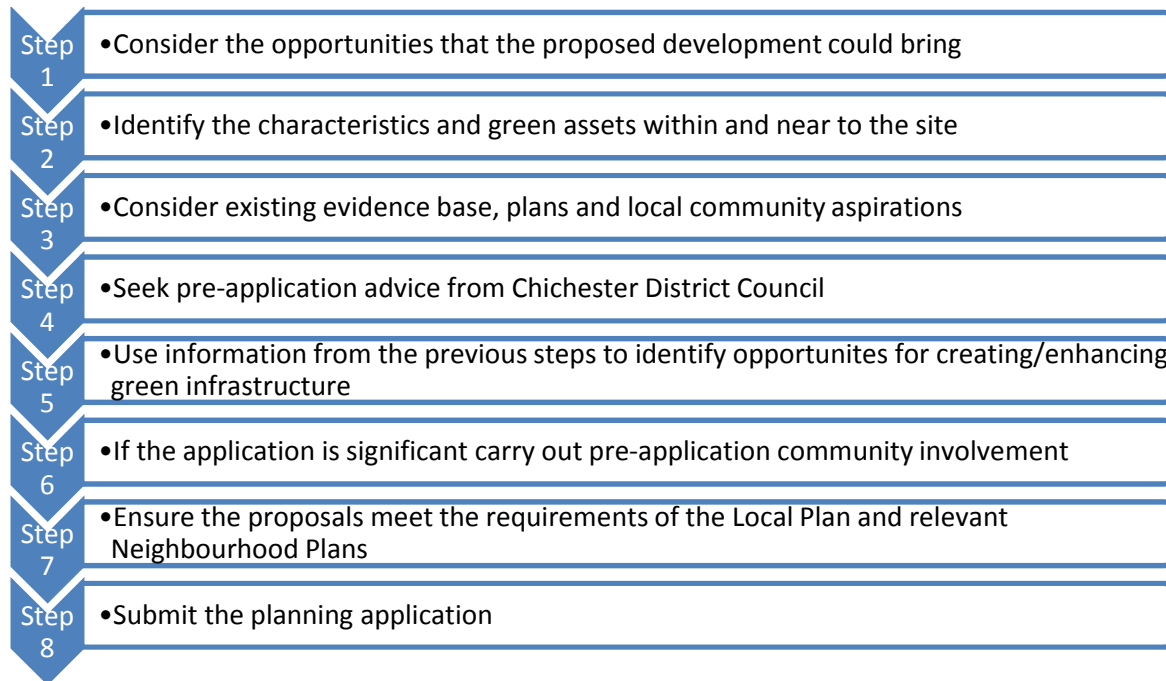


Green Infrastructure Developer Checklist

This appendix provides a checklist for applicants and developers to indicate how the council expects proposals for major developments to integrate high quality green infrastructure (GI) from the earliest stage. The following process sets out the key steps and this is followed by more detailed guidance.



Step 1: Consider the opportunities that the proposed development could bring

The nature and location of the proposed development will help to determine the priorities and opportunities for green infrastructure on a particular site. Housing developments may provide opportunities to create open space for recreation, footpath links to local shops, green space to support local biodiversity and SUDs (Sustainable Drainage Systems) to deal with drainage.

For economic development there may be opportunities to link to the local cycle network to encourage cycling to work. It will be important to consider the characteristics of the development and who will use the site and benefit from the development.

Step 2: Identify the characteristics and green assets within and near to the site

The next step is to consider the existing green infrastructure characteristics and features within and surrounding the site. The following list provides some examples of characteristics and features to consider:

- Is there a watercourse?
- Is part of the site within a flood zone or does the site suffer from surface water flooding?

- Are there any nature conservation designations (such as Sites of Special Scientific Interest or Nature Reserves) on or close to the sites?
- Are there any heritage designations or assets
- Is there an existing Public Right of Way (PROW), cycle route or bridleway to link to?
- Does the area have a deficit in a particular type of open space/GI?
- Are there any opportunities for protecting, linking and enhancing habitats and species?

Applicants may wish to commission a desk-based biodiversity report from the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre (www.sxbrc.org.uk) which provides information on both important habitats and species on and close to the development site. It also identifies those designated sites which are in close proximity to the development site.

Step 3: Consider existing evidence base, plans and local community aspirations

Consider the requirements of Chichester Local Plan on Green Infrastructure and Open Space. Also consider whether the proposal falls within the Zones of Influence of the Special Protection Areas of Chichester and Langstone Harbours and Pagham Harbour.

Consider information on GI contained within the relevant Neighbourhood Plan, Concept Statement and Infrastructure Business Plan.

The applicant should also consider whether the site falls within one of the projects listed above (Green Links across the Manhood, the West Weald Landscape Project and Fixing and Linking Our Wetlands Project). There may be opportunities to link up with the initiatives.

Step 4: Seek pre-application advice from Chichester District Council

The council encourages applicants and developers to engage with the council before a planning application is submitted. This allows for confidential feedback and advice regarding the scope of the development and the proposed design and layout. A pre-application enquiry can be made.

The Council also holds maps of the ecological networks across the District. These maps include not only the designated sites and important habitats but also the green and blue wildlife corridors that connect them (such as hedgerows and the ditch networks).

Step 5: Use the information from the previous steps to identify opportunities for creating/enhancing green infrastructure

Taking into account the information collected during the previous steps, consider the opportunities for delivering the following green infrastructure benefits:

- Connecting green spaces and routes
- Improving the setting and quality of life
- Encouraging activity and enjoyment
- Adapting to changes in climate and flood risk
- Protecting nature and heritage
- Providing opportunities to grow food locally

Step 6: Seek community involvement for ‘significant’ applications

For significant development it is important to engage with the community during the design process and before a planning application is submitted. This provides an opportunity to invite feedback about the location, type and scale of green infrastructure proposed and how it could benefit the local community.

Step 7: Ensure the GI proposals meet the requirements of the Local Plan and the Relevant Neighbourhood Plan

Applicants will need to ensure that the design of the development has made the most of opportunities for green infrastructure and taken into consideration the comments made by the community, stakeholders and the council during the pre-application stage. They will also need to ensure that it meets the requirements set out within the Local Plan Policies 52 on Green Infrastructure and 54 on Open Space, Sport and Recreation. It will also need to be consistent with the relevant Neighbourhood Plan.

Step 8: Submitting the planning application

When submitting the planning application, include within the Design and Access Statement information to demonstrate how green infrastructure has been addressed.