

## **Explanation**

- 9.9 Corridors are a fundamental element of green infrastructure as they form linkages between assets making green infrastructure a network as opposed to a collection of segregated sites. This has the potential to improve the porosity of the urban area to wildlife and provide an attractive access network and environment.
- 9.10 Regional and district corridors will foster connections between York and other towns/villages in the region which adjoin the green corridors. This will provide a common boundary to a designated area which will allow easier access to and from York, enhance existing routes; create stronger theoretical linkages through association; and reinforce linkages through as common duty to, and benefits received from, the protection and enhancement of the green corridor(s) in question.

## **Delivery**

- Key Delivery Partners: City of York Council; developers; Local Nature Partnership and community groups.
- Implementation: Green Infrastructure Strategy; planning applications; and developer contributions.

## **Policy GI4: Trees and Hedgerows**

Development will be supported where it:

- i. recognises the value of the existing tree cover and hedgerows, their biodiversity value, the contribution they can make to the quality of a development, and its assimilation into the landscape context;
- ii. provides protection for overall tree cover as well as for existing trees worthy of retention in the immediate and longer term and with conditions that would sustain the trees in good health in maturity;
- iii. retains trees and hedgerows that make a positive contribution to the character or setting of a conservation area or listed building, the setting of proposed development, are a significant element of a designed landscape, or value to the general public amenity, in terms of visual benefits, shading and screening.
- iv. does not create conflict between existing trees to be retained and new buildings, their uses and occupants, whether the trees or buildings be within or adjacent to the site; and
- v. supplements the city's tree stock with new tree planting where an integrated landscape scheme is required.

**See also Policy GI1, GI2, GI3, GI5, GI6, GB1, CC1 and ENV4**

## **Explanation**

- 9.11 Trees and hedgerows provide a range of far-reaching environmental benefits; they contribute to biodiversity, the well being of humans, the amenity of York's green infrastructure, and landscapes both rural and urban. It is therefore important that hedgerows, trees and overall tree cover are retained where they are of significant landscape, amenity, nature conservation or cultural value.
- 9.12 Trees and hedgerows can constitute a major component of a designed landscape or streetscape, which is of aesthetic, historic or cultural significance. In such instances

it is not only the value of an individual tree or hedge that is to be considered but the value of the overall landscape feature of which it plays a part. Development will be supported where such features, and the existing and future public appreciation of them, are substantially protected or enhanced, with an aim to perpetuate the feature.

- 9.13 In exceptional circumstances, where the benefits of the development substantially outweighs the retention of significant trees within the site and there are absolutely no feasible alternatives, appropriate mitigation and compensatory tree planting will be required within the site boundary.

### **Delivery**

- Key Delivery Partners: City of York Council; developers; and community groups.
- Implementation: Green Infrastructure Strategy; Tree Strategy; planning applications; and developer contributions.

### **Policy GI5: Protection of Open Space and Playing Fields**

Development proposals will not be permitted which would harm the character of, or lead to the loss of, open space of environmental and/or recreational importance unless the open space uses can be satisfactorily replaced in the area of benefit and in terms of quality, quantity and access with an equal or better standard than that which is proposed to be lost.

Where replacement open space is to be provided in an alternative location (within the area of benefit) the replacement site/facility must be fully available for use before the area of open space to be lost can be redeveloped.

Development proposals will be supported which:

- provide allotments and productive land, to encourage local food production, and its benefits to education and healthy living;
- protects playing pitch provision except where a local area of surplus is indicated in the most up to date Playing Pitch Strategy;
- improves the quality of existing pitches and ensure that any new pitches are designed and implemented to a high standard and fully reflect an understanding of the issues affecting community sport; and
- meets the deficit of pitches in geographically appropriate and accessible way. This could be rectified through re-designation of any current surplus facilities in the area of benefit.

**See also Policy GI1, GI2, GI3, GI4, GI6, GB1, CC1 and ENV4**

### **Explanation**

- 9.14 Open spaces, regardless of ownership, make a significant contribution to the character of York. These areas are also valuable in terms of supporting health and well-being, flood risk mitigation and helping to mitigate against climate change. It is therefore essential that these spaces are protected while allowing improvements to their recreational capacity and/or environmental value.