

Greener Future Principle

Our spaces will be resilient to climate change, with green environments cooling the air, sustainably managing surface water and absorbing carbon

<https://leedsourspace.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/greener-future/details>

Q1. Do you feel the principle will make a difference?

Scale choice that suggests 'Ambivalent'

Q2. Why do you feel this way?

Ambivalent unless the link to the Economic Sense is made. The Our Spaces Strategy should be used as a mechanism for local delivery of the Government's 25 Year Plan for the Environment, in particular its ambition to:

'make sure the important contribution made to economic growth by high-quality environmental assets and green infrastructure are taken into account when we make decisions.'

The Our Spaces Strategy should also link to the delivery of the Leeds City Region Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy.

The Yorkshire Integrated Catchment Solutions Programme (iCASP) <https://icasp.org.uk/> based at the University of Leeds is working to support organisations in the Leeds City Region to access evidence on the benefits of green and blue infrastructure for business case preparation and appraisal, and would be interested in exploring how we can support Our Spaces. iCASP partners are: University of Leeds, University of Sheffield, University of York, National Centre for Atmospheric Science, Arup, Bradford Metropolitan Borough Council, City of York Council, Dales to Vales River Network-Yorkshire Dales Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, IUCN UK Peatland Programme, JBA Trust, Leeds City Council, Linking Environment and Farming, Met Office, Natural England, National Farmers' Union, Pennine Prospects, Yorkshire Water, Yorkshire West Local Nature Partnership, and Yorkshire Wildlife Trust. iCASP is also looking to work with additional organisations through its projects. iCASP is a programme of water@leeds <https://water.leeds.ac.uk/> at the University of Leeds, one of the largest interdisciplinary centres for water research in any university in the world. iCASP is contactable at iCASP@leeds.ac.uk

The Our Spaces Strategy is a real opportunity to guide significant investment and development to maximise the delivery of benefits from green space/green infrastructure/natural capital that support economic growth such as those recognised in the Greener Future Principle (climate change resilience, microclimate regulation, sustainable water management, carbon sequestration and storage), as well as others such as quality of place, air quality (and other health benefits).

Currently the measures of success for the Greener Future Principle do not address all of these benefits explicitly.

When implementing the ambition 'Integrate diverse planting into the city's principal streets and public spaces where appropriate to improve the urban microclimate, utilising topography for sustainable water management' the interpretation of 'where appropriate' is vital in order to give the trees the best possible chance to deliver the widest variety of benefits possible. For example, designs including permeable paving are likely to support their growth.

Q3. If you could add one more success measure to 'Greener Future', what would it be?

Recognising the fundamental importance of green space/natural capital for Economic Sense / resilient Economic Sense

Q4. Thinking of the seven Our Spaces Principles, how highly do you rank 'Greener Future'?

Very High

Economic Sense Principle

Our spaces will be valuable economic infrastructure that supports businesses and provides a canvas for new investment

<https://leedsourspace.commonplace.is/schemes/proposals/economic-sense/details>

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