

Strategic Commitment

Southend-on-Sea

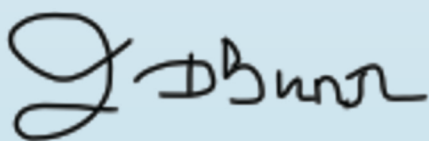


The City of Southend-on-Sea as a partner in the INTERREG 2 Seas Nature Smart Cities project, commits to these actions to increase our city's resilience and respond to the challenge of climate change, increase the level of green infrastructure, enhance biodiversity of our existing green spaces, and improve the quality of the city environment for our citizens and visitors.

1. We will set ourselves these ambitions as a step towards this commitment:
 - By 2030, we will have maximised climate adaptation outcomes, including the use of additional green infrastructure to achieve carbon net zero In Southend-on-Sea City Council and in our city.
 - To use the Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) approach, as mandated in the Environment Act 2021, to ensure the minimum 10% gain in biodiversity is achieved for qualifying future development and/or land managements through the utilisation of green infrastructure, and that the resulting new habitats are secured for at least 30 years.
 - By 2050, we will have extended the overall tree canopy cover to 15% by planting more trees each year than are removed, managing the existing tree stock as an urban forest and through encouraging the community and local businesses to plant trees on their own land.
 - By 2030, we will have increased the number of Green Flag Award winning parks from 7 to 12.
 - To deliver the action plans to see pollinators thrive, so they can carry out their essential service to people of pollinating flowers and crops while providing other benefits for our native plants, the wider environment, food production and all of us.
 - By 2023, we will have adopted a new long-term vision for Parks and Open Spaces and sought investment to ensure, through use of green infrastructure and other green approaches, that they are both high quality and high value.

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2. We will use the Nature Smart Cities Business Model wherever appropriate, to increase the amount and quality of green infrastructure in our urban area between now and 2050;
3. We will participate in a network of Nature Smart Cities and other municipalities, sharing our own experience, and exchanging information, supporting each other, and promoting cross-boundary collaboration.



John Burr, Executive Director Neighbourhoods and Environment