

October 2007 Information and News Items

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IMPROVEMENT - [Improving parks through innovation and partnership.](#)

FUNDING:

Natural England is managing [ACCESS TO NATURE](#) programme for BLF/Changing Spaces to fund projects in urban rural and coastal communities that will encourage more people to enjoy nature and the environment. Project value £50k-£500k, emphasis on partnership working. Programme will be open for applications in early 2008

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[Growth areas and new growth points](#) are part of the Government's ambition to increase levels of housing supply to 240,000 homes a year by 2016. The new growth points initiative is designed to provide support to local communities who wish to pursue large-scale and sustainable growth outside of the growth areas, including new housing, through a partnership with Government. The link provides more information. The Milton Keynes/ South Midlands Growth Area and the Three Cities and Three Counties Growth Point are East Midlands components of this drive. The recognised need to provide related infrastructure, including green space, presents a unique opportunity to secure extra resources for the development and management of green spaces.

Delivering the government's target of 2 million new homes by 2016 is to be achieved by increasing spending on housing, reforming the tax and planning systems, and laying the ground for new planning charges to support essential investment in infrastructure.

The Chancellor Alistair Darling in the recent pre-budget report announced that Councils will gain more local infrastructure delivery powers under the tariff-based system.

The government has also scrapped plans for the controversial planning gain supplement (PGS) to support infrastructure in favour of the tariff, which will be brought forward in the forthcoming planning reform bill.

Yvette Cooper, the Housing and Planning Minister, said the tariff mechanism will back up section 106 agreements and £1.7 billion of infrastructure investment in growth areas. A planning charge will be levied on residential and commercial development and the tariff will be based on a cost assessment of infrastructure needs in development plans. She said that these plans should cover the costs of major sub-regional and regional infrastructure.

[Community Assets](#) is a programme being managed by the BIG lottery on behalf of the Office of the Third Sector. It aims to empower communities by offering grants for refurbishment of local authority buildings in England, to enable their transfer to the third sector

The programme is now open and available to joint applications from local authorities and third sector partnerships. There is a total available fund of £30 million pounds which will be distributed in grants of between £150,000 and £1 million.

Awards for All, Playful Ideas, Family Learning, Parks for People and Reaching Communities are other [lottery programmes](#) which are currently open.

POLICY AND RESEARCH

[Towards An Excellent Service for Parks and Open Spaces](#)

The final version of the Parks and Open Spaces version of TAES is now available to councils wishing to undertake a self assessment using the tool.

[Launch of 'Conserving Biodiversity – The UK Approach'](#)

A new approach to conserving the UK's wildlife and habitats was published on 12 October by the Government.

The new framework called 'Conserving Biodiversity – The UK Approach', calls for joined up working across the public, voluntary and business sectors in the UK on a variety of agreed goals and priorities for the greater good of biodiversity.

The full-set of Whitehall performance indicators that will come into force for local councils next April are published today. They show the Government has slashed the number from 1200 to just 198 giving councils major new freedoms to direct

their focus and resources at the issues local people care about from tackling anti-social behaviour, cracking down on gun culture, stepping up work to improve local education standards and tackling climate change.

A new urban design manual that sets out strategies for creating quality places and promoting community cohesion has been launched by the government's key agencies responsible for delivering housing and regeneration. The [Urban Design Compendium 2](#) (UDC2) published in September by national regeneration agency English Partnerships and the Housing Corporation highlights leadership, integration, collaboration, long-term involvement and legacy as being the five fundamental building blocks of sustainable development.

See case studies relating to Parks, Green Infrastructure, etc.

The East Midlands Regional Assembly (EMRA) and partners wish to celebrate what has been achieved so far in the delivery of Green Infrastructure around the region, influencing the right people and joining up all the myriad of work that is ongoing around the region at local, sub regional and regional scale into one cohesive network, called [the Green Infrastructure Network \(GIN\)](#).

EMRA and partners are looking to evolve the GIN to help support the organisations throughout the East Midlands region delivering Green Infrastructure. Your involvement in this evolution would be welcomed and it is hoped that you will register online for free at the East Midlands GIN website and you will gain access to the information and support as the GIN network grows.

[Sustainable design, climate change and the built environment](#)

This briefing paper sets out what CABE will do to address the issues of sustainable design and climate change, and the action it thinks is urgently needed from the public and private sectors. It is intended for policy makers in central, regional and local government, public sector bodies, and key players in the construction and development industry.

Play strategies in nearly every local authority in England

“According to feedback to Play England regional staff, nearly all of the 355 local authorities in England now have a play strategy in their area, compared to less than 100 before the Big Lottery Fund's Children's Play programme was launched last year. Play England regional teams have been working with local authorities across the country to support this process using the Planning for Play guidance published by the Big Lottery Fund and the Children's Play Council and a team of strategic enablers. Play strategies were a required component of application to

the Children's Play programme, the final round of which was on 10 September 2007. BIG will announce the successful applications in December 2007.

<http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk>

NEWLETTERS

[Children's Play Update](#)

[International Federation of Parks and Recreation Administration \(Ifpra\)](#)

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