

Growing our natural capital

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Natural capital – a common language

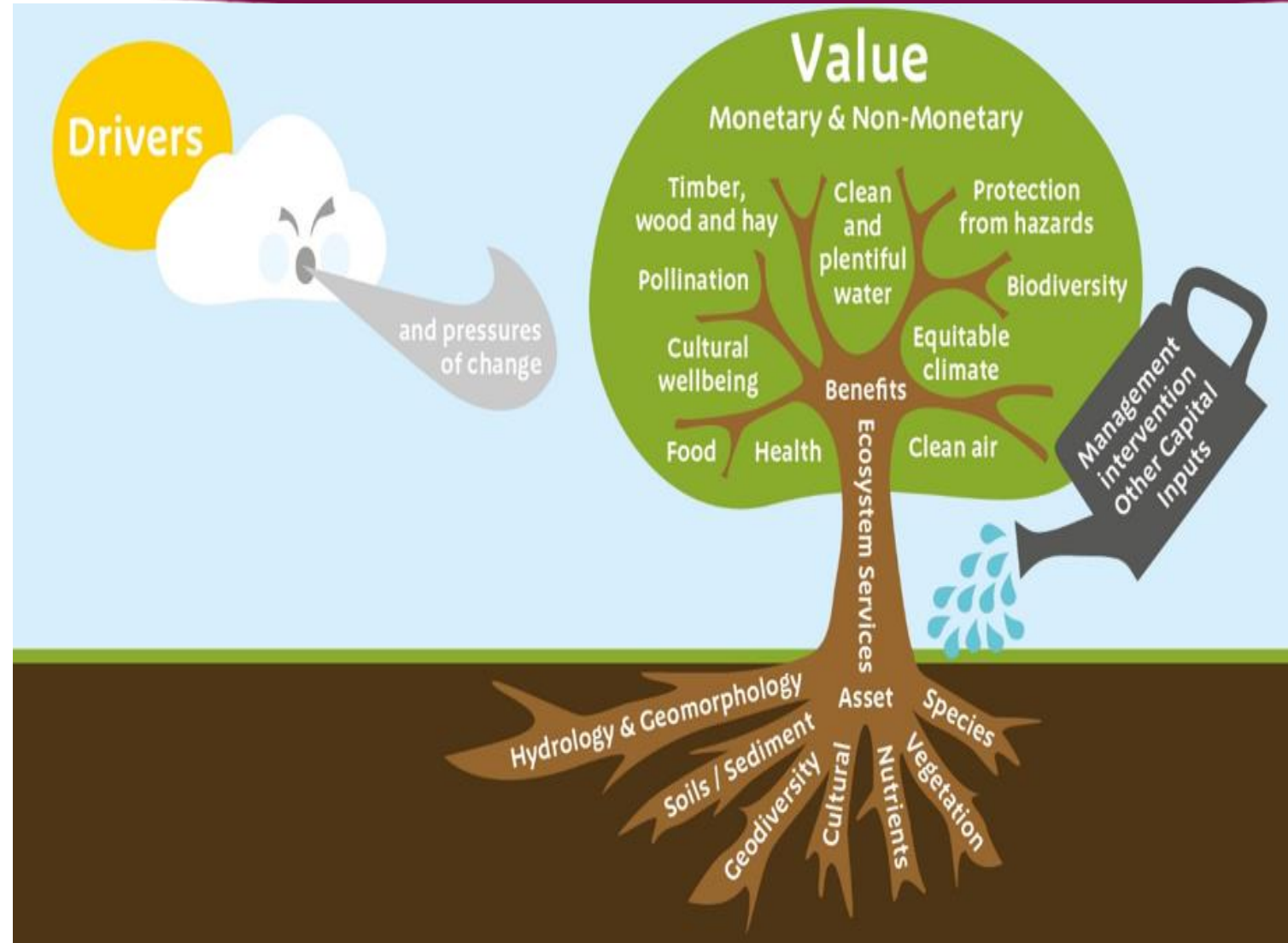


What's Natural Capital?

The sum of our ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, soils, minerals, our air and our seas. These are all elements of nature that either directly or indirectly bring value to people and the country at large.

What are Ecosystem Services?

Ecosystem services are the functions and products from nature that can be turned into benefits



Current context



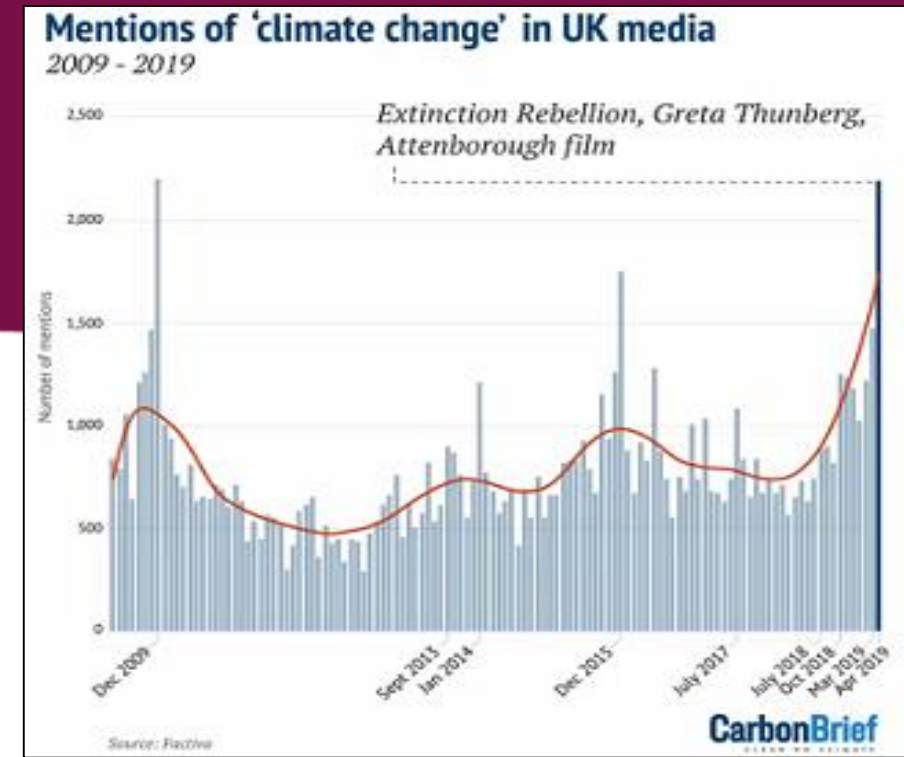
1 million animal and plant species are now threatened with extinction, many within decades, more than ever before in human history UN *IPBES* report 2019

Even though there has been a reduction in the overall concentrations of air pollutants the rate of decline has slowed, 2017 clean air compliance still shows only 6 /43 zones met the annual mean limit. *NCC 2019 report*

8% of surface water bodies and 28% of groundwater bodies are being abstracted unsustainably and a further 10% identified as being subject to potentially unsustainable abstractions. *Water abstraction tables for England (2018)*

Climate change

- Net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 in Climate change Act
- 20% of UK agricultural land shifting to carbon sinks.
- A sharp increase in forest cover from 13% to 17% of UK land by 2050 (1 ha natural woodland sequesters 1 person CO2 emission/year)
- Peatland restoration of around 20,000 hectares a year by 2050
- Planting over 1 million hectares of land with energy crops (around 7% of the UK's current agricultural land).
- Adaptation to a changing climate also needed

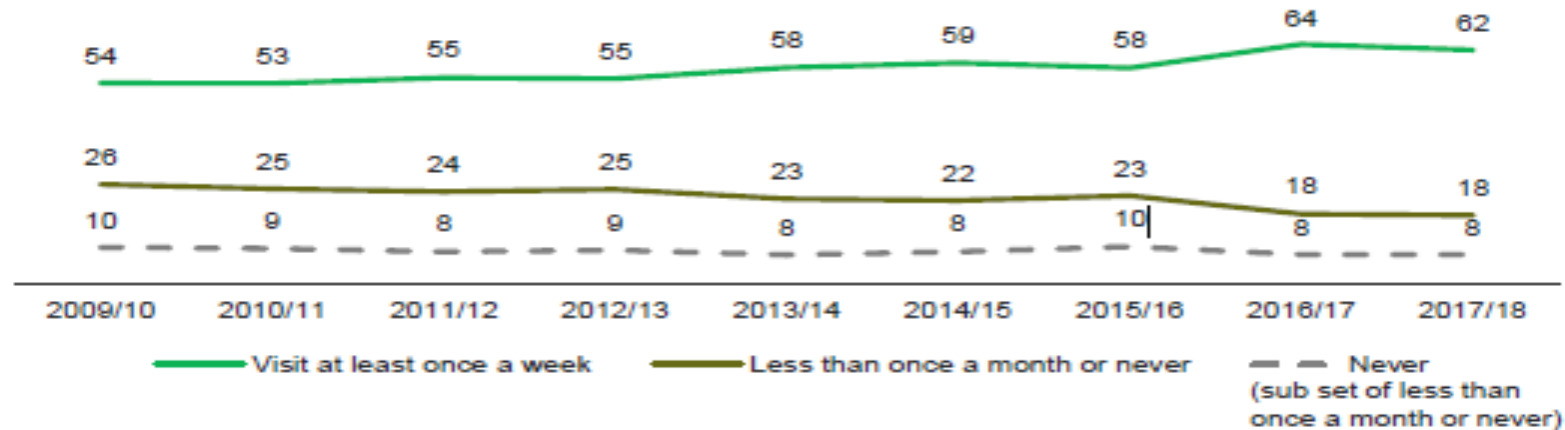


Natural flood management using leaky dams, tree planting and grazing flood plains is **reducing the chance of flooding** in Pickering from 25% to 4% in any one year (Environment Agency 2015)

Monitoring engagement in the Natural Environment 2018



FIGURE 2 Frequency of visits
(% of adults, 2009/10 to 2017/18)

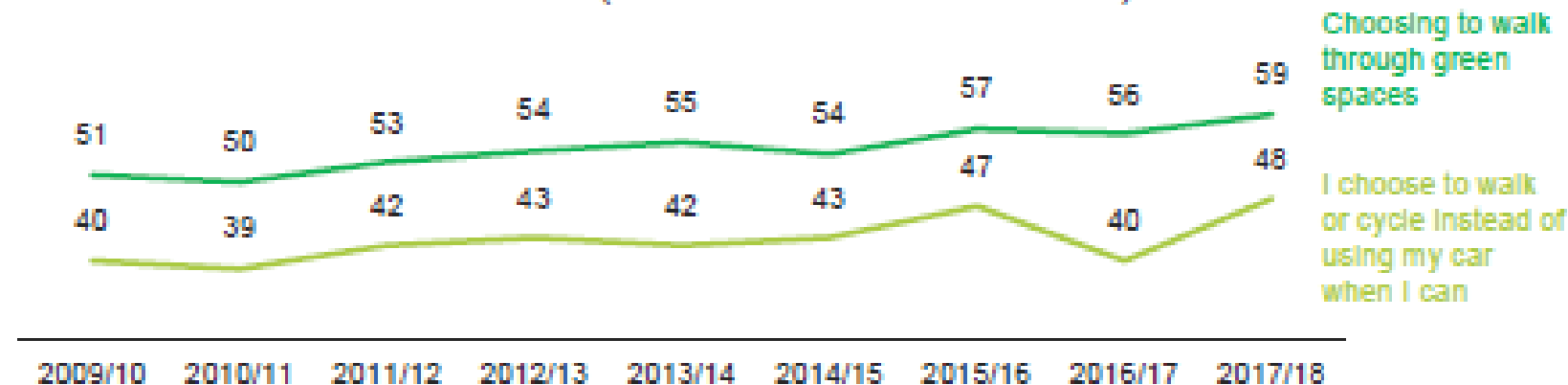


Inactivity costs UK £7.4bn/yr

Mental illness costs £105bn/yr

Travelling

FIGURE 21 Activities undertaken (% of adults 2009/10 to 2017/18)

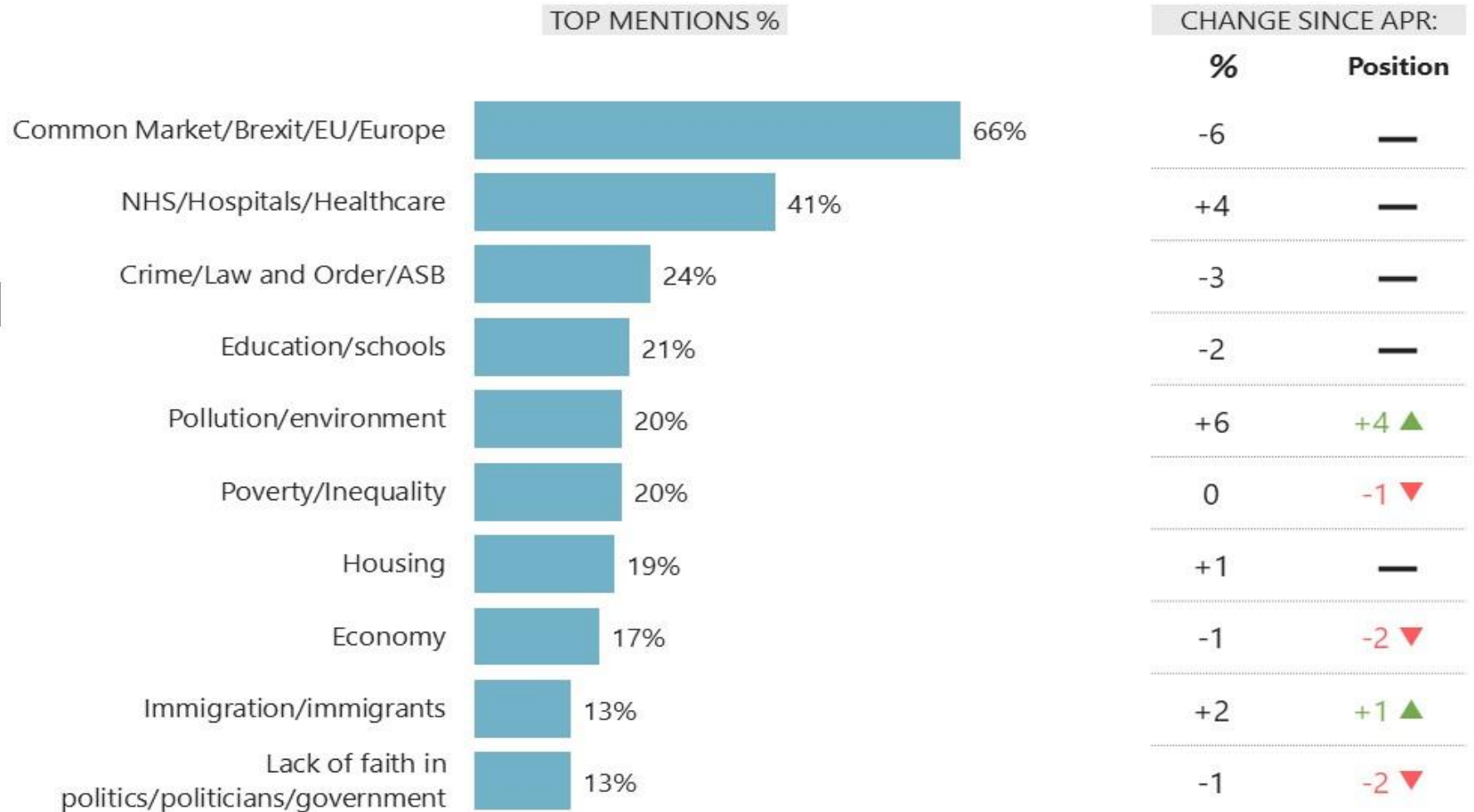


Modelling found that 5% mixed greenspace in 100 square kilometres avoided two deaths and two hospital admissions from air pollution per year (Tiway, Sinnett et al. 2009)

Top issues facing the country as rated by UK public May 2019

May 2019

WHAT DO YOU SEE
AS THE MOST/OTHER
IMPORTANT ISSUES
FACING BRITAIN TODAY?



Base: 1,006 British adults 18+, 3 - 19 May 2019

Source: Ipsos MORI Issues Index

A green future : our 25 year plan to improve the environment



- “Set gold standards in protecting and **growing natural capital** ..take into account the often hidden additional benefits in every aspect of the environment for national wellbeing, health and economic prosperity, with scientific and economic evidence to the fore”.
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes - Developing a **Nature Recovery Network**
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing - Creating more **green infrastructure**
- Using and managing land sustainably - Embedding an ‘**environmental net gain**’ principle for development, including housing and infrastructure



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to
Improve the Environment



Nature recovery



1. Core areas

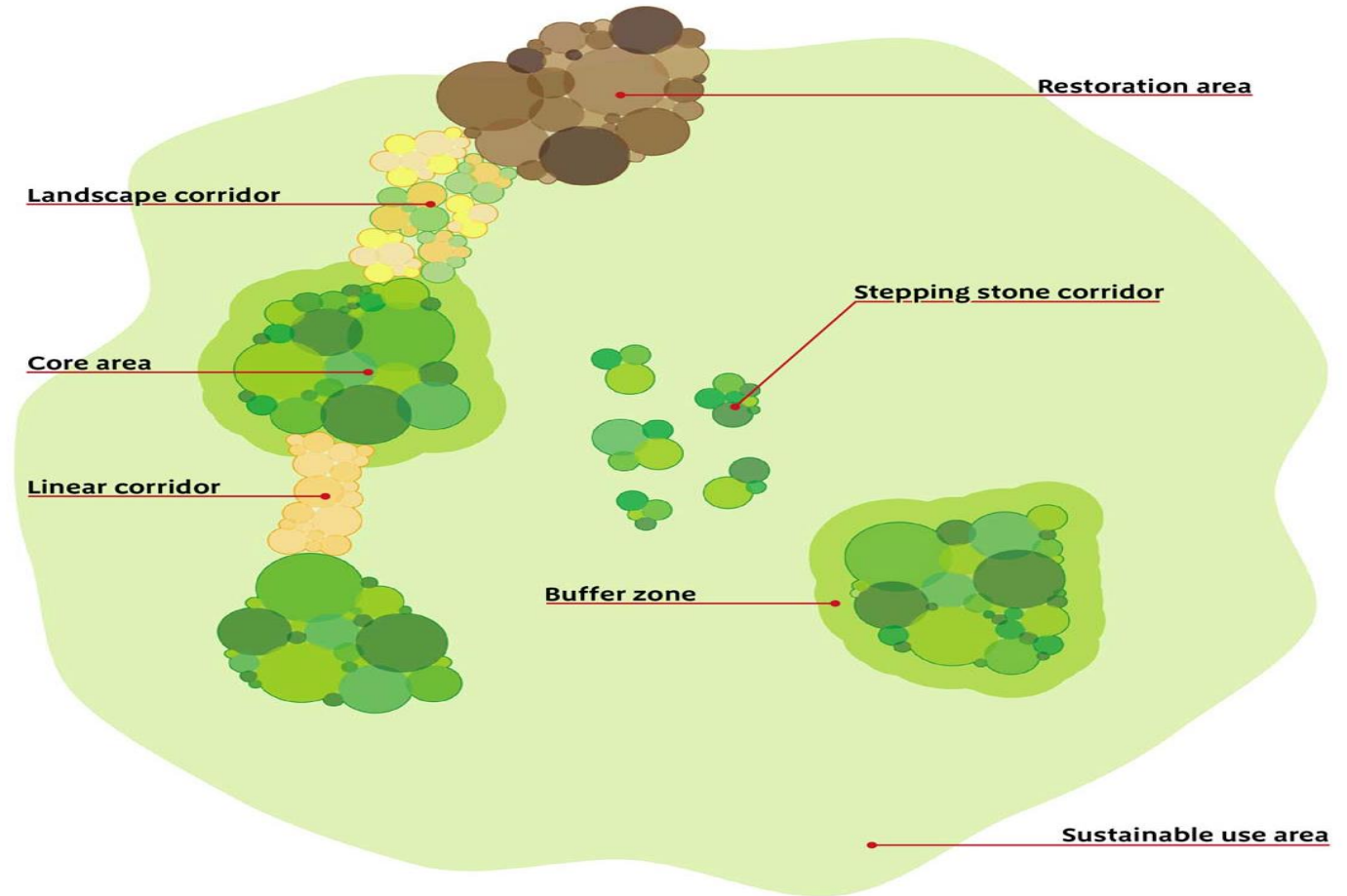
- Wildlife-rich habitats, protected sites
- Connecting landscape features, linear infrastructure, key greenspaces, ecosystem restoration areas

2. Potential habitat restoration and creation areas

- Optimal or priority areas targeted to enhance, extend or connect the network

3. Nature Recovery Areas

- Zones of focused activity and investment to improve and extend – targeted network ‘development areas’



Biodiversity net gain

Biodiversity Loss/Gain



Biodiversity Net Gain



Natural Capital Net Gain



Environmental Net Gains



Local natural capital plans



Local Natural Capital Plans (LNCPs) will:

- be **strategic place based plans** that articulate the local vision and benefits of **delivering the 25 YEP goals**
- look through a **natural capital lens** to identify **priorities for action** and investment in a place.
- help embed natural capital considerations and **investment commitments** into other local and national plans, including **Local industrial strategies and local development plans**.

LNCP are likely to have 5 common elements:

- Baselining of natural assets and trends in the area .
- Building partnerships of crucial stakeholders.
- Agreeing a shared vision for natural capital in the area.
- Identifying opportunities/projects that work towards that vision (e.g. influencing major planning decisions)
- Prioritising interventions and identifying which stakeholder(s) will deliver them and in what way.

OxCam Growth Arc - Policy Context



- Promoted by the National Infrastructure Commission - represents a significant national opportunity for economic growth
- Joint declaration between the Govt. and local partners re-affirmed long term economic ambitions & commitment to embed 'natural capital' thinking throughout our approach to the Arc
- 4 pillars – connectivity, place making, productivity and environment
- LNCP approach being piloted in the Arc to articulate natural capital assets and opportunities to help inform all pillars





Legacy Project Outcomes

Measureable biodiversity/Natural Capital net gain delivered across the Arc

Greener, cleaner, healthier and more productive communities across the Arc

Overall streamlining of environmental requirements and opportunities through the planning system



Natural Capital to improve economic growth and productivity



Our environment underpins our wellbeing and prosperity. We see the economic benefits that flow from the natural world and our natural heritage in increased productivity.

Understand natural capital assets to determine opportunities and potential to contribute to economic growth and productivity

1. Establish a **baseline** of natural capital assets and assess its **contribution** to local growth and productivity, e.g. to local distinctiveness, inward investment, etc. with appropriate metrics/indicators to allow for monitoring and evaluation.
2. Identify environmental **risks** that could impact on growth and productivity e.g. flood risk, air pollution, climate change, environmentally sensitive areas
3. Identify environmentally based, competitive advantage **opportunities**, such as:
 - a. investment that improves natural capital assets at a landscape scale to increase local competitiveness e.g. clean water supplies, clean air, enhanced landscapes and biodiversity.
 - b. the role of Green Infrastructure in making attractive, healthy places where people want to live, learn, work and visit and in helping to address the ageing society grand challenge.
 - c. aligning with environmental net gain approaches supported through the planning system and environmental land management schemes.
4. Map environmental or green jobs locally and identify opportunities to grow sector and improve productivity

Natural capital is the sum of our ecosystems, species, freshwater, land, soils, minerals, our air and our seas. They bring value by providing us with food, clean air and water, wildlife, energy, wood, recreation and protection from hazards.

Challenges – how do we strategically consider the environment



- How do we ensure that the environment is valued as providing significant solutions/benefits in the same way that growth and productivity are?
- How can decisions on housing and infrastructure/minerals align through their different policy /legal routes to ensure we manage environmental risks and opportunities?
- There are many players in the decision making process, how can we engage more effectively and ensure bottom up needs and top down policy ambitions align?
- How do we work jointly to ensure this is implemented on the ground and investment follows strategic ambition (health agenda) ?