

# Paper 1



**To:** Nature Connected  
Local Nature Partnership Board

**Meeting:** 10<sup>th</sup> May 2016

**Topic:** ESIF – Low Carbon – Call for Projects

## 1 Purpose

This short paper provides a very brief overview of the work underway to use the Green Infrastructure Prospectus, commissioned by the LEP and Nature Connected in 2015, as the basis for a bid for ESIF, through the Low Carbon call for projects.

## 2 Background

Nature connected and the LEP jointly commissioned Arup to develop a GI Prospectus for the City Region in 2015.

The objective was to develop a “pipeline” of commissionable projects that, in theory, could bid individually or collectively into ESIF.

The documents are available on the Nature Connected website<sup>1</sup>. The documents provide full details of the types of project that have been looked at, funding availability and outputs that can be achieved to meet ESIF targets.

The Prospectus brought together a number of interested organisations who may invest in the city region, saw the advantage of a green infrastructure approach and were willing to engage in any future work to develop fundings bids. In the Prospectus this group was termed a “Strategic Alliance”.

The Prospectus also identified opportunities for the installation of renewable energy, mainly PV, on derelict and underutilised land across the City Region.

Nature Connected subsequently have been involved in promoting the development of a call for projects that could include the pipeline of potential projects identified in the Prospectus. Members of Nature Connected have assisted the LEP in developing a “call” for projects under Priority 4 - Low Carbon<sup>2</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.natureconnected.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GI-Prospectus\\_Final180915.pdf](http://www.natureconnected.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/11/GI-Prospectus_Final180915.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/european-structural-investment-funds/low-carbon-call-in-liverpool-city-region-rolling-call-oc22r16p-0364>

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The Call document specifically refers to the GI Prospectus.

The investment priority of most interest to us is:

“4e – Promoting low-carbon strategies for all types of territories, in particular for urban areas, including the promotion of sustainable multimodal urban mobility and mitigation-relevant adaptation measures.”

Within this priority the Prospectus is again highlighted.

“There are significant opportunities to deliver holistic ‘whole place’ low carbon solutions, aligned to areas of growth in the City Region. The Green Infrastructure Prospectus produced for the City Region in 2015 identifies that that GI and energy are readily integrated, and that there are potential opportunities for GI energy production on sites, with multiple benefits.

We are now looking develop an expression of interest from the original “strategic alliance” of organisations involved in the prospectus and submit this to CLG to assess whether we have a viable project.”

### 3 Progress update

The first meeting is being held on 24th May. If there is agreement on developing and expression of Interest, The Mersey Forest Team will coordinate and submit an EOI on behalf of the Alliance (if it chooses to continue to call itself that).

We will face many challenges in developing a bid that can be successful. The project will certainly be distinct and whilst innovation is apparently a key driver for ESIF, we are mindful that the proposal will have a high level of scrutiny due to its unique nature.