Green Infrastructure
making places for people
a' cruthachadh àitichean do dhaoine

European Union | The Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

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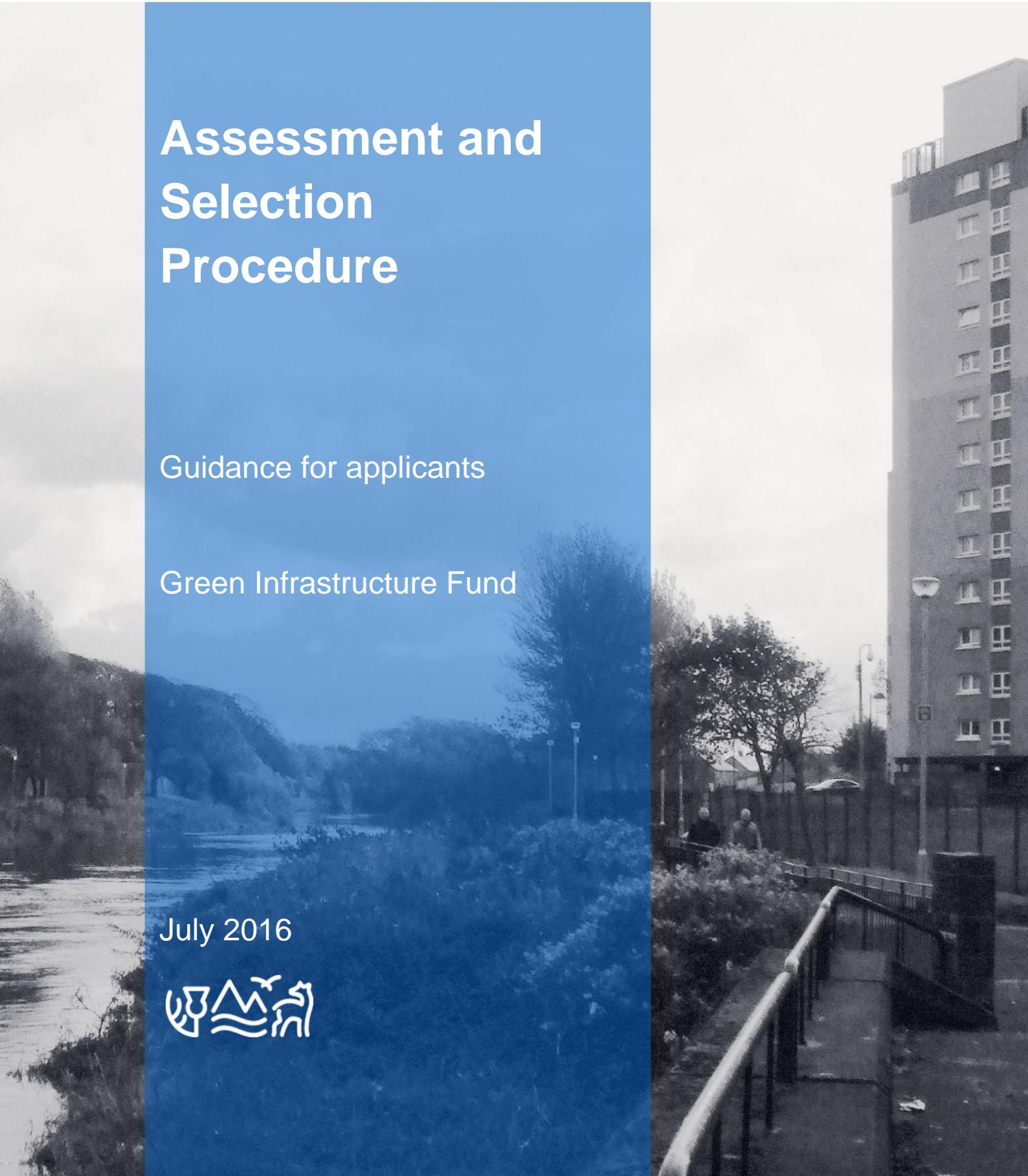European Regional Development Fund
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future

Assessment and Selection Procedure

Guidance for applicants

Green Infrastructure Fund

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.

Version Control

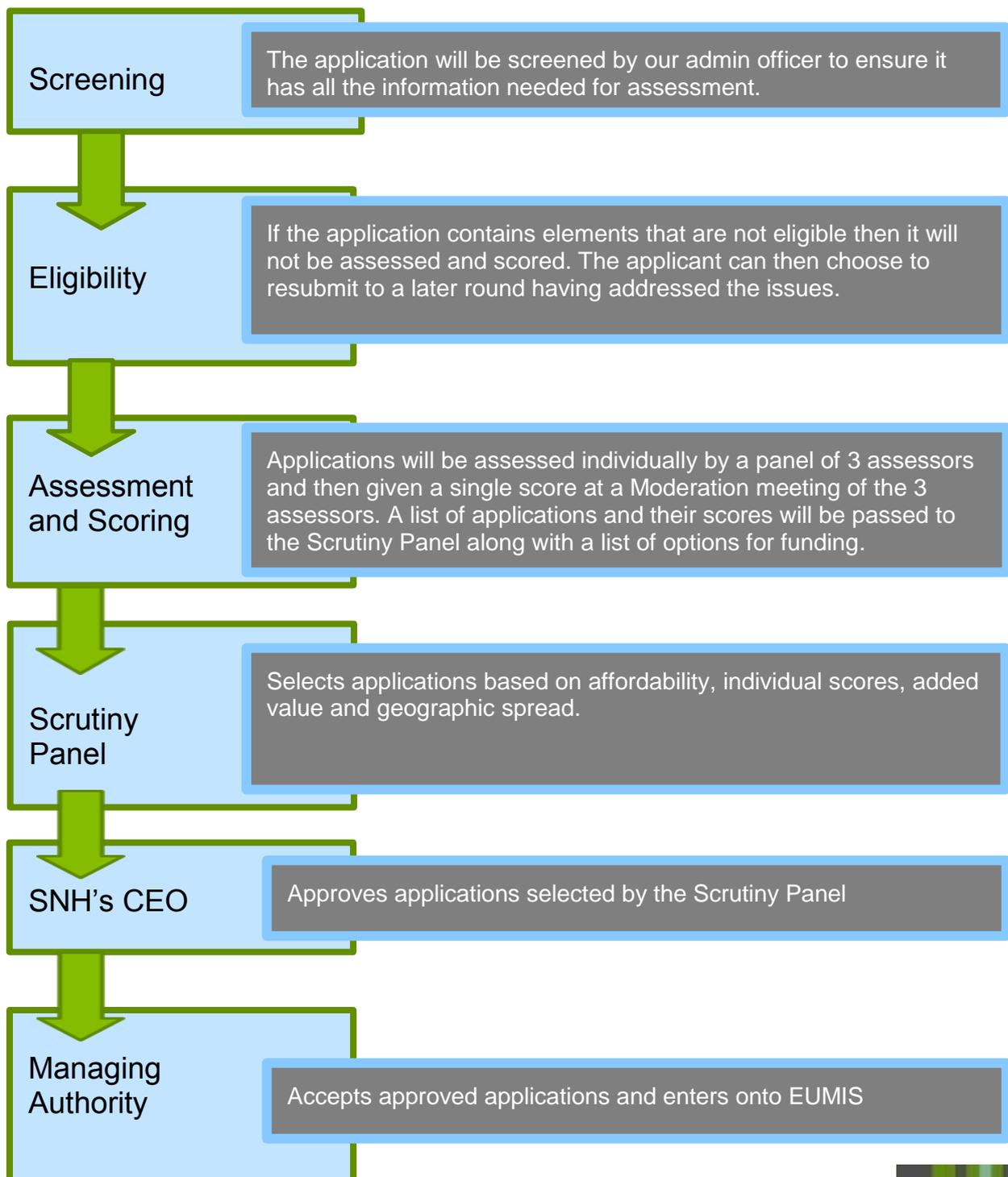| Date	Issue	Status	Author	Authorised by
08/01/16	V1	Draft	FS	ZK
26/02/16	V1	Final	FS	ZK
28/06/16	V2	Final	FS	ZK

Contents

1. Purpose

This document sets out the processes and procedures we will use to assess and select the applications we receive to the Green Infrastructure Fund.

2. Summary and Introduction

There are five key stages to the assessment and selection of Projects. Figure 1 provides a summary of these stages.

Figure 1 - Summary of assessment and selection stages

Stage	Description
Screening	The application will be screened by our admin officer to ensure it has all the information needed for assessment.
Eligibility	If the application contains elements that are not eligible then it will not be assessed and scored. The applicant can then choose to resubmit to a later round having addressed the issues.
Assessment and Scoring	Applications will be assessed individually by a panel of 3 assessors and then given a single score at a Moderation meeting of the 3 assessors. A list of applications and their scores will be passed to the Scrutiny Panel along with a list of options for funding.
Scrutiny Panel	Selects applications based on affordability, individual scores, added value and geographic spread.
SNH's CEO	Approves applications selected by the Scrutiny Panel
Managing Authority	Accepts approved applications and enters onto EUMIS

A number of checklists and scoring sheets will be used at each stage. These are available to download from the Green Infrastructure Fund website so that you can be fully aware of how your application will be assessed and scored. You should also use these as self-assessment checklists to ensure that you have considered all the required criteria and are ready to submit your application to the Green Infrastructure Fund. Note that if you cannot answer 'yes' to all the Eligibility criteria, your project will not receive funding from the Green Infrastructure Fund. The eligibility criteria are set out in detail in the Annex at the end of this document.

3. Screening

Applicant organisations are expected to provide full details of their proposed project on the Green Infrastructure Fund Application Form along with supporting financial information demonstrating how the application meets the required eligibility criteria.

Screening will ensure that the application meets the following criteria:

- The application form has been received before or on the deadline;
- The application form is complete
- The required supporting information has been provided; and
- The application form has been signed and dated by someone within the applicant organisation with the authority to do so.

The Screening Checklist will be used by our administrator to check that your application is valid.

4. Eligibility

The second stage looks at the Eligibility of the application in terms of the proposed activities, the applicant organisation, the match funding and other associated factors. More details can be found in the Green Infrastructure Eligibility Guidance. Questions on eligibility can only be answered with 'yes' or 'no'. Applications must be able to answer 'yes' to all the eligibility questions in order to proceed to the third stage of the selection process – assessment.

An Eligibility Checklist will be used by SNH to evaluate the eligibility of your application to the Green Infrastructure Fund. Each of the 3 assessors will read the applications and assess the eligibility against the criteria and capture why or why not each eligibility requirement has or has not been met. This checklist is available for you to view in the Eligibility and Assessment Scoring Forms document. You should use it to self-assess the eligibility of your application before you submit it. Please take the opportunity to discuss any queries you have about eligibility with your Support Officer early on when preparing your application.

The moderation process will be recorded on a spreadsheet to show the 3 assessors' conclusions, the moderation conclusion and the recommendation of whether the project will proceed to Stage 3, Assessment and Scoring, or be rejected.

5. Assessment and Scoring

The Assessment stage looks at the quality of the proposed project by considering what it will do, what it will achieve and how it will deliver the outcomes of the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention.

We will assess applications by asking questions about projects and allocating scores. The form we will use to do this are available for you to view in the Eligibility and Assessment Scoring Forms document so that you can assess how well your project fits with our assessment and selection criteria. We will also assess the deliverability of the project by looking at whether it is well thought out and realistic and whether the applicant is capable of delivering it to the required high standard. Applications will also be scored on the impact that the project would be expected to make on the basis of the information we're given in the application.

We will look at the activities and outputs of your project, who will benefit and how, your plans for communication and for engaging with stakeholders and communities, how your project contributes to the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention overall and how it will address the ERDF horizontal themes. We will assess and score the evidence of need and local support for the project, the need for grant, added value and what is innovative about the project.

We will also consider and assess how applications will measure and evidence the delivery of their project and what the impact of the investment received will be. We will also assess how well you have prepared for your project and how realistic your plans for delivery are. This stage will be carried out by Assessment Panels and is designed to ensure that the best quality applications are then passed to our Scrutiny Panel for the fourth stage of assessment.

Projects will be scored against assessment and selection criteria which have been designed to help us answer the questions above. The selection criteria are listed in the Green Infrastructure Assessment and Selection Criteria – which is included as an Annex at the end of this guidance. This gives details of what we are looking for and examples of what we might fund. The Green Infrastructure Fund Application Form has been designed to allow us to capture the information we need to assess applications against our assessment and selection criteria. For specific guidance on completing it please refer to the Green Infrastructure Fund Application Form Guidance.

Each application will be assessed and scored on the contribution that it will make towards the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention outcomes. These are:

- Nature, biodiversity and ecosystems
- Environmental quality, flooding and climate change
- Involving communities and increasing participation
- Increasing place attractiveness and competitiveness
- Increasing health and wellbeing
- Horizontal Themes – Environmental Sustainability, Equal Opportunities, Social Inclusion

More detail on the outcomes can be found in the [Blueprint for Green Infrastructure](). Please also refer to the [Green Infrastructure Fund Monitoring and Evaluation Guidance]() to help you plan how you will monitor and evaluate the delivery of your project.

At both the eligibility and assessment stages, the application will be assessed by three assessors followed by a moderation meeting. Assessors and moderators will have signed a Declaration of Interest Form to ensure a fair and open process throughout. The [Green Infrastructure Assessment and Scoring Form]() which will be used by the assessors can be downloaded from the Green Infrastructure Fund website.

6. Scrutiny Panel

Once the assessment panels have allocated their scores, the ranked list of applications will be passed to the Scrutiny Panel who will look at their fit across the whole Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention. They will consider the balance of delivery across the programme outcomes, the cumulative impact by outcome, the total eligible cost and the geographic spread of projects.

7. Approval by SNH's CEO

Once the Scrutiny Panel has made the final assessment, details of their decisions on funding will be forwarded to SNH's CEO for final approval. Once they have confirmed that they are happy with the projects the Scrutiny Panel have recommended for funding, the details will be passed to the Managing Authority for entering onto EUMIS and we will contact successful applicants to confirm award of Green Infrastructure Funding. At this point we will also contact unsuccessful applicants to inform them of the outcome of their application and to offer feedback.

Annex – Assessment and Selection Criteria

A.1 Deliverability

Category		Assessment criteria	What are we looking for?
Competency of the Applicant – Project Management (*covered by Section B of the Green Infrastructure Fund application form*)	1.	How strong is the applicant's track record in delivery of this kind of project i.e. large projects (min £500k), EU funded or otherwise?	Applicants who can demonstrate solid experience in the management and delivery of large capital projects - EU funded or otherwise. Previous experience of EU funding would be advantageous.
	2.	How good is the applicant's plan for delivery with milestones and are the delivery timescales realistic? Are the milestones clearly tied to the financial projections for the project?	Clearly planned projects with realistic targets and timescales - both in terms of planned activities and the timescales of the Green Infrastructure Fund.
	3.	How robust are the applicant's plans for identifying, monitoring, managing and reporting on risk?	Evidence that you have read and understood our risk management guidance and have the ability to implement it and a good understanding of the principles of risk management.
	4.	How well has the applicant identified all of the risks associated with the application?	Evidence that you have made a thorough assessment of the risks associated with your project.
	5.	How well will the applicant evidence compliance with EU requirements and be prepared for audit?	Evidence that you are aware of and understand EU audit and compliance requirements and have the capability to meet them.
Competency of the applicant - Financial Management *(covered by Part 4 of the Green Infrastructure Fund application form, the Financial Annex*	6.	How experienced is the applicant in managing European Funding or similarly large projects (minimum £500,000 eligible costs)?	Applicants with experience of managing EU projects, or other large projects.
	7.	How well has the applicant specified milestones which are clearly tied to the financial projections for the project?	

and supporting documents)			
Project costs	8.	How well have the costings been confirmed and justified (e.g. quantity surveyor report, recent similar projects, quotes etc)?	We want to see evidence that your costs are realistic. Ideally this should be from qualified professionals in the form of quantity surveyors reports or quotes, but you could also tell us about recent similar projects or other evidence on which you've based your projections.
Match funding	9.	How close is the applicant to securing match funding by the time funding is awarded?	We need to know that there will be no delays to your project starting due to match funding not being in place.
Land ownership	10	Does the Applicant own the land or if the land is leased is the term of the lease for a long enough term to allow the site to be continued to be used for the approved purposes beyond the term of the grant and the auditable period?	We need to know that the project is legally able to proceed on the land.
Permissions	11	Has sufficient evidence been provided that all the necessary permissions are in place, or will be in place, in time to allow the project to start on the proposed start date?	We need to know that your project will be able to start as soon as we issue Approval to Start and that there will be no delays due to permissions not being in place. You can choose when to start your project but note the timescales for when it must finish.
Maintenance and legacy	12	How well does the application demonstrate clear plans for the maintenance of the site and legacy of the project and for funding associated costs?	We need to know that you have thought about and made realistic and achievable plans for maintaining the site where your project will take place after you are no longer receiving funding from us. We also want to know what difference your project will make beyond the term of the grant.

A.2   Impact

Category	Assessment criteria	What are we looking for?
Evidence of need	13. How convincing overall is the evidence provided for the need for the application?	We want to you to show us that there is a demonstrable environmental, social and economic need for your project using relevant and up to date evidence, including reference to relevant policies.
	14. How strong is the evidence provided of strategic support for the application?	Tell us about the support you have secured for your project with local authorities and other organisations representing or advocating the needs of local communities, especially protected characteristics.
	15. How strong is the evidence for demand and support for the work this project will do at community level?	Tell us about any consultations or similar you have carried out with local communities. We would also like to hear about any other dialogue or conversations you have had with grassroots or community groups.
	16. How well does the application show how the project will contribute to local and regional plans and strategies including development plans, strategic drainage and flood management plans, local biodiversity and access strategies and social and economic development plans?	Provide us with context for your application in terms of strategic planning and other local plans. Reference should be made to the Policy Background and relevant national policies identified.
Need for Grant/Gap	17. How well has the application demonstrated the need for the ERDF grant?	Evidence that you have seriously explored and/ or applied for other funding should be provided, or absence of suitable funding sources if relevant
Added value, synergy and complementarity	18. How well has the applicant evidenced added value i.e. additional outputs, increased number of participants, overall improvements to the quality of activity etc.	Evidence of the difference that your project will make and how our funding will allow you to achieve outcomes that wouldn't happen otherwise.
	19. How well does the applicant evidence synergy with competitive funds (e.g. ETC, EAFRD, EMFF, Horizon 2020, SRDP) or other Strategic Interventions /projects/improvements to the project locality e.g.	We would like you to tell us about how your project might complement projects funded by other EU initiatives.

		providing new services to disadvantaged individuals to overcome barriers to employment, education or training.	
	20.	How well does the project work alongside other known EU funded initiatives in the area? Are there any risks attached?	You should let us know of any other EU-funded projects in the same area or community and how you will avoid duplication and achieve synergy
Ecosystem services	21.	How well will the project address ecosystem service deficits?	Tell us how your project will deliver towards maintaining or improving identified deficiencies in ecosystem services.
Innovation	22.	How innovative is the application (in a Scottish context)?	We want to fund projects which show a level of innovation in their design and/ or implementation and/ or demonstrate new approaches or ways of achieving outcomes
Communications, publicity and stakeholder engagement	23.	How well developed are the applicant's plans for communication and publicity regarding their project, its role in the Green Infrastructure Strategic Intervention and ERDF funding?	We need to see evidence that you have clear plans for how you will communicate about and publicise your project and our funding, and that you will follow EU requirements.
	24.	How strong are the applicant's plans for engaging with communities during the project?	We are looking for projects which have strong plans for how they will engage and work with local communities on an on-going basis.
Monitoring and evaluation	25.	How robust is the application's framework for reporting the process, outputs and results and impact of the project?	We will look at how well the proposal reflects the requirements of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework and works
	26.	How well will the project's plans for monitoring and evaluation help to tell a compelling story about the achievements of the project and allow lessons to be learned from it?	We will look at how well the proposal provides the evidence to tell a compelling story of the benefits of green infrastructure investment.

A.3   Outcomes

Outcome		Assessment criteria	Examples of Activities we might fund
Nature, biodiversity and ecosystems	27.	How well does the application slow or reverse the loss, degradation or fragmentation of habitats?	Creation of new greenspace or improvement of existing greenspace. Restoring derelict land to greenspace use - transforming derelict land to

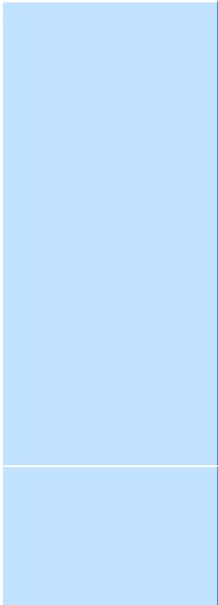|			
			improve biodiversity and climate change benefits.
	28.	How well does the application improve ecosystem value, restoring habitat and creating wildlife corridors?	Creation of semi-natural habitats
	29.	How well will the project improve the quality of place and local environment through better quality green infrastructure?	Improving the quality and function of the urban environment by use of natural methods and materials
	30.	How well does the application identify and prioritise action for invasive non-native species and their pathways, control or eradicate priority species, including addressing the possibility that increasing connectivity/permeability of habitats may increase the risk of INNS?	Applications which tackle invasive non-native species and also minimise the potential for their spread that might be created by their activities. This must be part of a strategic proposal, but not a requirement of statutory function and not eligible for other funding, e.g. SRDP.
Environmental regulation, flooding and climate change	31.	How well does the application address water quality, flooding and flooding-related problems?	Naturalised sustainable urban drainage schemes/improvements to the permeability of the public realm e.g. green roofs, green walls, rain gardens, permeable surfaces, ponds, swales etc
	32.	How well does the application contribute to improving the ecological status (particularly water quality and physical condition) of a water body (defined as a body of water forming a physiogeographical feature)?	Improvements in the physical condition of watercourses eg deculverting, removal of hard bank protection – restoration of natural processes to improve ecosystem health and local amenity and reduce flood risk.
	33.	How well does the application improve or protect soils?	Actions that improve the ecological function of soils, such as removing hard standing, preventing water runoff, addressing compaction etc.
	34.	How well does the application reduce pollution, including from excess nutrients, to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity?	Create / retrofit urban greening, particularly where water and urban climate management benefits are integrated and links between greenspaces are established, re-created or improved.
	35.	How well does the application make use of innovative (in a Scottish context) climate adaption or mitigation	Innovative or new (in Scotland) green infrastructure-based climate change adaptation measures such as green walls and roofs, sustainable water

		techniques?	management, urban cooling and climate control through urban trees etc.
Community engagement and participation	36.	How well does the application increase access to or between areas of greenspace?	New and enhanced greenspace and networks of green links.
	37.	How well does the application increase access to a wider range of greenspace types?	Access links between different types of greenspace.
	38.	To what extent has the community had the opportunity to influence, inform or even lead the design, implementation, management and use of their green infrastructure so that improvements deliver what the community wants and needs?	Applications which show clear evidence of community involvement or co-design to demonstrate buy-in and likelihood of maximum benefit.
	39.	How well does the application show commitment to on-going engagement with the local community?	Applications with clear plans for on-going engagement with communities which have considered ways of responding to and acting upon community feedback.
	40.	To what extent will the application give practical support to communities to help design and develop their activities?	Providing opportunities and support for the local community to be actively involved in the management of their greenspace through volunteering opportunities in practical management.
	41.	To what extent does the application increase opportunities for cultural events and activities?	Environmental art pieces / trails – aiming to provide motivation / stimulation for those using outdoor spaces. Natural outdoor meeting/event spaces
	42.	How well will the application address interpretation of the place and space?	Website, interpretation and communications Guided tours or walks
	43.	How well does the application respect, promote and develop the local culture?	Events and local festivals that provide opportunities to learn about and celebrate the natural heritage, cultural heritage and/or common interests e.g. music.
	44.	How well does the application address anti-social behaviour or exclusion from greenspace?	Improvements to the physical structure of the greenspace that improve its sense of safety. Targeted efforts to encourage groups normally excluded to visit and explore the space and to make return visits.
	45.	How well does the application seek to empower communities?	Activities to increase user confidence and ownership with the greenspace.
	46.	How well will improvements in GI improve access to	Natural community sports facilities, e.g. trim trails.

		greenspace for all members of the community?	Activity areas, e.g.: natural active play facilities; outdoor exercise equipment; sensory gardens / experiences.
			Naturalised spaces for quiet enjoyment.
			Community walking programme or health walks.
	47.	How well does the application provide space and opportunity for local food production in an urban area, such as allotments, community gardens and orchards?	Community champions to develop and mentor local food growing.
			Community growing areas: community gardens; edible borders; allotments.
	48.	How well does the application help people be aware increase people's awareness of the value of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably?	Applications that seek to increase understanding, awareness and ownership of benefits to people from biodiversity and nature.
	49.	How well does the application integrate and reflect the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of local communities?	Applications that seek to increase and make use of local knowledge of biodiversity, nature and ecosystems.
	50.	How well does the application increase capacity for formal skills development?(i.e. training for which participants receive some form of accreditation)	Opportunities for skills training programmes and capacity building (e.g. maintaining wildlife gardens, identification skills, wildlife monitoring, local food production).
Increasing place attractiveness and competitiveness	51.	How well does the application create or improve accessible multifunctional greenspaces in areas of identified deficiency?	Applications which address identified need by creating or improving green space in areas where green space is currently lacking or is poor quality. The green infrastructure created should contribute strongly towards the delivery of several of our outcomes.
	52.	Does the application address currently stalled vacant and derelict land that is causing a detriment to the local community?	Conversion or restoration of vacant and derelict land to form parks and other forms of greenspace and corridors and as a way of improving habitat networks.
	53.	Does the application improve the attractiveness of the place as somewhere to live and work?	Improvements in the public realm using multi-functional green infrastructure.
	54.	How well have the third sector been engaged in the development of the applications?	Capacity building of local non-environmental organisations to use their greenspace.
	55.	How well does the application increase attractiveness to investors or place	Applications which have considered how their proposed green infrastructure could influence decisions to invest

		competitiveness through improving the environmental quality of the area?	further in the area.
	56.	How well does the application maintain or increase job opportunities?	Applications which build in opportunities for job creation and skills development.
	57.	How well will the application increase visitor numbers - both locally and from other communities and from different groups, reflecting the protected characteristics?	Improvements in the public realm using multi-functional green infrastructure. Information / activities which promote the new / improved greenspace as a local destination.
	58.	How well does the application increase opportunities for formal and informal outdoor learning?	Applications that seek to increase the use the outdoors for education, learning, skills and training. Applications that increase the use of greenspace by FE institutions, schools and nurseries as part of learning.
	59.	How well does the application create opportunity to engage local communities through increased volunteering and/ or skills development, training or learning through green infrastructure and the natural environment?	Applications which show they have considered and planned for volunteering, training and learning opportunities and how they will be delivered. Provide opportunities for skills training programmes and capacity building relating to the green infrastructure (e.g. planning, maintenance, monitoring and reporting, interpretation, events etc).
	60.	To what extent does the application increase number of intermediary bodies using greenspace for skills development?	Applications that increase the use by intermediary bodies for skills development using greenspace
Improve health and wellbeing	61.	To what extent does the application aim to benefit areas with low levels of physical activity (e.g. identified using the Active Scotland Household Targeting Tool)?	Outdoor play areas based on natural materials or outdoor environments that encourage play and natural movement through them, for example incorporating opportunities for climbing and jumping into through-routes
	62.	To what extent will the application improve health and well-being by promoting participation and improving the quality of greenspace close to where people live?	Outdoor seating areas – aiming to enable families / community groups to spend more time outdoors. Facilities should have cultural relevance to the local community. Outdoor play areas based on natural materials. Off-road biking skills areas / pump tracks
	63.	How does the application bring greenspace closer to patients, both day patients and longer-stay patients, and/ or increase access for healthcare staff?	Applications that increase the use of greenspace by hospital and health care facility staff and patients Applications that increase green infrastructure in and around health facilities and increase the use of green

			access routes to hospitals and health care facilities
			Outdoor gym equipment – either a cluster of fixed equipment in an open area of greenspace
	64.	How does the application aim to improve mental health through improved access to greenspace?	Health-related installations/interpretation within education / healthcare / workplace settings supporting and encouraging contact with nature and physical activity
			Proposals that increase the use of greenspace by hospital and health care facility staff and patients
	65.	How well does the contribution towards outcomes match with the needs identified?	There should be a compelling link between the need identified and the outcomes and activities and outputs planned.

A.4 Horizontal Themes

Environmental sustainability		Assessment criteria	What are we looking for?
	66.	To what extent does the application consider environmental impact – particularly the ways in which the project contributes to the enhancement or protection of the environment and seeks to minimise negative impacts (such as pollution)?	Evidence that the applicant has fully considered the potential impact of their project and has taken steps to minimise any potential negative impacts.
	67.	How well does the application consider local sourcing – particularly support for local sourcing initiatives and activities aimed at diversification within the local economy as well as the efficient use of local public transport and local community transport services?	Evidence that the applicant has considered the wider impacts of their project, will look to source locally as far as possible and has considered how communities will access their sites.
	68.	To what extent does the application not only consider what Environmental Sustainability policies, procedures and resources will be in place, but also explain how these will make a positive difference?	We would like to know what policies the applicant's organisation has in place in relation to environmental sustainability and how they will be applied positively during the implementation of the project and beyond.
	69.	How well does the application demonstrate how their proposed projects will fully comply with the Public Bodies Duty, outlined in Part 4 of the climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009?	Even if the applicant is not a public body we would still expect that the standards outlined in the Public Bodies Duty would be met.
Social inclusion	70.	To what extent does the application target areas of in the most deprived 15% of SIMD and areas that have limited access to good quality greenspaces?	Funding is targeted at areas within the most deprived 15% in Scotland according to SIMD, and areas with identified deficiencies in high quality and accessible greenspace. Even if the site where work will take place is not in the most deprived 15%, it may still have potential to benefit communities who are.
	71.	How well does the application outline any potential barriers to access to participation, how these have been identified and how the project intends to overcome these barriers?	We want to see evidence that the applicant has fully considered any barriers that may exist, or may be created by, their project, how they know about these and what they plan to do to minimise their impact.

	72.	To what extent will the project create opportunities for people to meet and interact socially?	We want to hear about any opportunities for social interaction that will be created whether through creation or improvement of the green space, or through plans for events and activities
	73.	How well does the proposal outline how the project will aim to reduce inequalities between the least advantaged communities and the rest of society?	We want to see projects which have a clear plan of how all communities will benefit from their activities.
Equal Opportunities	74.	To what extent does the application have a particular focus on one or more of the nine protected characteristics? https://www.gov.uk/discrimination-your-rights/types-of-discrimination	We would like to see clear evidence that your project directly addresses one or more of the protected characteristics and why.
	75.	To what extent does the application focus on the needs of identified target groups and does the way the greenspace is planned, managed and used support and enable their involvement?	Projects which have a clear plan for helping their target groups, and clear reasons for choosing them. Projects which recognise barriers faced and potential discrimination experienced by people or groups and propose positive action to address these
	76.	How well does the application explain how the project has taken account of, and reflected, the diverse needs of the target group(s) in the development and delivery of all activities?	
	77.	How well does the application outline any potential barriers to access to participation? Consider how they have these been identified, and how will the project overcome these barriers?	Evidence that the applicant has fully considered existing barriers to participation and any that might be created by their project, and has plans in place to overcome them.
	78.	To what extent does the application ensure that engagement of female participants is considered to develop more balanced gender equality in land-based skills, including considering the particular needs of lone parents?	As well as offering opportunities to take part in training on land-based skills, we want projects to consider how best to do this to better engage female participants
	79.	To what extent will the project increase physical activity levels by providing places for play, exercise and sport, particularly for girls and women?	Formal sports pitches/grounds are not eligible for funding but we would like to see suggestions for ways of increasing physical activity levels especially for girls and women.
	80.	How well does the application increase participation in training and volunteering opportunities by disabled or older people and ensure that there is equal opportunity to access and	Evidence that applicants have considered ways of making sure that opportunities provided by their projects will be open

		increase participation in greenspaces?	to all.
	81.	To what extent does the application involve representatives from different racial or religious groups in the local area, to ensure that the green infrastructure established helps to break down barriers between communities and offer opportunities to reflect local cultures?	Evidence that applicants have involved representatives from different groups who have helped to inform their thinking on ways of breaking down barriers whilst still reflecting local cultures.
	82.	To what extent does the application offer young people opportunities to engage in projects for training, apprenticeships, skills development and volunteering?	Applications which have clearly set out plans to offer young people the chance to develop skills at different levels.
	83.	How well does the application consider how possible discrimination (including unconscious discrimination) will be addressed? How well will the activity planned, and the way it is to be delivered, contribute to eliminating discrimination and how well have processes been put in place to tackle discrimination if it occurs?	Evidence that applicants have fully considered how possible discrimination may impact on their project and the benefits it will bring and how their project will work towards eliminating discrimination.
	84.	How well does the application not only consider what Equal Opportunities policies, procedures and resources will be in place, but also explain how these will make a positive difference?	We are looking for clear evidence of how existing organisational policies relevant to equalities will be integrated and directly applied during the delivery of your project.

Scottish Natural Heritage
Dualchas Nàdair na h-Alba
All of nature for all of Scotland
Nàdar air fad airson Alba air fad