



EUROPE & SCOTLAND
European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Eligibility Guidance

Green Infrastructure Fund

Guidance for Applicants

July 2016



Disclaimer

Applicants should be aware that as the Green Infrastructure Fund is a new programme, the guidance will be reviewed as the programme evolves and therefore may be subject to change. The European Union and Scottish Ministers reserve the right to amend the National Rules and SNH reserves the right to amend the published guidance during the period of the programme. Decisions to fund projects will be based on the availability of funding, how well the project matches the Green Infrastructure Fund priorities and its contribution to outcomes as part of the whole Strategic Intervention. These priorities may change during the course of the Strategic Intervention to take into account gaps in meeting priorities in previously funded projects and not to fund at all. The Scottish Government reserves the right not to award any support at all under this programme.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to set out the eligibility guidance and the criteria we will use to assess your application. This guidance draws on the [National Rules, European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) Operational Programme](#) for 2014-20 and [ERDF Regulations](#).

The Green Infrastructure Fund Eligibility Guidance sets out what we will and will not fund. In addition to it forming guidance for applicants, it will be used by the Green Infrastructure Fund Team for screening, assessment and scoring of applications during the selection of projects, and forming the basis of monitoring and evaluation. More information can be found in the [Green Infrastructure Fund Assessment and Selection Procedure](#) and the [Green Infrastructure Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Framework](#).

1.2. Background

The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is an outcomes and results-driven investment programme. It is designed to ensure that investment results in defined impacts for communities. The 2014 – 2020 ERDF strategy and programmes are designed around strategic interventions. These are large scale programmes of work which are managed by Lead Partners – organisations who have a demonstrated capacity to manage strategic interventions and comply with the audit responsibilities for the funds. SNH is the lead partner for the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention.

Under the 2014-20 Programme, we intend to deliver a minimum of 15 substantial projects, Projects, across Scotland that improve or create at least 140 hectares of urban green infrastructure. The Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention has been approved, with SNH as Lead Partner for the period up to 2018, during which time we intend to deliver a minimum of 8 Projects. A mid-term review in 2018 will take place before further approvals to 2020.

The Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention will be delivered through a Challenge Fund, known as the Green Infrastructure Fund. A summary of how the Challenge Fund will operate is provided in the [Overview and Summary](#).

1.3. Summary

The Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention will create better places and enhance the quality of life of urban dwellers by improving the quality, accessibility and quantity of green infrastructure in our major towns and cities. This Strategic Intervention is targeted at urban areas in Scotland that have a deficit of good quality greenspace, and suffer from multiple-deprivation and an excess of vacant and derelict land. Communities in these areas will benefit through the improvement and creation of green infrastructure that will help to deliver successful multi-functional places, address inequalities, provide opportunities for better health and support sustainable economic growth.

Our ambition is to raise people's satisfaction with the quality of their green infrastructure in urban areas, bringing it more into line with satisfaction levels at the national average. Green

Infrastructure includes the 'green' and 'blue' features of the built environment that can provide benefits and contribute to the quality of life in urban areas.

The objectives of the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention are to:

- improve the quality, accessibility and quantity of green infrastructure in major towns and cities;
- provide increased and better opportunities for people to improve their health and well-being;
- address inequalities through the creation and improvement of greenspace for communities in areas of multiple deprivation and/or for communities living in proximity to vacant and derelict land;
- provide increased opportunities for people to experience and value nature and promote greater use of greenspace by local communities; and
- contribute to economic regeneration, providing benefits to people and businesses by investing in green infrastructure.

The purpose of this guidance is to distinguish clearly between eligible and ineligible activity and costs, and to ensure that only eligible activity and expenditure features in applications and ultimately claims. While every effort has been made to produce clear guidance on eligibility, there remains an onus on applicant organisations to apply for a grant responsibly and reasonably and to ensure compliance. In cases of doubt, clarification should be sought from the Green Infrastructure Fund Team in the first instance. Please also refer to the European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020 Programmes - [National Rules on Eligibility of Expenditure](#) (The National Rules): Please check the Scottish Government website for updates.

The EC Regulations governing the overall use of European Structural Funds for the 2014-2020 programmes are available here:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/information/legislation/index_en.cfm

Applicant organisations should be aware that as the Green Infrastructure Fund is a new programme, the eligibility criteria will be reviewed as the programme develops and evolves and therefore may be subject to change. Any changes made by the European Union or Scottish Government to the current rules will be published on the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention website.

SNH reserves the right not to fund any applications submitted under the Green Infrastructure Fund. Furthermore, the Managing Authority, The Scottish Government, will make its own assessment on the investment decision and may also decide not to fund applications, even where these have been proposed by the Green Infrastructure Fund.

2. Eligibility Guidance

2.1. Who is eligible for Green Infrastructure Fund funding?

Applicant organisations need to be approved and registered by the Scottish Government as an eligible body to apply for ERDF funding. Before an application form is issued to an applicant organisation, the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention team will check directly with the Scottish Government whether the organisation is already registered. All local authorities are automatically eligible as applicants.

Applicant organisations are responsible for all aspects of implementation, monitoring and reporting on projects, including:

- submission of accurate information as part of the application
- acceptance of grant, including any standard or special conditions
- implementation of the approved project including cash-flow management, submission of claims, monitoring and reporting progress, monitoring and verification visits in line with the grant offer and any associated legal contract
- the retention of projects documentation for the prescribed period to 2030 - including records confirming that any procurement complied with the Regulations and maintaining a full audit trail vouching expenditure incurred and defrayed

Applicant organisations need to be able to demonstrate that they have sufficient capacity (skills, expertise and relevant experience) to implement and manage the project and have sufficient cash flow to support any delay in recovering Green Infrastructure income.

The following types of organisations are eligible for Green Infrastructure Fund funding:

Public Sector - This group includes Central Government and Non-Departmental Public Bodies; local authorities and related agencies (e.g., local initiatives); Scottish Enterprise; Highlands and Islands Enterprise; visitScotland; Further and Higher Education Institutions; Forest Enterprise.

Voluntary or Charitable Organisations¹ - This group includes: registered/recognised charities, trusts, co-operatives and "not for profit" organisations; organisations that directly or indirectly receive over 50% of core funding (excluding European Funds) from the public sector, or from levies raised by Industrial Training Organisations for training purposes.

Private sector organisations are not eligible to apply. This may be taken to be organisations established and operating for profit where these profits accrue to shareholders, partners or sole traders. This includes companies acting in the public interest (eg. privatised former public utilities, private companies such as Abellio and Network Rail).

¹ Please note that in certain circumstances, voluntary or charitable organisations may require a 'sponsor' to vouch for the applicant, accept contingent liability for the projects and, crucially, the grant and to ensure proper implementation, reporting and accounting.

Partnerships, in the more traditional sense, are not eligible to apply. We cannot accept an application from a group of organisations with one acting as a 'lead partner'. However, if a partnership is legally constituted and the application would be coming from that partnership, then it may be considered an organisation and therefore eligible. In case of doubt, please contact the Green Infrastructure team to discuss eligibility directly.

2.2. Where can we fund projects?

Green Infrastructure Fund projects must provide benefits and contribute to the quality of life in urban settlements in Scotland with a population of 10,000 or more.

For more information on urban/ rural classification please refer to:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/About/Methodology/UrbanRuralClassification> ²

For a map of urban/rural areas in Scotland (2013-14, 6 fold classification) please see:

<http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0046/00464803.pdf>

Applications outwith the urban boundary will be considered for funding but will have to clearly demonstrate a significant impact and benefits for the urban population.

Green Infrastructure Fund projects should benefit areas of multiple deprivation – with priority given to the 15% most deprived areas of Scotland, as defined by the Scottish Government's Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Statistics/SIMD> and/or benefit communities living in close proximity to vacant and derelict land.

Projects can take place on any type of publicly accessible greenspace or involve greening of the public realm or buildings. Private spaces such as residential gardens, privately managed housing estates or schools where access by the general public is restricted are not eligible for inclusion.

SNH is required to fund one project from a Transitional Area (i.e. within Highlands & Islands area).

Applicant organisations must demonstrate that they have appropriate control over the land where the projects will take place. They will need to confirm that they either own the site and retain the right to undertake the project or, if the land is not owned, demonstrate that they have a legal right to undertake the project works and to manage and maintain it for the duration of the auditable period of the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention to 2030 or to have a binding agreement that on-going management will take place for the auditable period.

² This is the official 'published' Scottish Government dataset and hence appropriate that we use it to base our decisions on.

2.3. What is eligible for Green Infrastructure Fund funding?

Projects eligible for funding must benefit Green Infrastructure and demonstrate how they meet the requirements set out in the National Rules guidance regarding eligibility: <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00487277.pdf>.

Green Infrastructure includes the "green" and "blue" (water environment) features of the natural and built environments that can provide benefits and contribute to the quality of life in urban areas. Projects funded under the Green Infrastructure Fund should reflect the thinking in the Green Infrastructure: Design and Placemaking guidance published by the Scottish Government. <http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2011/11/04140525/0>.

Green Infrastructure projects must:

- create new, additional functionality in existing or new natural and semi-natural habitats; and/or
- create/retrofit urban greening, particularly where water and urban climate management benefits are integrated and links between greenspaces are established or re-created

The projects must contribute to a need identified through at least one of the following: local and regional plans, policies and strategies; appropriate masterplans; charette; and/ or community consultation.

The Green Infrastructure Fund aims to increase participation in greenspace so community engagement is a key component. The applicant organisation needs to demonstrate how they have already engaged the local community through development of the application and how they will engage and involve the local community through its implementation.

The ERDF fund is outcomes orientated, and therefore it is not possible to be specific about which activities will be eligible or deliver the agreed outcomes for any specific project. All projects will be context-specific.

Would the following examples of projects be eligible for funding?

Yes - Urban nature park where there are opportunities to install water features to deal with off-site flooding issues, enhance habitat connectivity and create new, all-abilities access.

No - Urban nature park with water features and a circular all abilities path where the ponds need cleared out, and paths have become overgrown, the surface has deteriorated and will be replaced like for like.

Appendix 1 sets out examples of eligible and ineligible activities.

2.4. Timescales for projects delivery

Contracts must not be let to achieve the Approved Purposes before written approval to start from SNH has been received. Only works incurred and defrayed within the approved lifetime of the project are eligible.³ The only exception to this would be pre-contract costs.

The following sets out some key dates for the Green Infrastructure Fund:

- 31 December 2018 is the date by which the grantee must have achieved the Approved Purposes as set out in the Grant Notification Letter;
- All grants must be claimed by 30 June 2019;
- Results will be delivered by 2023 and annual reporting on outcomes and results will be required to this point;
- The reporting period is until 2029 and grantees must be able to keep detailed records, suitable for local, national and EU audits up to 2030.

2.5. How will applications with ineligible items be assessed?

If the overall project contains ineligible elements, the applicant organisation can choose to distinguish eligible and ineligible works and fund the ineligible projects from elsewhere.

If ineligible elements are proposed in the Green Infrastructure Fund application, we will return the application to the applicant organisation. The applicant organisation can then decide whether they wish to resubmit to a subsequent round of funding having ensured that all elements are eligible.

If the application contains minor elements which are not eligible (less than 10%) and the projects can be delivered without these elements and still achieve the Green Infrastructure Fund outcomes, then we will consider removing the costs for these elements from the application in consultation with the applicant organisation.

2.6. Evidence of need

Projects in support of green infrastructure must be based on a regional plan or other plan of scale that will ensure that individual projects cumulate into a bigger positive environmental impact, and must reference and show awareness of the Prioritised Action Framework and existing Natura 2000 sites.

Projects should balance environmental and social concerns, seeking to involve local communities, and particularly deprived communities and individuals, in improving their own environment.

Projects to improve environmental quality in and around water courses should also ideally align with the River Basin Management Plan for the relevant catchment area, which should ensure a focus on those areas of poorest ecological health.

³ National Rules Section 4.1.2

In addition, all projects are expected to demonstrate value for money, eg. through testing the market through procurement; and additionality, particularly how the project will add to existing provision.

2.7. Scale of eligible projects

Individual projects should be of a scale and level of ambition to have a significant impact and achieve long term, transformational change, and also ensure long-term stability of funding in support of the identified required change. We will look at projects over a longer timeframe to ensure that they deliver the expected results.

SNH has determined the following minimum amounts:

- the total project eligible costs must be a minimum of £650,000
- seeking an ERDF grant of minimum £250,000

There is no upper financial limit.

There is no minimum geographic size for a project. However, the Green Infrastructure Fund minimum target is 70 hectares of new or improved urban green infrastructure by 2019.

The Green Infrastructure Fund is focused on outcomes and we may accept a combination of small and large geographic areas. The average size will be about 9 hectares but there is no absolute minimum or maximum geographic size.

We will consider applications which are made up of multiple locations across settlements and neighbourhoods, provided there is a clear rationale and delivery of outcomes.

2.8. Match funding

Applicant organisations need to ensure that Green Infrastructure Fund is the most appropriate funding source.

ERDF funding is funding of last resort. The Green Infrastructure Fund contribution should be the minimum amount required to allow the projects to proceed. To this end, additionality must be clearly evidenced for each project.

The Green Infrastructure Fund is a 'gap' fund. This means that if you reduce the size of your project, you may not be able to draw down the full amount awarded. It should be noted that additional funding committed for the activities supported by ERDF after approval will reduce the ERDF contribution, so we would recommend that any additional funding applied for post-ERDF approval should be associated with an increase in total budget or for activities not supported by ERDF. Note that if your costs reduce, the ERDF contribution will reduce accordingly.

The intervention rate for Green Infrastructure Fund funding is up to maximum 40% for the Lowlands and Uplands (LUPS) area and up to maximum 50% for the Highlands and Islands (H&I) area.

The following sources of match funding are NOT eligible:

- European Funding of any kind;

- Corporate and private sector match funding (i.e. contributions from companies that have shareholders who are paid out dividends etc. on profits or receive direct personal benefits);
- In-kind contributions.

In certain circumstances, SNH's grant scheme may be an option for match funding. However, applications must be by prior agreement with SNH.

Amongst others, lottery funding and funding through Landfill Communities Tax is acceptable as match funding. Alternatively, public bodies, such as local authorities, can raise funds through schemes such as a Tax Incremental Financing following approval from The Scottish Government <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/Finance/18232/TIF>

At the stage of submitting an application, match funding must be identified but does not need to be confirmed, although it would be preferable for it to be confirmed and applications with confirmed match funding will score more highly during assessment. It should be noted that overly complex match funding packages will be treated with caution. Match funding for successful applications must be confirmed before Approval to Start is given.

If the funding package is not complete at application stage, it is not acceptable for the applicant organisation to say that they will continue to seek funding for the gap but underwrite it if they are unable to plug the gap, the rationale being that if your organisation can underwrite the gap, your organisation can afford to pay for it. This is gap funding and therefore not appropriate.

Any revenue funding generated by the project will be deducted from the projects eligible costs and the grant reduced accordingly.

Advice regarding other potential funding sources can be found on the SNH website: <http://www.snh.gov.uk/docs/A340448.pdf>

2.9. Procurement Principles

Please note that for the GI Fund, only two cost models should be considered – Procurement and Direct Staff Cost + 15%. We expect that most activity will be procured.

Information regarding procurement can be found in the National Rules, Section 1.8. <http://www.gov.scot/Resource/0048/00487277.pdf>

Grantees must ensure they comply with the requirements of ERDF funding, meeting the European Union Directives, Scottish public sector legislation and the regulatory framework and any internal procedures and policy regarding procurement in force at the time of tender and as such are required to follow procurement principles (Open or Restricted tender or suitable Framework Agreement) for all elements of the work including the provision of works, materials and/or services. Procured contracts below the EU thresholds must adhere to the principles of the Treaty of Rome, ensuring that they are advertised and are fairly and equally treated.

Using another public body to do the work is acceptable as long as the competition was held in a fair and open manner and delivery of elements by the grantee is acceptable as long as

all work is again tendered in a fair and open manner using fully costed market rates. However, please note that internal invoicing is not acceptable.

Please refer to the Scottish Government websites for further guidance:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Business-Industry/support/17404/EuropeanStructuralFunds/ProgrammeDocumentation/Publicprocurementguidance>

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Government/Procurement>,

<https://www.procurementjourney.scot/>

2.10. Staffing – Flat Rates

Funding for Project may include 40% in LUPS areas and 50% in H&I areas of the cost of a 100% dedicated staff resource, i.e. any staff supported by the ERDF funding must be 100% dedicated to the ERDF activities, although part-time posts are acceptable. Staff costs attract an additional 15% Flat Rate to cover associated costs. The 15% Flat Rate represents an allowance for indirect costs that are attributable to the project and which the intervention rate is applied to. In other words, staff may be funded at the rate of:

Eligible staff costs = 40% (LUPS) or 50% (H&I) (staff cost +15%)

In determining what may qualify as an indirect cost for the purposes of the Flat Rate Model, direct overhead costs may be considered. As an example, Travel & Subsistence that specifically relates to the direct staff employed or other overhead costs which may directly be attributable to the project such as sundry promotional materials or room hire for conferences.

Expenditure that can be determined more specifically to the delivery of the project should not be considered to be covered by the Flat Rate Model and could be claimed as eligible expenditure separately as per the normal claim process.

Although no claim evidence is required for the Flat Rate Model and is based upon 15% of the Direct Staff Costs, the grantee may need to monitor the Flat Rate against the expenditure incurred to ensure it is justified, if not for audit purposes then for internal financial management.

3. Eligibility Assessment

3.1. Assessing Eligibility

The process for assessing eligibility is covered under our [Assessment and Selection Procedure](#). The checklists we will use for recording our eligibility assessment are contained in our [Assessment Forms](#) and listed below:

1	Has the applicant demonstrated that they have the necessary skills and sufficient administrative and financial capacity to carry out the proposed project?
2	Are the total eligible costs in excess of £650k?
3	Is the grant requested £250k or more?
4	Is the intervention rate requested no more than 40% of eligible costs for LUPS and 50% for H&I?
5	Is the match funding for the project either confirmed or identified and expected to be confirmed before Green Infrastructure Fund funding is awarded?
6	Are the match funding sources eligible? (i.e. does not include other EU or in-kind contributions or private/commercial funding)
7	Has the applicant confirmed that the physical works associated with the project are new (excluding any eligible pre-contract costs)? (i.e. will not have started prior to offer of funding.)
8	Has the applicant demonstrated that all other funding options have been explored and convinced us that the project cannot and will not proceed without the GI funding requested?
9	Has the applicant confirmed that public procurement procedures and rules (European Union and Scottish Government) will be adhered to and regulatory requirements complied with?
10	Has the applicant demonstrated that activities will be complete by December 2018?
11	Does the application benefit an urban settlement in Scotland of over 10,000 population?
12	Does the area of the application fall within or benefit areas within the most deprived 15% of SIMD?
13	Is the application for creation or development of capital works (not maintenance)?
14	Are all the activities and costs for which the applicant is requesting funding eligible?
15	Has the applicant demonstrated that the project and activities contribute to an identified need through appropriate masterplanning, charette, local and regional plans, policies and/or strategies?
16	Has the applicant provided evidence that there is a local demand for the project?
17	Has the applicant demonstrated innovation or innovative techniques in the Scottish context in development of the proposal, planned activities, implementation or monitoring and evaluation?

18	Has the applicant demonstrated that branding/publicity will be complied with?
19	Has the applicant evidenced that State Aid Rules have been fully considered and that State aid tests will be met?
20	Has the applicant demonstrated that monitoring and evaluation requirements will be complied with?
21	Has the applicant demonstrated long term sustainability and maintenance plans for the project?
22	Has the applicant demonstrated that the project is additional (i.e. non-statutory, not a condition of planning consent)?

For an application to proceed from the eligibility assessment to the next stage, assessment of quality, it must:

- Score positively for each of these questions;
- Have included detailed costings;
- Have included detailed plans and applications for the capital works you plan to deliver. Plans for designed elements should be up to and including RIBA work Stage 3. Plans for non-designed elements, such as interpretation or digital outputs, should also be at the equivalent of RIBA work Stage 3. The [RIBA](#) describe the activities carried out during the stage as preparing the '**developed design**, including co-ordinated and updated proposals for structural design, [building services](#) systems, [outline specifications](#), cost information and project strategies in accordance with the [design programme](#).' Spatial coordination should be completed and [change control procedures](#) introduced, and typically [landscape designs](#) will be prepared and [planning applications](#) made.

3.2. Changes to Eligibility Guidelines

Please note that the European Union and The Scottish Government reserve the right to amend the National Rules and SNH reserves the right to amend the published eligibility guidelines during the period of the programme.

Furthermore, Scottish Ministers reserve the right to not award any support at all under this programme.

Decisions to fund projects will be based on the availability of funding, how well the project matches the Green Infrastructure Fund priorities and its contribution to outcomes as part of the overall Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention. Priorities may change during subsequent funding rounds of the Green Infrastructure Fund to take into account gaps in meeting priorities in previously funded rounds. Further information can be found in the [Summary and Overview](#) and the [Blueprint for Green Infrastructure](#).

Appendix 1 Potentially Eligible Activities

The following outlines what types of projects and activities are considered potentially eligible and ineligible for funding under the Green Infrastructure Fund. Note that eligibility will be context specific and based on contribution to outcomes and therefore it is only possible to provide indicative guidance. These lists should be seen as indicative rather than exhaustive.

General Costs

The following costs may be eligible as part of the delivery costs for the project:

- procured land management and construction, including:
 - buildings: new build or refurbishment – where these are an essential component of the project, and are required in support of the outcomes, such as an allotment shed, park shelter or bird hide;
 - landscape and infrastructure, where these are an essential component of the green infrastructure project, and are required in support of the outcomes, including:
 - site decontamination where this is a proportion of the costs and the site is remediated to a greenspace end use;
 - site preparation / clearance;
 - site servicing (certain elements – including: provision of utilities, water and sewerage systems, roads, temporary site compound etc required for delivering the green infrastructure);
 - security provision.
- procured services and consultancy fees – which are essential to the project (including professional fees such as quantity surveyor, architect, landscape architect, communications professional, graphic designer, web designer, community engagement specialist). These should be selected competitively. However, we are keen to see applications that work in tandem with the third sector and / or encourage volunteering or skills development;
- staff costs of people who are 100% dedicated to delivering eligible activity funded by the Green Infrastructure Fund. Full or part time is acceptable but to be eligible, staff must be openly recruited. Staff costs include:
 - gross pay;
 - employer's National Insurance;
 - superannuation contributions;
 - staff travel costs associated with the effective delivery of the project.
- non-recoverable VAT;
- signage and interpretation – relevant sign and interpretation including those acknowledging the contribution of the Structural Funds;
- marketing.

The following projects and activities are **not eligible** for funding under the Green Infrastructure Fund:

- projects in rural areas or smaller settlements;
- project costs which are eligible for EU funding from other programmes;
- anything previously funded by the EU;

- although the employment of staff who are 100% dedicated to the Green Infrastructure Fund programme is eligible, the following elements are not:
 - statutory sick leave
 - maternity, paternity, adoption and parental leave
 - staff training
 - redundancy payments
 - unfunded pensions
 - first aid or key holder allowances
 - bonus or commission payments
 - subscriptions or memberships of trade or professional organisations
- any expenditure defrayed out with the eligible programme period⁴ (for further information see Section 2.4, Timescales for projects delivery) unless pre-contract costs are agreed
- recoverable VAT
- in-kind costs
- gifts
- accounting costs and year-end auditing
- land purchase will not be eligible except in exceptional cases where the purchase of land as part of the project can be fully justified. If you believe that land purchase is an integral part of your project, please discuss it with us prior to application.
- routine management or maintenance works
- commercial activities
- woodland planting larger than 0.25 hectares (as this could be funded through SRDP⁵)
- Active Travel projects (as this could be funded through Transport Scotland⁶)
- cycle paths (as this could be funded through Transport Scotland)
- works that are a condition of planning consent, planning gain or Section 75 Agreement
- legal or statutory responsibilities
- legal expenses, financial and other charges
- project feasibility studies
- temporary planting
- purchase of vehicles (cars, boats and other moveable equipment (e.g. forklift)), equipment or furniture (NB As a grantee you can't buy and own anything afterwards)
- dedicated or formal sports areas
- CCTV
- civic sculpture
- off-the-shelf play equipment (unless part of a multifunctional green space and there is an identified need – eligibility will be appraised on an individual project basis)

⁴ If the overall project contains ineligible work, the applicant can choose to phase projects to distinguish eligible and ineligible works.

⁵<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/farmingrural/SRDP/RuralPriorities/Options/WoodlandCreation/CentralScotlandMixedWood/>

⁶<http://www.transportscotland.gov.uk>

Delivery of Outcomes

This section outlines the kinds of activities which might be eligible and suitable for delivering outcomes. We have tried not to duplicate between outcomes, so some activities may deliver under more than one outcome. The list is indicative only and by no means exhaustive.

Outcome 1 – Nature, Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Activities we might fund to deliver this outcome

- creation of new green space or improvement of existing green space;
- creation of semi-natural habitats, e.g. meadows;
- improvement of ecosystem services, restoring habitat and creating wildlife corridors;
- creating additional environmental performance in existing or new natural and semi-natural habitats;
- restoring derelict land to green space use to improve accessibility, biodiversity and climate change benefits.

Activities we will not fund

- planting of street trees that are not part of a wider Green infrastructure application;
- woodland planting eligible for Woodland In and Around Towns funding;
- improvements to private gardens and enclosed back courts.

Outcome 2 – Environmental quality, flooding and climate change

Activities we might fund to achieve improved environmental quality of green infrastructure

- creation of new, additional functions in existing or new natural and semi-natural habitats; and / or create / retrofit urban greening, particularly where water and urban climate management benefits are integrated and links between green spaces are established or re-created;
- naturalised sustainable urban drainage schemes / improvements to the permeability to water of the public realm e.g. green roofs^{7,8}, green walls, rain gardens, ponds, swales;
- sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS);^{9, 10}

⁷ <http://www.snh.gov.uk/climate-change/taking-action/adapting-to-change/green-built-environment/green-roofs/>

⁸ A green roof is essentially the growing of plants on our roof tops. This has been done for hundreds of years all over the world. There are many benefits from green roofs including: 1. Insulation - making buildings cooler in summer and warmer in winter. 2. Run-off attenuation - thus providing flood mitigation. 3. Water quality treatment through passive treatment processes. 4. Air quality treatment through ozone depletion and CO₂-uptake. 5. Provision of habitat to conserve biodiversity. 6. Increased life expectancy of the roof surface from approximately 30-70 years. 7. Provision of amenity if access is enabled. 8. Waste minimisation when waste brick is used as part of the green roof substrate. 9. Health benefits through the provision of amenity, improved air quality and reduced 'Urban Heat Island' effects.

⁹ <http://www.snh.gov.uk/climate-change/taking-action/adapting-to-change/green-built-environment/drainage-system/>

¹⁰ SuDS are facilities that manage surface water in a sustainable manner to help reduce the risk of flooding. They aim to manage water flow and water quality as well as its amenity value e.g. biodiversity. They can operate at a number of different scales. Facilities making up SuDS can include ponds, detention basins, swales, filter drains and infiltration trenches as well as porous paving.

- improvements in the physical condition of watercourses e.g. de-culverting, removal of hard bank protection – restoration of natural processes to improve ecosystem health and local amenity and reduce flood risk;
- surface water management and storage in greenspace that also provides biodiversity benefit;
- actions that improve the ecological function of soils;
- control of Invasive Non Native Species (INNS) (unless as part of a woodland which is eligible for SRDP funding or is a statutory responsibility).

Activities we will not fund

- project costs eligible for EU funding from other programmes, such as SRDP (e.g. woodland planting and management), Active Travel projects (funding administered by Transport Scotland);
- street tree planting that is not part of wider street greening;
- specific special needs accessibility that is not part of wider green infrastructure improvements;
- replacement of hard standing or walls that do not have a greenspace function; residential car parking that is not related to the greenspace function or is not permeable with a clear link to flood and water management.

Outcome 3 – Increasing community engagement and participation in green space

Activities we might fund to deliver this outcome:

Community Engagement

- encourage a greater number and diversity of people to use their local green space;
- information / activities which promote the new / improved green space as a local destination;
- run events or local festivals which provide opportunities to learn about the environment;
- creation of natural play areas;
- capacity building of local non-environmental organisations to use their green space.

New or improved community green space

- provide community growing areas:
 - community gardens;
 - edible borders;
 - allotments;
- provide activity areas:
 - natural active play facilities in greenspace and on routes;
 - equipment and facilities that promote exercise and natural movement;
 - cooking and barbeque facilities where there is clear demand and cultural relevance;
 - sensory gardens / experiences;
- provide naturalised spaces for quiet enjoyment, relaxation and reflection .

Encourage an increased sense of ownership of green space by local communities, increase skills and community capacity:

- provide opportunities for skills training programmes and capacity building (e.g. maintaining wildlife gardens, identification skills, wildlife monitoring, local food production);
- community champions to develop and mentor activities, e.g. local food growing;
- provide opportunities and support for the local community to be actively involved in the management of their green space through volunteering opportunities in practical management.

Encourage increased levels of physical activity:

- provide a community walking programme or health walks;
- create natural community sports facilities, e.g. trim trails;
- support volunteering activities;
- community growing opportunities;
- develop medal routes.

Increase community understanding and appreciation of the natural heritage:

- *events and local festivals that provide opportunities to learn about and celebrate the natural heritage;*
- *provide a range of learning opportunities (self-led, formal, simple and repeat);*
- *provide opportunities for skills training programmes and capacity building relating to the green infrastructure (e.g. planning, maintenance, monitoring and reporting, interpretation, events etc.);*
- *website, interpretation and communications.*

Activities we will not fund

- GI scoping or development work with communities;
- Community engagement activities that are not directly associated with and dependent upon a significant increase or improvement in green infrastructure;
- Signage designed to limit access, such as “no ball games”;
- Staff posts that are less than 100% dedicated to ERDF programmes.

Outcome 4 – Increasing place attractiveness and competitiveness

- improve the public realm using multi-functional green infrastructure;
- applications which have a demonstrable direct or indirect impact on the local economy through learning and skills improvement or creating the context for increased economic activity;
- increase the use of green space by schools and nurseries as part of learning;
- increase the use the outdoors for education, learning, skills and training;
- increase the use by intermediary bodies and the third sector for skills development using green space.

Outcome 5 – Improve health

Activities we might fund to deliver this outcome:

- outdoor gym equipment – either a cluster of fixed equipment in an open area of green space, or exercise stations located along a path / through an area of woodland etc.;
- off-road biking skills areas / pump tracks;
- outdoor play areas based on natural materials;
- outdoor seating areas – aiming to enable families / community groups to spend more time outdoors;
- environmental art pieces / trails – aiming to provide motivation / stimulation for those using outdoor spaces;
- health-related installations / interpretation within education / healthcare / workplace settings;
- growing spaces / allotments.

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