

BCP Council

Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategic Framework.

Solid black edging to boxes are existing policies/mechanisms.

Dashed edges to boxes are new policies/mechanisms

BCP Corporate Strategy

Our place and environment

Our people and communities

BCP Local Plan

Climate and Ecological Emergency declaration



BCP Strategies and Policies

Habitats Regs

Heathlands,
Heath's Air Quality,
Poole Harbour
Recreation, Nitrates

Mandatory 10% Biodiversity Net Gain

Green Infrastructure Strategy

Urban Greening Design
Guide & Nature Pledge

Urban Forest Strategy

Canopy cover %
increase

Local Nature Recovery Strategy

Informs sites for priority nature
recovery across Dorset.

Statutory Duty to Biodiversity Reporting and monitoring. State of Nature.

Mechanisms for delivery

Green Infrastructure Action Plan

- Delivery of strategic aims
- Working with charitable partners and community organisations
- Enabling social value through working with businesses on mutual benefits

See p3



Bournemouth,
Christchurch and Poole:
Nature Towns

Foundation accreditation.
Levering future
investment opportunities.

Financing Nature

A vehicle for BNG
Units and to improve
habitats

Nature Recovery Dorset delivery group.

Dorset Council-led 'rural
nature forum' and a BCP-
led 'urban nature forum'.

See p5

Community
partnership
working across
green spaces,
nature recovery
and GI.

Nature Neighbourhood Plans

Creating GI plans, starting with three wards identified by the Urban Forest Strategy as having lowest Tree Equity Scores, to enable delivery with local communities.

Pilot funding for 2025-26 – street tree planting and SuDS schemes being identified. Development of a street tree planting scheme across BCP.

Green space and Urban Greening capital delivery programme

Plan for Play programme.
SANGs and Heathland
infrastructure projects.
Landscape Improvements.

Investible Pipeline

Scale of green
investment
opportunities,
from landscape to
street corners.

See p2

Green Infrastructure Investible Pipeline

These are the platforms and scales where there are opportunities for investment in BCP's green infrastructure.



Green Infrastructure delivery plan, October 2025

Green Infrastructure
Action Plan

- Delivery of strategic aims
- Working with charitable partners and community organisations
- Enabling social value through working with businesses on mutual benefits

This table takes the scale of green infrastructure investment from the chart above and breaks it down in to deliverable objectives, projects and areas of work.

The delivery plan is still broad and draws together information and workstreams from:

- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Urban Forest Strategy
- The Future Parks and Nature Towns programmes
- Green space site audits and green space maintenance needs
- Partnership working with The Parks Foundation

As the LNRS delivery group and the urban and rural nature forums become established (see below), so this table and other ideas will be formed and developed with a timeline to seek routes to delivery.

These actions need to be developed with partner organisations and funders, but more importantly need to be developed and delivered in partnership with residents, communities and organisations at a local scale.

Scale	Action to deliver
1. Local, Street level	Embed urban greening into new developments.
	Prioritise including quality Green Infrastructure when master planning for regeneration areas, significant new sites and where re-designing public realm is possible.
	Convert underused streets and public realm into small urban ‘pocket parks’.
	Increase tree canopy cover, particularly in wards with lower tree equity. In the public realm, allowing natural succession on amenity grass areas and highway verges.
	Develop and support community tree planting and stewardship programmes.
	Showcase the use of green roofs and walls on public sector buildings as well as the use of other Green Infrastructure. Be a great example.
	Encourage home and business, renters and owners, to create wildlife friendly buildings, grounds and gardens. Through partnerships and education.
	BCP Council to adopt the Nature Pledge. Continue to promote the Nature Pledge with external partners.
2. Green Heart Parks and community spaces	Plan and prioritise parks improvements in line with a periodic auditing programme. This includes destination parks, community parks and coastal gardens.
	Continue Green Heart Parks initiative. Working with partners to improve community parks - activating a café, community growing, nature education, landscape improvements, volunteering, less intense mowing, native planting, new signage and interpretation.
	Strategic Improvements of destination spaces at Harbourside park and Kings Park.
	Progression of the Plan for Play delivery plan.
	Review of parks buildings / land parcels (bowling greens, park corners) to ensure maximised value for community benefit/usage, and nature recovery
3. Nature Neighbourhoods	Explore the feasibility of creating new Local Nature Reserves close to urban populations.
	Deliver Biodiversity Net Gain supply sites and achieve habitat improvements and species recovery
	Enhance access to nature in our greenspaces identifying further projects such as the osprey viewing platform at Ham common.
	Build on the work happening for community food growing
	Targeted rewilding of urban green spaces to increase biodiversity and bring people closer to nature. Particularly enhancing the ecological value of our urban heaths.
	Continue and expand the Let it Grow campaign. Lowering the intensity of grass cutting in parks and on verges where appropriate.
	Enhancing the biodiversity of cemeteries and churchyards managing the spaces with a greater focus on their value for nature.
	Open up culverted, piped and covered surface water drains and create vegetated sustainable drainage systems/swales where possible and appropriate. Minimise the use of sealed and nonporous surfaces. Create a target to de-pave an amount of land per year.
	Work with partners to investigate the potential of a large-scale tree planting programme.
	Ward Based Green Infrastructure plans to deliver Urban Greening features such as street trees, ponds, native planting. Beginning in low tree equity areas.

4. Strategic corridors	Increase 'nature reserve qualities' within SANGs – re-label as 'Nature Parks' and support both habitat regulations mitigation and improved nature outcomes.
	Develop a Cliffs, Chines and Coast nature park and trail between Highcliffe and Hamworthy, in line with seafront strategy.
	Create new SANGs / Nature Parks to support delivery of housing.
	Explore opportunities for tree planting and/or meadow creation on grass verges along key transport corridors.
	Work with partners at a landscape-scale to improve the ecological condition of the rivers and harbours in BCP. This may be through landscape-scale rewilding and nature conservation programmes.
	Work with partners to investigate opportunities for riparian/ floodplain and intertidal habitat creation as part of natural flood defence and coastal protection schemes.
	Strengthen green connections between areas supporting delivery of the relevant 'Connectivity Corridors' and 'Cycle Freeways' routes. This will include but is not limited to improving the Littledown Greenway, the chines and other important trailways and short coastal and river trails (examples include the Mude valley, Bourne valley, Woodland Walk etc.).
	Develop the Stour Valley Way as a continuous countryside route connecting Merley to Millhams Mead to Hengistbury Head in line with the Stour Valley Strategy. This is likely to include improving the route, footpath quality, river crossings and cycleway connections.
	Explore the feasibility of creating the Purple Line – a connected walking and cycling route linking heathlands between Upton Country Park and Christchurch Harbour
5. Landscape scale	Explore options for repurposing a Sports & Play Space to create new Wild Space and benefits for public use.
	Work with partners on developing landscape-scale rewilding and nature conservation programmes in the Stour Valley.
	Explore opportunities for connecting and enriching biodiversity and wildlife habitats at a landscape-scale by extending heathland sites and re-establishing physical links where possible between sites to strengthen BCP's ecological network.
	Work with partners to improve the ecological condition of the coastal and maritime habitats (saltmarsh, saline lagoons, mudflats, sand dunes and dune heath) within the protected areas of the harbours.
6. Strategic	Improve interpretation and replace signage as part of programmed site improvements.
	Develop mechanisms to harness private finance, including BNG. Delivering nature restoration within BCP area.
	Nominate senior leadership and councillors to be advocates for green infrastructure.
	Establishment of a BCP Green Infrastructure & Urban Nature Forum to bring together key delivery partners and stakeholders and to empower communities.
	Align the council's and partner organisations' policies, plans and operational practices with the Green Infrastructure Strategy's goals and priorities.
	Continue to review and implement actions from the Greenspace Volunteering strategy to strengthen community involvement.
	Changing mindsets for a greener future including community champions and working with council teams and stakeholders. This should include securing adequate support and funding for maintenance of existing and new street trees and green infrastructure.
	Work toward Nature Towns advanced accreditation. This will include having a pipeline of investment ready projects and be business planning at a high level.

Delivery Groups and Forums

Dorset nature recovery delivery group.

Dorset Council-led ‘rural nature forum’

BCP-led ‘urban nature forum’

Creating ways for individuals, residents and organisations to come together to act to support nature recovery across Dorset.

The BCP area will have an urban focus on how to maximise our current green spaces for nature, and turn grey to green in our denser, more urbanised areas.

The boxes below represent different ways of developing this work, creating new forums and encouraging wider participation.

