

# Local perspectives on blue-green cities

Kit England

Newcastle City Council



2009-2010  
Preventing and tackling child poverty



NORTHUMBRIAN  
WATER



Environment  
Agency

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# What I'll cover

- **Overview of the City's aspirations on Green and Blue Infrastructure**
- **Benefits of a blue-green approach**
- **Drivers**
- **Current position**
- **Challenges to delivery**
- **Some of the questions we hope that the project will help us to answer**

# Our aspirations

- **Want Newcastle to be a resilient, sustainable, and attractive city where Green Infrastructure is commonplace**
- **Generally well accepted amongst policy makers that Green Infrastructure is a way forward for many local authority agendas**
- **Benefits for many areas including Public Health, climate change mitigation and adaptation, Flood Management, Air Quality, Economic Development, Ecology and Biodiversity**



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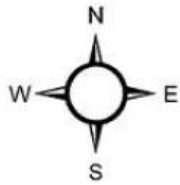
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# Drivers

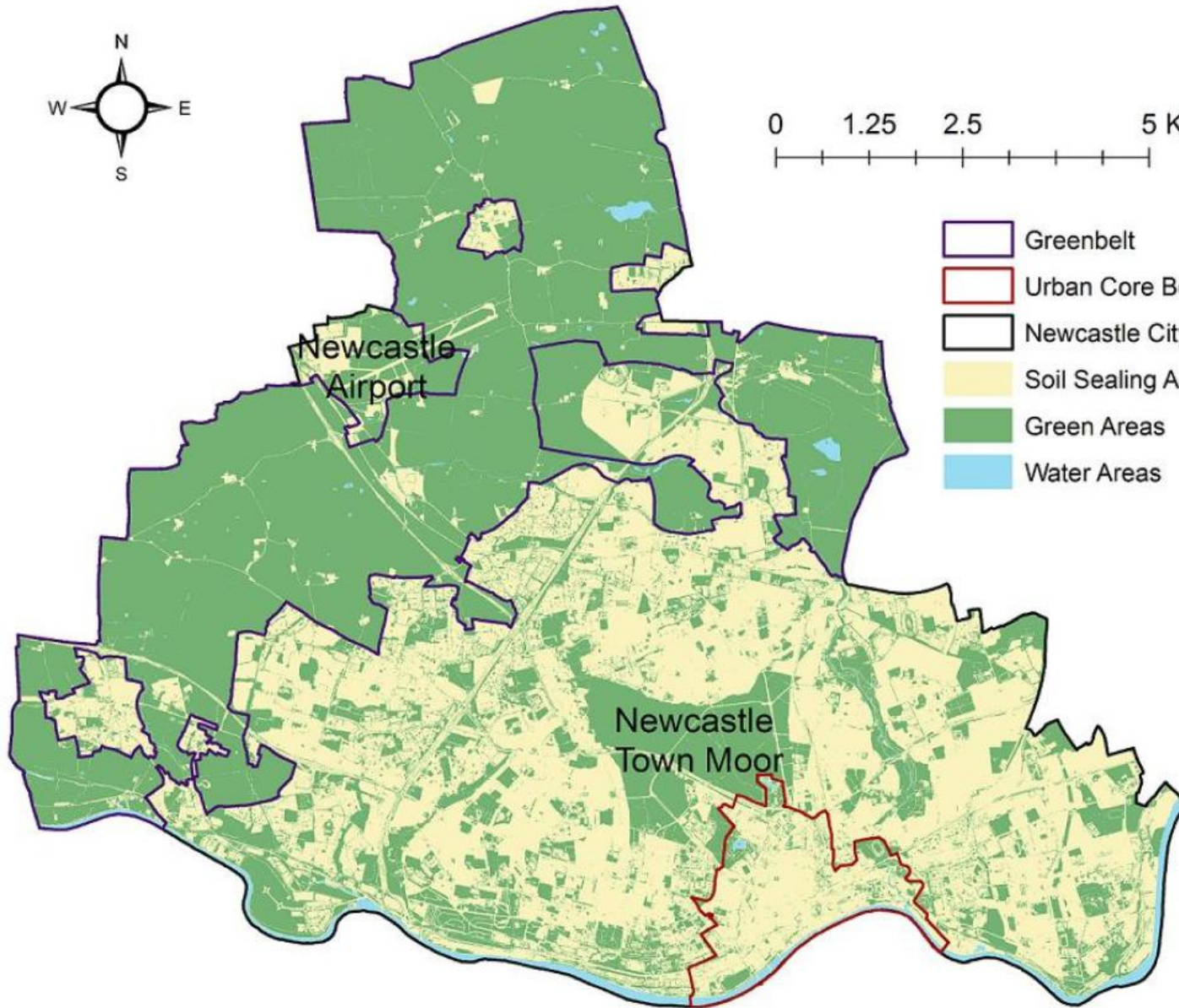
- **Council's four priorities**
- **National Planning Policy Framework**
- **Flood and Water Management Act 2010**
- **Climate Change Act 2008**
- **Cities Commitment in National Adaptation Programme**
- **Recognition of multiple policy benefits**

# Current position

- **Good amount of green space in the city already**
- **Outline GI strategy developed for the City – highlighted key areas for improvement**
- **Local Plan containing policies on flood risk, green infrastructure and climate change**
- **NCC a lead local flood authority – duties to reduce risk from surface water flooding, and to set up SUDS Approval Body**
- **Water cycle study/Surface Water Management Plan highlighted need to manage surface water differently to accommodate growth due to sewerage capacity**



- Greenbelt
- Urban Core Boundary
- Newcastle City Boundary
- Soil Sealing Areas
- Green Areas
- Water Areas



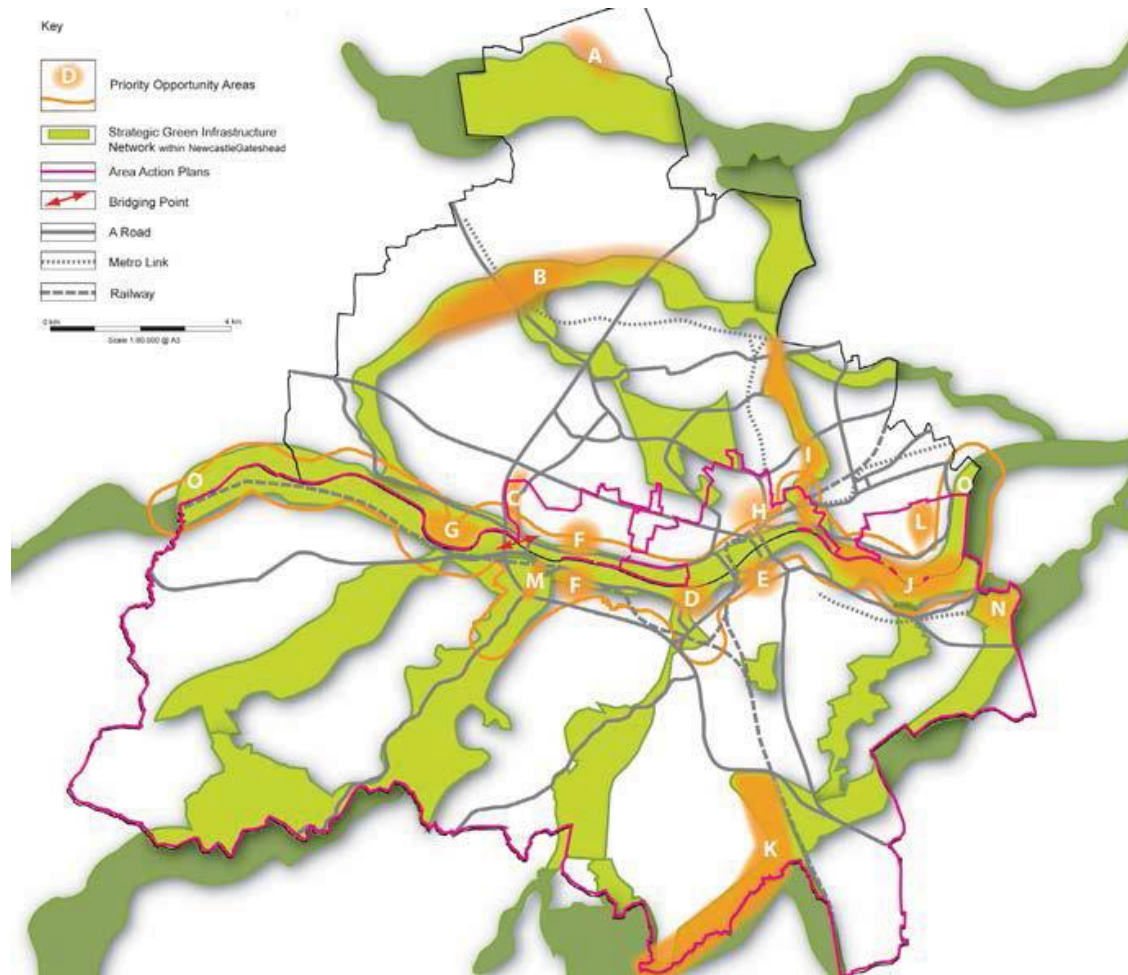
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# Opportunity areas





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# Challenges

- **Reducing funding to the public sector (not just Local Government)**
- **Difficult to make the business case as hard to quantify some benefits**
- **Some hesitance/doubt about the effectiveness of such measures vs. hard engineering, maintenance costs etc.**

# What we hope the project will help us understand

- The effectiveness of Blue/Green Infrastructure in addressing flood risk, now and in the future
- The effects of key long term pressures such as population growth, demographic change and climate change will change flood risk
- Some of the ecosystems services provided by GI in the city and the potential for now
- The extent to which actions of individuals can make a difference in flood management
- The potential range of finance models for funding such an approach based on monetising the benefits – e.g. health contributions, private sector
- What institutional capacities/arrangements are needed to make such approaches succeed
- A better understanding of skills/supply chains requirements

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