**Newcastle declaration on Blue and Green Infrastructure**

[ORGANISATION] confirm their commitment to expanding the amount of Blue and Green Infrastructure in towns and cities across the UK. In establishing the declaration, the signatories acknowledge that:

* Flooding has a significant effect on the quality of life of our residents and the performance of the North East economy;
* Without continued effort, climate change threatens to increase this;
* Proactive investment in preparing for it is considerably cheaper and more preferable than dealing with damages;
* Investment in blue and green infrastructure has a significant role to play in managing flood risk in urban areas; and that
* Deploying such infrastructure can also make a significant positive contribution to many other important areas of life, including physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, carbon emissions, culture, quality of life and the economy.

[ORGANISATION] therefore commits to the following:

* Providing local, regional and national leadership, encouraging and collaborating with others to increase the uptake of blue and green infrastructure
* Developing a supportive policy framework for new and retrofit projects
* Prioritising the use of green and blue infrastructure in managing flood risk wherever possible
* Assessing and increasing deployment within our own estates and activities
* Working with developers to maximise the amount of blue and green infrastructure in new development
* Piloting new ways of working, and new funding models which help to realise the multiple benefits of blue and green infrastructure
* Continuing to build and share data, knowledge and understanding needed to successfully implement such approaches
* Raising awareness and building capacity amongst communities to develop and maintain blue and green space, as part of wider resilience building initiatives

Signed:

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