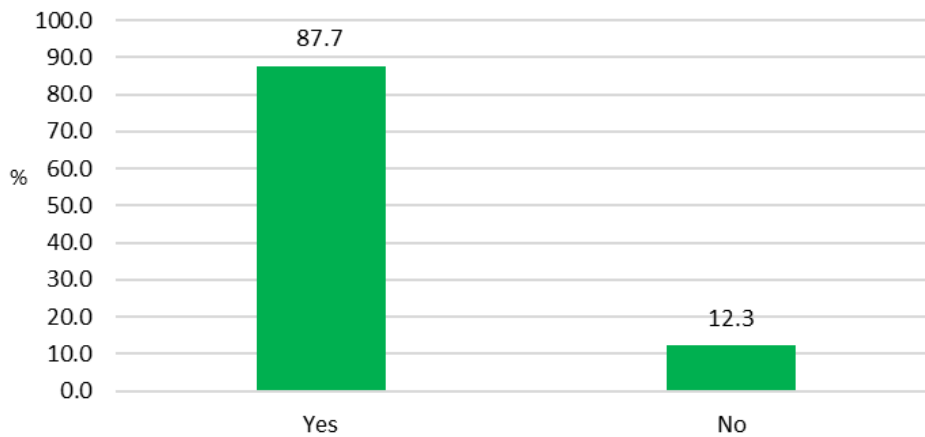


The question had an if you answered no, please tell us what we missed box. In total 11 respondents completed this part of the question.

**Question 6: Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the biodiversity theme?**

In total 106 respondents completed this question. The majority (87.7% - 93 respondents) agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the biodiversity theme. 12.3% disagreed (13 respondents).

**Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the biodiversity theme?**



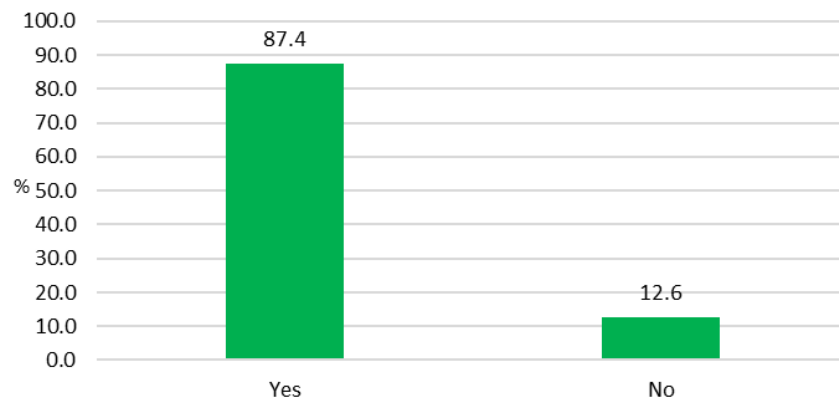
The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 12 respondents completed this part of the question.

## Green Infrastructure Assets – Water

### Question 7: Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the water theme?

In total 103 respondents completed this question. The majority (87.4% - 90 respondents) agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the water theme had been identified. 12.6% disagreed (13 respondents).

#### Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the water theme?

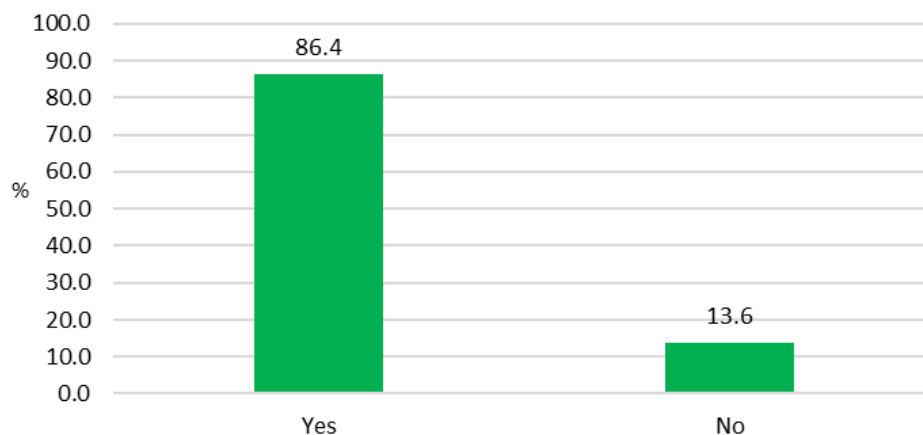


The question had an if you answered no, please tell us what we missed box. In total 14 respondents completed this part of the question.

### Question 8: Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the water theme?

In total 103 respondents completed this question. The majority (86.4% - 89 respondents) agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the water theme. 13.6% disagreed (14 respondents).

#### Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the water theme?



The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 14 respondents completed this part of the question.

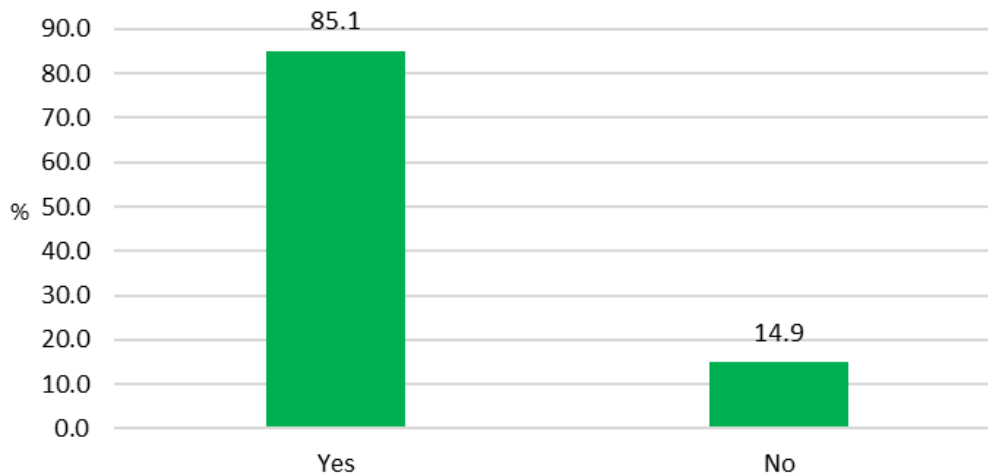


## Green Infrastructure Assets - Recreation and Open Space

### Question 9: Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the recreation and open space theme?

In total 101 respondents completed this question. The majority (85.1% - 86 respondents) agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the recreation and open spaces theme had been identified. 14.9% disagreed (15 respondents).

#### Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the recreation and open space theme

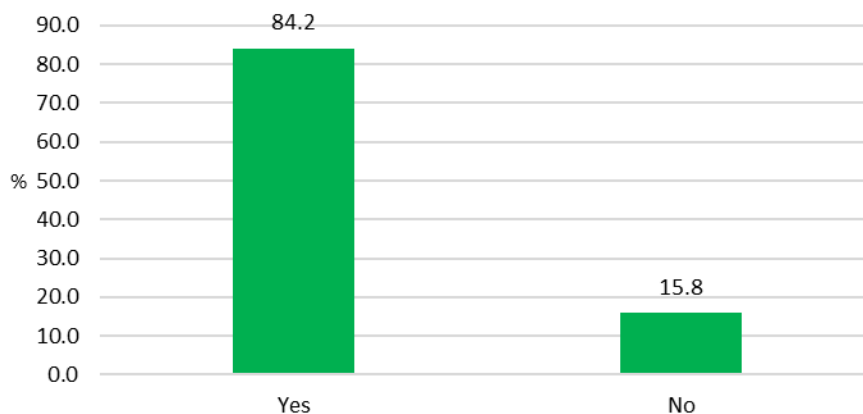


The question had an if you answered no, please tell us what we missed box. In total 13 respondents completed this part of the question.

### Question 10: Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the recreation and open space theme?

In total 101 respondents completed this question. The majority (84.2% - 85 respondents) agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the recreation and open space theme. 15.8% disagreed (16 respondents).

#### Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the recreation and open space theme?



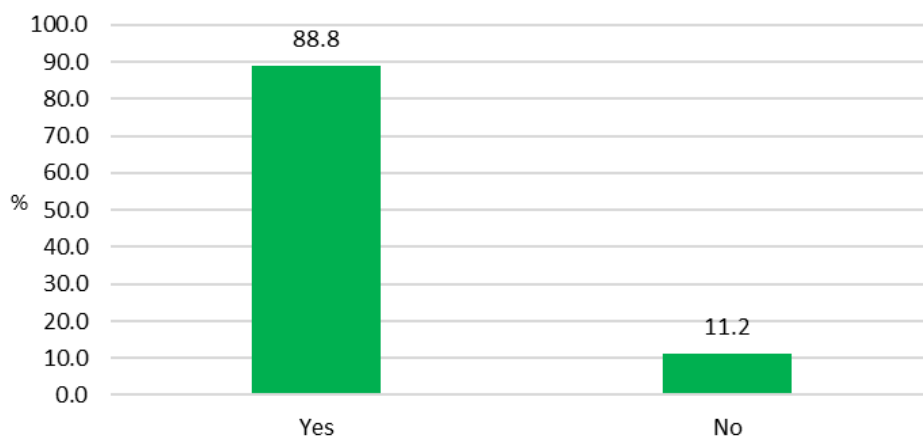
The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 14 respondents completed this part of the question.

### Green Infrastructure Assets - Access to the Outdoors and Connections

**Question 11: Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the access to the outdoors and connections theme?**

In total 98 respondents completed this question. The majority (88.8% - 87 respondents) agreed that all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the access to the outdoors and connections theme had been identified. 11.2% disagreed (11 respondents).

**Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the access to the outdoors and connections theme?**

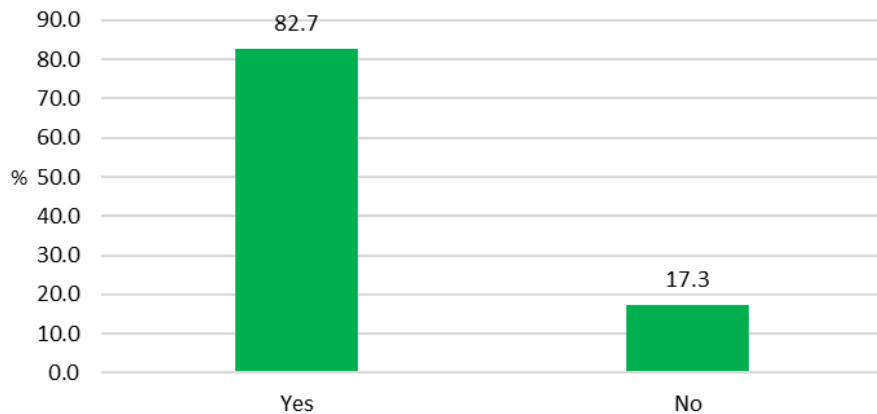


The question had an if you answered no, please tell us what we missed box. In total 11 respondents completed this part of the question.

**Question 12: Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the access to the outdoors and connections theme?**

In total 98 respondents completed this question. The majority (82.7% - 81 respondents) agreed with assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that were identified under the access to the outdoors and connections theme. 17.3% disagreed (17 respondents).

**Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the access to the outdoors and connections theme?**



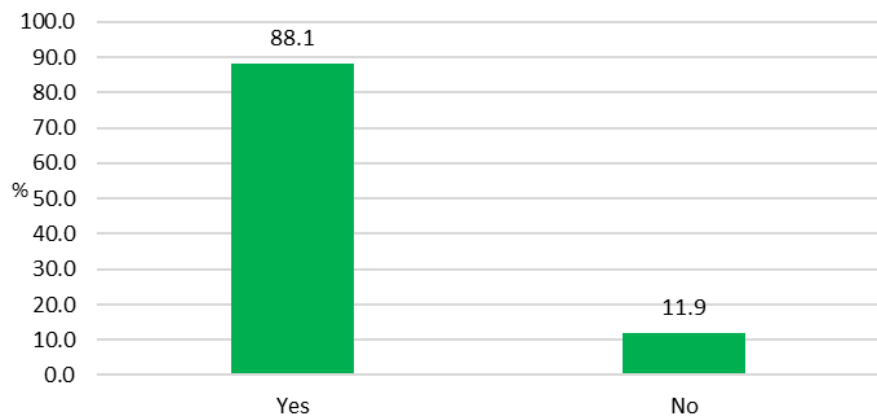
The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 17 respondents completed this part of the question.

### Priorities

**Question 13: Do you agree with the broad priorities?**

In total 84 respondents completed this question. The majority (88.1% - 74 respondents) agreed with the broad priorities. 11.9% disagreed (10 respondents).

**Do you agree with the broad priorities?**



The question had an if you answered no, please tell us what we missed box. In total 10 respondents completed this part of the question.

**Question 14: Please tell us what you consider to be the most important priorities by ranking them, with the most important being number 1.**

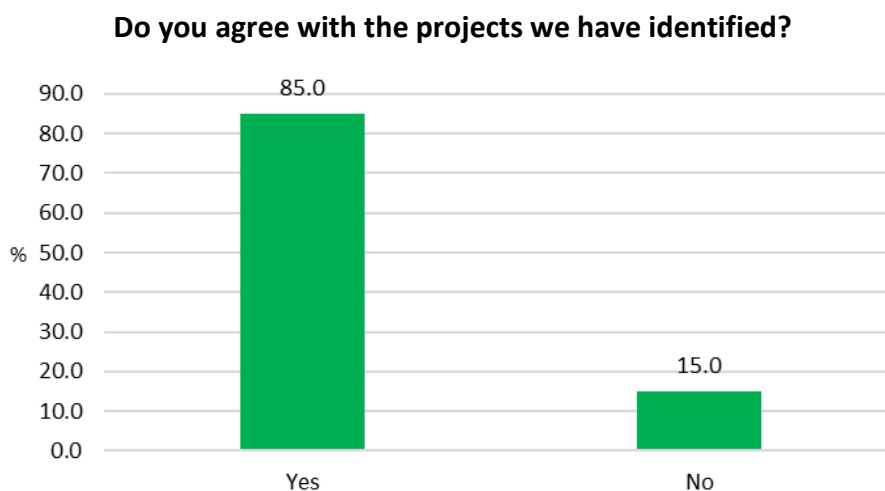
In total 78 respondents completed this question. The priorities with the lowest average score was 'Protect the existing Green Infrastructure network, including the Important Open Area and Green Corridors designated in the Local Plan.

Priorities	Average score
Protect the existing Green Infrastructure network, including the Important Open Area and Green Corridors designated in the Local Plan	6.2
Identify opportunities to deliver Green Infrastructure enhancements that will improve the state of the natural environment, including air quality and noise issues	6.7
Increase opportunities for people to connect with nature	6.7
Identify need and prioritise locations for new trees, hedgerows and woodland	6.7
Identify opportunities to improve wildlife corridors and connections between the Borough's ecological assets	7.1
Deliver green infrastructure that protects and enhances important views and local landscape character	7.6
Identify opportunities and prioritise locations for enhancing biodiversity	7.9
Identify opportunities to remove barriers to sustainable movement and improve access to existing open spaces	8.0
Increase usage of green travel corridors	8.2
Review maintenance and management policies for open space	8.3
Promote appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and identify opportunities for natural flood alleviation measures	8.4
Identify how new developments can connect to and enhance the existing Green Infrastructure network	8.6
Identify opportunities to deliver new Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and improve connections between existing SANG	8.8
Work with partners to improve and enhance the Green Infrastructure network within and beyond the Borough, with a focus on those areas where this will address existing deficiencies and/or provide benefits for deprived areas and for disadvantaged groups	9.1
Work with partners to deliver actions arising from other Strategies which will support the vision and objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy	9.3

## Emerging projects

### Question 15: Do you agree with the projects we have identified?

In total 80 respondents completed this question. The majority (85.0% - 68 respondents) agreed with the projects identified. 15.0% disagreed (12 respondents).

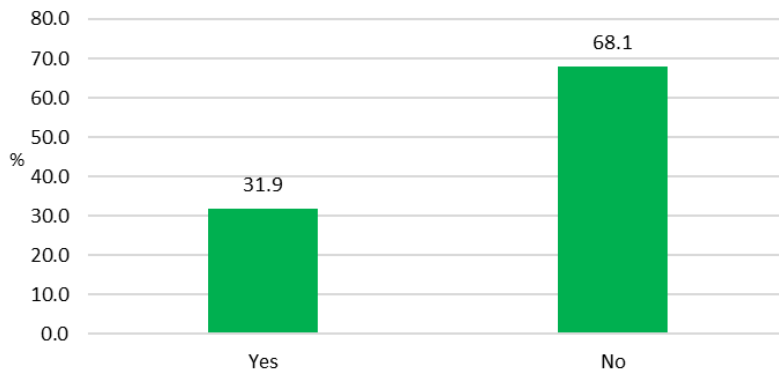


The question had an if you answered no, please explain why box. In total 9 respondents completed this part of the question.

**Question 16: Are there additional projects that you would like to see included?**

In total 72 respondents completed this question. Overall, 68.1% (49 respondent) did not have any additional projects they wanted to see included and 31.8% (49 respondents) did have additional projects they wanted to see included.

**Are there additional projects that you would like to see included?**



The question had an if you answered yes, please provide more details. In total 22 respondents completed this part of the question

**Question 17: Do you have any other comments on the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy?**

In total 24 respondents completed this part of the question.

## Appendix A. Copy of the survey



### Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

#### **About green infrastructure**

'Green infrastructure' describes the networks of natural spaces and corridors across a given area. It can include a range of spaces from parks, playing fields and other open space to woodlands, allotments and street trees. It also includes 'blue infrastructure' like rivers, ponds and canals.

Having a natural infrastructure is essential to helping people to live healthier, happier and more sustainable lives. It's also important to make sure these spaces are accessible to people and wildlife.

#### **Our draft Green Infrastructure Strategy**

The purpose of our draft Green Infrastructure Strategy is to identify the valuable green infrastructure in and around Aldershot and Farnborough, to seek to protect, harness and sustain the benefits it provides, and to look for opportunities to improve what we have.

The draft strategy delivers our commitment in the Rushmoor Local Plan (2019) to produce a Green Infrastructure Strategy. The strategy and evidence in this document will inform spatial planning and development management decisions the council makes.

The strategy includes:

- Information about our existing green infrastructure
- A draft vision and objectives
- Some key priorities
- Potential projects

The strategy can be viewed on our website at [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/greeninfrastructure).

#### **Your views on the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy**

We would like to hear what you think about our draft Green Infrastructure Strategy and on the priorities in it.

Once we have finalised and agreed the strategy, we will develop a Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan. This will set out how we will deliver the projects to protect and improve our green spaces. As part of our consultation, we'd like to hear any suggestions you have for projects we could include in the plan.

The consultation is open until Thursday 24th March.

#### **What happens after the consultation**

When we prepare the final strategy, we will take account of your views and suggestions.

It is important to note that although we have identified projects as having potential, it is not a commitment to delivering them or that partnership working has been agreed. Following the adoption of the Green Infrastructure Strategy, we will test potential projects for their feasibility and cost them as part of the preparation of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

To view our consultation survey privacy notice, please visit [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/consultationprivacynotice](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/consultationprivacynotice)

\* 1. I am responding... (please tick one)

- As an individual
- As a borough / county councillor
- On behalf of an organisation, local association, community or group (please tell us in the box below)
- Other (please tell us in the box below)

Please write in



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think









Draft vision and objectives

The strategy sets out our draft vision and what we want to achieve through it.

Our draft vision is that:

By 2032 the Council and its partners will have worked with the local community to achieve a high quality, connected and multi-functional green and blue infrastructure network that extends across the Borough, which is sustainable and provides benefits for people, place and nature.

Our draft objectives are:

People	Health and Wellbeing	Provide green infrastructure facilities to encourage, promote and enable healthy lifestyles	
	Connectivity	Improve the connectivity of green infrastructure for people and provide active access to the outdoors	
	Inclusivity	Enable the increased use of green infrastructure across all user groups, social groups and abilities	
Place	Quality and Character	Deliver green infrastructure which protects and enhances the quality and character of the local environment.	
Nature	Improved Function	Enhance existing green infrastructure to function better for wildlife, supporting healthy and more diverse ecosystems.	
	New Habitats and Linkages	Protect and enhance biodiversity by creating new habitats and linkages, improving connectivity and reducing habitat fragmentation.	
Sustainability	Climate Change Resilience	Deliver green infrastructure which helps mitigate, and can adapt to, the existing and future effects of climate change.	
	Long Term Sustainability	Working with partners to build and secure funding, effective governance and stewardship for new and existing green infrastructure to ensure its long-term sustainability and, where possible, to incorporate opportunities to educate and inspire people to care for the natural environment.	

\* 2. Do you agree with the draft vision and objectives?

- Yes  
 No

If you answered no, please explain why.



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

Green infrastructure assets



Chapter 5 of the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy identifies the green infrastructure assets in Aldershot and Farnborough under the five following themes:

- Landscape and Heritage
- Biodiversity
- Water
- Recreation and Open Space
- Access to the Outdoors and Connection

Under each of the themes we have made an assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats to these assets.

### **Landscape and Heritage**

In summary, the strategy identifies the following assets:

- Three main landscape character types identified in the Hampshire Integrated Character Assessment (2012) and 30 landscape character areas identified in our local landscape character assessment
- Historic identity attributed to the Borough's association with the military, aviation and Napoleon
- Historic Parks and Gardens
- Scheduled Ancient Monuments
- Conservation Areas
- Listed Buildings
- Designated Important Open Areas recognised for their landscape value

See pages 37 to 43 of the strategy for more information, including maps which show the location of these assets.

\* 3. Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the Landscape and Heritage theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please let us know what you think we have missed.

The strengths and opportunities we have identified for this theme are:

- Opportunities to enhance or restore historic links between and improve access to heritage assets
- Opportunities to enhance the setting of heritage assets
- Opportunities to restore historic landscape features (e.g. the restoration of hedgerows as part of Southwood and Cove Brook Floodplain Enhancement Project)

The weakness and threats we have identified for this theme are:

- Need to reflect local character
- Hedgerow removal
- Potential for fragmentation of existing green spaces

\* 4. Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the Landscape and Heritage theme?

- Yes
- No

If you answered no, please explain why.



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

Green infrastructure assets - Biodiversity

## Biodiversity

In summary, the strategy identifies the following assets:

- Two National Character Areas
- Two Biodiversity Opportunity Areas
- Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA)
- Five Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI)
- Rowhill Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
- 38 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs)
- Two Road Verges of Ecological Importance (RVEI)
- Habitats of Principle Importance
- 21% woodland cover
- A number of linear features which provide wildlife corridors, including River Blackwater, Ively Stream, Cove Brook, wooded scrub of railway corridors and woodland and grassland corridors of major road network.

See pages 44 to 59 of the strategy for more information, including maps which show the location of these assets.

\* 5. Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the Biodiversity theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please let us know what you think we have missed.

The strengths and opportunities we have identified for this theme are:

- Opportunities to improve the wildlife corridors and connections between the Borough's ecological assets
- Opportunities to deliver biodiversity net gain as part of new development
- Opportunities for nature recovery identified as part of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Opportunities to improve the biodiversity potential of Council owned land
- Opportunities to enhance existing ecological assets
- Opportunities to restore native hedgerows (e.g. the restoration of hedgerows as part of Southwood and Cove Brook Floodplain Enhancement Project)
- Opportunities to extend woodland cover, where undertaken sensitively, to ensure existing biodiversity and recreational functions are considered
- Catchment flood alleviation through restoration of natural floodplain habitats
- Opportunities to strengthen woodland corridors along the main arterial transport routes to buffer nearby communities from air pollution
- Increase opportunities for people to connect with nature through recreation and volunteering
- Opportunities for improved function of ecological networks and therefore better delivery of ecosystem services that they offer

The weakness and threats we have identified for this theme are:

- Development resulting in loss of accessible greenspace
- Use of inappropriate non-native planting schemes
- Use of lighting designs that impact on the dispersal and foraging habits of nocturnal species
- Increased recreational disturbance to the Thames Basin Heaths Special Protection Area (SPA) Recreational access to the SPA and component SSSI sites should be discouraged due to their ecological sensitivity
- Lack of funding facing non-governmental organisations (NGOs) affecting their ability to effectively manage sites to maintain good ecological condition
- Poor or inappropriate management of sites and ensuring appropriate balance between recreation and biodiversity
- Lack of statutory obligations on landowners to sensitively manage their Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) resulting in risk of loss of ecological condition
- Where high quality habitat occurs in small isolated and vulnerable blocks this reduces the quality, vitality and robustness of our wildlife, making our biodiversity vulnerable to pressures from climate change and land use change. It also reduces the quality of services (ecosystem services) the natural environment is able to deliver to local communities
- New development puts pressure on sensitive woodland and associated habitats, both directly through decreasing coverage and ecological viability, and indirectly through fragmentation and the potential for increased recreational disturbance
- Risk of spread of invasive species

\* 6. Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the Biodiversity theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please explain why.



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

Green infrastructure assets - Water

## Water

In summary, the strategy identifies the following assets:

- Basingstoke Canal
- River Blackwater
- Tributaries of the River Blackwater, including Cove Brook
- Tributaries of Cove Brook, including Marrow Brook, Hawley Lake Stream and Ively Brook
- Tice's Meadow
- Network of lakes in the east of the Borough associated with gravel extraction

See pages 60 to 65 of the strategy for more information, including maps which show the location of these assets.

\* 7. Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the Water theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please let us know what you think we have missed.

The strengths and opportunities we have identified for this theme are:

- Basingstoke Canal, Blackwater Valley and Cove Brook provide valuable recreational resource. There are opportunities to improve connections with adjoining authorities to enhance these green corridors
- Southwood and Cove Brook Floodplain Enhancement Project
- Promotion of access to rivers and the canal
- River valleys should be protected and managed to promote natural flood alleviation
- Work with key partners to deliver improvements for the Water Framework directive and to deliver actions from the catchment Flood Management Plans and River Basin Management Plans
- Opportunities to promote benefits through appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) design

The weakness and threats we have identified for this theme are:

- Issues with fluvial and surface water flooding and future impacts of climate change
- Many culverted and diverted natural watercourses
- Condition status of the Canal
- Poor/bad waterbody status (WFD)

\* 8. Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the Water theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please explain why.



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

Green infrastructure assets - Recreation and Open Space

## Recreation and Open Space

In summary, the strategy identifies the following assets:

- Five Suitable Alternative Natural Green Spaces (SANGs) within and in close proximity to the Borough boundary
- 29 parks and gardens of various sizes
- 24 areas of natural and semi-natural greenspaces of various sizes
- 14 parcels of amenity greenspace
- 6 cemeteries and churchyards
- 11 allotment sites
- 8 green corridors
- 36 publicly owned and 2 independent schools that provide recreational space for their pupils and in most cases playing fields (with some schools enabling the use of their facilities outside of school hours to third parties).

See pages 66 to 84 of the strategy for more information, including maps which show the location of these assets.

\* 9. Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the Recreation and Open Space theme?

- Yes
- No

If you answered no, please let us know what you think we have missed.

The strengths and opportunities we have identified for this theme are:

- Diverse range of public open spaces within the management or ownership of the council, including nature reserves, recreation grounds and green spaces
- Sizable areas of open space within the ownership of the Ministry of Defence that are accessible to the public, including Queens Parade Playing Fields and Ramillies Park
- A number of SANGs in and around the Borough which provide a diverse recreational resource for residents
- Opportunities to create new or improved open spaces or allow access to more open space, through development in the borough, specifically those that deliver public open spaces or additional SANG
- Opportunities to connect existing SANG to create a wider network with other sites in and around Rushmoor
- Opportunities to enhance biodiversity of open spaces, specifically beyond the formal pitch and safety margins of sports pitches that are managed as informal open space

The weakness and threats we have identified for this theme are:

- Some localised areas of open space deficiency, including areas which are outside of the '15-minute walk zone' of a green space
- Indications of potential open space deficiencies, which are linked to more deprived areas and areas with a higher population density
- Accessibility of open space
- Appropriate balance between enhancing resources for people and wildlife

\* 10. Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the Recreation and Open Space theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please explain why.



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

Green infrastructure assets - Access to the Outdoors and Connections

### Access to the Outdoors and Connections

In summary, the strategy identifies the following assets:

- Public rights of way
- Basingstoke Canal path and Blackwater Valley Path
- Identified access routes (informal pathways)
- Number of green spaces (also identified under other themes) which are publicly accessible

In addition, we have identified a number of green spaces which have green infrastructure value, but no public access or restricted public access (e.g. Farnborough Airport) and a number of physical or perceived barriers to movement, which may prevent people or discourage people from walking and cycling across the Borough.

See pages 85 to 90 and Appendix 4 of the strategy for more information, including maps which show the location of these assets.

\* 11. Do you agree that we have identified all of the relevant green infrastructure assets under the Access to the Outdoors and Connections theme?

Yes

No

If you answered no, please let us know what you think we have missed.

The strengths and opportunities we have identified for this theme are:

- Relatively compact Borough with good opportunities to walk/cycle
- Existing longer routes available, for example via the Basingstoke Canal and Blackwater River. Potential to improve connections with adjoining authorities and open space beyond the boundary
- Opportunities to promote and improve access to the large areas of countryside surrounding the Borough, whilst acknowledging those areas which are internationally protected and vulnerable to recreational impact
- Opportunities to improve access and reduce the impact of barriers across the Borough
- Opportunities to better provide access for all
- Opportunities to better promote the network of Rushmoor's greenspaces and the informal connections between them (for example, through the creation of an interactive map)
- Opportunities to improve GI connections to key destinations, such as schools, railway stations and town centres
- Opportunities to improve signage and information to inform residents of walking and cycling routes to key locations (e.g. schools, town centres and railway stations)

The weakness and threats we have identified for this theme are:

- PRoW network is fragmented and the Borough as a whole has a low density of PRoW
- There are a number of barriers (i.e. railway lines, M3, A331) which sever ecological networks and act as barriers to accessing open space
- Some access routes, including PRoW may not be attractive to users
- Some open spaces and walking/cycling routes are in close proximity to busy roads, which could discourage local people from adopting healthy transport options, such as cycling and walking

\* 12. Do you agree with our assessment of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats that we have identified under the Access to the Outdoors and Connections theme?

- Yes
- No

If you answered no, please explain why.



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

### Priorities

Using the assessment of the existing Green Infrastructure network we have identified the following broad priorities. Delivering projects focussed around these priorities will enable the Council to deliver the Vision and Objectives for this strategy.



### Broad priorities

- ⇒ Increase opportunities for people to connect with nature
- ⇒ Identify opportunities and prioritise locations for enhancing biodiversity
- ⇒ Identify opportunities to improve the wildlife corridors and connections between the Borough's ecological assets.
- ⇒ Identify need and prioritise locations for new trees, hedgerows and woodland
- ⇒ Deliver green infrastructure that protects and enhances important views and the local landscape character
- ⇒ Review maintenance and management policies for open space
- ⇒ Protect the existing Green Infrastructure network, including the Important Open Area and Green Corridor designations in the Local Plan
- ⇒ Identify opportunities to remove barriers to sustainable movement and to improve access to existing open spaces.
- ⇒ Promote appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and identify opportunities for natural flood alleviation measures
- ⇒ Increase usage of the green travel corridors
- ⇒ Identify opportunities to deliver Green Infrastructure enhancements that will improve the state of the natural environment, including air quality and noise issues
- ⇒ Identify how new developments can connect and enhance the existing Green Infrastructure network
- ⇒ Identify opportunities to deliver new Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and improve connections between existing SANG
- ⇒ Work with partners to improve and enhance the Green Infrastructure network within and beyond the Borough, with a focus on those areas where this will address existing deficiencies and/or provide benefits for deprived areas and for disadvantaged groups
- ⇒ Work with partners to deliver actions arising from other Strategies which will support the vision and objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy

\* 13. Do you agree with the broad priorities?

- Yes
- No

If you answered no, please explain why, or tell us about the priorities that you think we have missed.

14. Please tell us what you consider to be the most important priorities by ranking them, with the most important being number 1.



Increase opportunities for people to connect with nature



Identify opportunities and prioritise locations for enhancing biodiversity



Identify opportunities to improve wildlife corridors and connections between the Borough's ecological assets



Identify need and prioritise locations for new trees, hedgerows and woodland



Deliver green infrastructure that protects and enhances important views and local landscape character



Review maintenance and management policies for open space



Protect the existing Green Infrastructure network, including the Important Open Area and Green Corridors designated in the Local Plan



Identify opportunities to remove barriers to sustainable movement and improve access to existing open spaces



Promote appropriate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and identify opportunities for natural flood alleviation measures



Increase usage of green travel corridors



Identify opportunities to deliver Green Infrastructure enhancements that will improve the state of the natural environment, including air quality and noise issues



Identify how new developments can connect to and enhance the existing Green Infrastructure network



Identify opportunities to deliver new Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANG) and improve connections between existing SANG



Work with partners to improve and enhance the Green Infrastructure network within and beyond the Borough, with a focus on those areas where this will address existing deficiencies and/or provide benefits for deprived areas and for disadvantaged groups



Work with partners to deliver actions arising from other Strategies which will support the vision and objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategy



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Emerging projects

The following projects have been identified in this draft Green Infrastructure Strategy. More detail more can be found in Appendix 3 of the Strategy.

It is important to note that although we have identified projects as having potential, it is not a commitment to delivering them or that partnership working has been agreed. Following the adoption of the Green Infrastructure Strategy, we will test potential projects for their feasibility and cost them as part of the preparation of the Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan.

### Emerging process projects

- PP1 - An interactive Green Infrastructure Map
- PP2 – A Development Management Green Infrastructure Toolkit
- PP3 – A Biodiversity Net Gain Off-site Compensation Scoping Project
- PP4 - Access to the Outdoors Information Project
- PP5 - Connecting Rushmoor’s Ecological Network
- PP6 - Review of Available SANG Sites
- PP7 - Carbon Reduction through Tree Planting Feasibility Project

### Emerging geographical projects

- GP1 - Southwood and Cove Brook Floodplain Enhancement Project (underway)
- GP2 - Blackwater Valley Enhancement Project
- GP3 - Enhancing the Basingstoke Canal Project
- GP4 - Cove Brook Greenway Project
- GP5 - Southwood/Bramshot SANG Network Project

\* 15. Do you agree with the projects we have identified?

- Yes
- No

If you answered no, please explain why.

16. Are there additional projects that you would like to see included?

- Yes
- No

If you answered yes, please provide more details.

17. Do you have any other comments on the draft Green Infrastructure Strategy?



Draft Green Infrastructure Strategy - Tell us what you think

### **Thank you for completing our survey**

We would like to keep you up-to-date with the latest council news and information about events and activities taking place in Aldershot and Farnborough. You can also sign up to take part in council consultations. To sign up please follow the link below:

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