

EEDA Implementation Plan Consultation Response **Friday 3rd July 2009**

GreenSpace East is a regional membership organisation of GreenSpace, the national charity, comprising green space practitioners within the East of England.

Working on behalf of its membership, the GreenSpace East steering group welcomes the comprehensive implementation plan developed by EEDA and will support delivery of the plan, offering assistance and linking to green space related programmes where appropriate.

The plan clearly recognises the strategic importance of the protection and enhancement of green infrastructure, including landscapes and green spaces, alongside economic development needs around housing growth.

GreenSpace East and its membership support the green infrastructure, heritage, flood risk and coastal environment programmes illustrated in tables 66-74, and offer the support of a regional network of green space practitioners, including local authority organisations who are likely to be involved in programme delivery. GreenSpace East will also promote best practice and innovative initiatives that arise from delivery programmes.

The strategic importance of green infrastructure in relation to tackling mitigation and adaptation for climate change is well documented, along with the acknowledgement of the potential adverse consequences of not integrating green infrastructure improvements into development policy. To achieve sustainable economic growth, policy must be based on the effective development of green infrastructure to ensure environmental protection as the effects of climate change become apparent.

Furthermore, the plan recognises that green spaces, landscape and green infrastructure play their part in improving air quality, subsequently contributing to the health and well-being of those living in the region. GreenSpace East supports well-designed urban green space and advocates its benefits to communities, in this case in relation to its contribution towards green infrastructure, including sustainable urban drainage systems to ameliorate flood risks and conversely to assist to increase the water supply in the region. This is particularly important in the Eastern region where low lying land makes it particularly vulnerable to flooding and the impact of rising sea levels.

If the benefits of green infrastructure are to contribute towards economic growth in the long term, capital investment and sustainable revenue funding will be crucial to the success and effective delivery. GreenSpace East supports funding

mechanisms through national government programmes including CLGs Growth Fund and at a local level via Local Strategic Partnerships and their Local Area Agreements. However it is essential to emphasise the need for local revenue funding streams to ensure the effectiveness of green infrastructure in the region.

If you require more information or would like to engage further with GreenSpace East, please contact:

Sarah Moore
Regional Manager
On behalf of GreenSpace East Steering Group
Telephone: 0118 946 9065
sarahm@green-space.org.uk
<http://www.green-space.org.uk/east/>