

Newcastle Learning and Action Alliance Vision

In the urban environment, a **Blue-Green City** creates multifunctional land use through surface water management and greening schemes.

Surface water is managed in part by natural processes, including interception, attenuation, evapotranspiration, infiltration and storage. This creates **resilience** to flood risk and climate change, while making **significant positive contributions to other areas life**, including health and wellbeing, wildlife and biodiversity, urban cooling, economic activity and development.

The Vision is for Newcastle¹ to become a city that follows the principles of a Blue-Green City by maximising the opportunities to achieve multiple benefits of Blue-Green approaches to surface water management.

By forming a Learning and Action Alliance (LAA), our overarching goal is to *promote this vision and to realise it by recognising, and utilising, windows of opportunity for potentially influencing the strategies of decision makers.*

The Vision prioritises the use of Blue-Green infrastructure to manage flood risk and deliver wider benefits:

- The integration of water management, urban green space and connected Blue-Green networks to make urban environments better places to live
- Improved water quality through natural processes and treatments
- More healthy communities and improved quality of life
- Better air quality and reduced urban heat due to greening the urban area, helping with climate change adaptation
- Increased biodiversity and the development of thriving natural habitats within the city
- Enhanced social capital through better relationship with water, interaction with the natural environment and improved urban space
- Assets that enhance the visual quality of the environment in the time between floods
- Reducing stress on existing grey infrastructure by managing surface water with Blue-Green assets
- Motivation to enjoy, appreciate and protect the urban environment
- Schemes designed to be sustainable by making them resilient and adaptive to future changes in climate, landuse and socio-economic activity
- Better value for money from whole-life costs over the lifetime of a scheme
 - Reduced economic costs associated with flood damage

¹ *Newcastle refers to, but is not exclusive to, the local authority boundary.