

SECTION 8: ACTION PLAN 2020 – 2023

	Actions	Lead partner(s)	Funding £ (+ source)	Time scale
Resourcing (R)				
R1	<p>West of England GI Working Group to continue to be resourced by WECA, the four UAs and key partners to assist:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the Action Plan. • Provide oversight and updates on new regulations and matters regarding GI. • Update GI evidence and information base including GI Areas. 	WECA	£ Officer time	2020-23
Activities (A)				
A1	Final Joint GI Strategy sign off process to be confirmed and completed.	WECA	£ Officer time	April-June 2020
A2	Each UA to confirm how they will take JGIS forward into respective Local Plans with other programmes as part of the signing off process.	UAs	£ Officer time	May/June 2020
A3	Set up appropriate workshops/process for stakeholder engagement to develop the GI Area profile information and GI evidence recognising that current work is limited to existing asset mapping. The profiles need to identify and describe importance of connectivity of the assets including species movement to assist Local Nature Recovery Strategies and other plans and strategies.	WECA	£ Officer time	Sept-Dec 2020
A4	Produce annual review on JGIS delivery. Review and monitor actions including delivery of strategic GI projects and report on environment change through use of Defra 25 Year Plan indicators.	UAs & WECA	£ Officer time	2020-2023
A5	Agree process for submission of strategic GI projects, assessment and prioritisation using Project Assessment Form, and management including liaison with submission leads, identifying funding and preparing bids and business cases, and monitoring progress.	UAs & WECA, EA, NE	£ Officer time	2020



SECTION 8 continued

	Actions	Lead partner(s)	Funding £ (+ source)	Time scale
Activities (A) continued				
A6	Investigate delivery/funding mechanisms/finance models e.g. Landscape Enterprise Networks (LENs) – BACP is piloting the LENs approach in the Bristol Frome sub-catchment (GI Areas 17, 18,19). Investment Fund/Environment Fund/Natural Capital Trust/reverse auctions are to be investigated including appetite amongst various potential investors for specific finance models.	WECA on behalf of/ alongside UAs	£ Officer time	2020-2023
A7	Develop guidance for planners on Local Plan development regarding consideration of GI and its relationship with Natural Capital and ecosystem services and related legislative requirements including Biodiversity Net Gain, Nature Recovery Strategies and Habitat Regulations. Guidance will include example policies and GI Policy Assessment Matrix.	UAs & WECA	£ Officer time	2020
A8	Provide GI training/support to WECA/UA officers to deliver strategic and Local Plans that will deliver effective GI to support delivery of new development – i.e. contain strong GI policy and requirements including for master planning that demonstrates effective integration of GI as well as natural capital, and ecosystem services. Training will include guidance and support on use of the GI Policy Assessment Matrix.	UAs & WECA	£ Officer time	2020-23
A9	The GI Policy Assessment Matrix (<i>see Useful references</i>) is to be applied by WECA and each of the UAs in the drafting of strategic spatial plan and Local Plans. External assessment of the draft policies is available via matrix developer via GI Working Group.	UAs & WECA	£ Officer time	2020-23
A10	West of England Nature Recovery Network is to be used by WECA and the four UAs to assess, identify and prioritise opportunities for ecological enhancement through their Local Plans and strategies including any Local Nature Recovery Strategies (Environment Bill) and delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain.	UAs & WECA	£ Officer time	2020-23
A11	Joint Local Nature Recovery Strategy – consider joint approach in response to Environment Bill requirement.	UAs & WECA, WENP	£ Officer time	2021-23

	Actions	Lead partner(s)	Funding £ (+ source)	Time scale
Activities (A) continued				
A12	The Bristol Avon Catchment Partnership (BACP) Environmental Services Evidence Review and BACP Action Plan are to be used by the four UAs to assess, identify and prioritise opportunities for enhancement through their Local Plans and strategies.	UAs with BACP	£ Officer time	2020-23
Strategic GI Projects (S)				
S1	West of England environmental and ecological Geographical Information System (GIS) and geospatial technologies to plan, build, and monitor GI. Establish a shared and managed data platform for sharing West of England data that is to be kept updated, reviewed and used for monitoring progress. Obtain mapping/data identified as necessary to respond to new regulations and requirements e.g. habitat and land use/change data.	WECA/UAs	£? TBC Partnership contributions	2020-21
S2	West of England Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – complete and take forward West of England Guidance and options for delivery – shared resourcing, and mechanisms and processes for implementing e.g. tool kits and SPDs, recording and managing BNG across West of England.	WECA/NE/ UAs	£20,000 (Guidance commission)	2020-23
S3	West of England Natural Capital Account (NCA) – assist development of NCA and incorporate output as part of shared mapping and data.	EA	£ Officer time	2020
S4	West of England National GI Standards Framework pilot – deliver pilot as outlined in proposal to Natural England.	UAS/ WECA/NE	£ Officer time	2020
S5	West of England Tree and Woodland Strategy – produce, coordinate/identify strategic approach to tree and woodland planting e.g. targeting of new woodland creation schemes/joint funding bids and consider Ash Die Back – to assess and understand risk and impact to West of England.	WENP	£ TBC	2020

