



## Grant Application – Preliminary Information

### Introduction

The Chalk Arc group focuses on green infrastructure delivery around Luton and South Bedfordshire. It is a sub-group of the Green Infrastructure Consortium for Bedfordshire and Luton, which aims to promote the concept of green infrastructure, and co-ordinate the planning and delivery of green infrastructure.

The Chalk Arc grant scheme supports projects that deliver green infrastructure and green space improvements across Luton and South Bedfordshire. The growth planned for the area means that we need to invest in enhancing and extending the network of green infrastructure and green space.

### What should projects do?

Projects should contribute to the overall plan of delivering a network of high quality green space and green infrastructure that will provide a “green canvas” to enable sustainable housing and employment growth.

Individual projects will deliver the core components of this green network. This includes access to parks and green spaces close to home; green routes to enable cycling and walking; large “destination” country park sites for leisure, exploration and contact with nature and biodiversity, and conserving and enhancing heritage features and the landscape.

### Projects should involve one of more of the following themes:



#### Public open space

This could include the improvement or creation of public open spaces such as urban parks, country parks, community woodlands, village greens.



#### Access

New or improved access facilities could include the creation of informal paths and bridleways, cycle routes, improvements for disabled access, and improved signage to raise awareness of existing routes. Projects that improve access between urban and rural areas, or link existing green infrastructure resources would be favourably received.



#### Biodiversity

Projects could create new habitats or enhance existing habitats, benefiting vulnerable species or habitats. Projects could include the restoration, creation or enhancement of species rich grassland, pond, river or wetland restoration or creation, improvements to woodland, and interpretation of biodiversity interest.



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### Heritage

Features in the historic environment include listed buildings, scheduled ancient monuments, historic parks and gardens, ancient woodlands, and earthworks. Projects could involve the conservation, enhancement or interpretation of these features.



### Landscape

The landscape of the area is varied, including the chalk downland of the Chilterns and the Lea and Ouzel River valleys. Projects should increase the 'sense of place' by conserving and enhancing features that make the area distinctive.

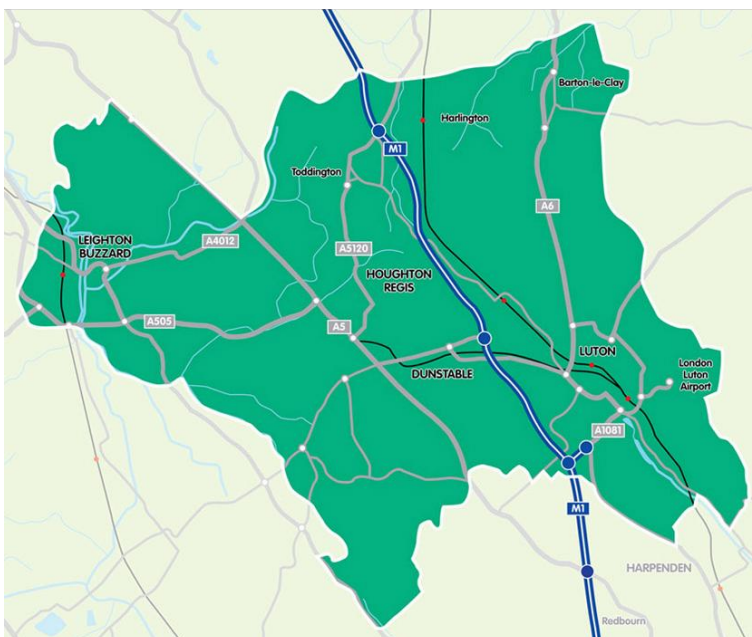


### Community Benefits

Favourable consideration will be given to projects that support local communities in protecting and enhancing their environment with training, equipment, wardening, events, workshops, and encourage the use of green spaces for health, wellbeing and/or enjoyment.

### Where should projects be?

Projects should be located in Luton and South Bedfordshire. Projects will be considered more favourably if they are located in one of the green infrastructure priority areas.





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### Project cost

The minimum request for funding is £750 for Community Grants applications (up to a maximum of £20,000) and £20,000 for professionals' applications (up to a maximum of £250,000). In the case of professional projects that involve less than £20,000, it is suggested a Community Grant application be made.

### What can and cannot be funded?

Projects should involve the creation of new green infrastructure and green space resources, or the enhancement of existing resources. Projects need to be completed by spring 2011, and the fund is for capital projects only. An element of funding towards the management of new green infrastructure may be included.

### Projects that cannot be funded include:

- Projects that involve the routine refurbishment or maintenance of existing facilities
- Projects that compensate for the long-term lack of investment, proper management or neglect of sites by the current owner
- Projects that involve the delivery of organisations' statutory responsibilities