

# HYBRID PARKS



Home of England's Finest Gardens



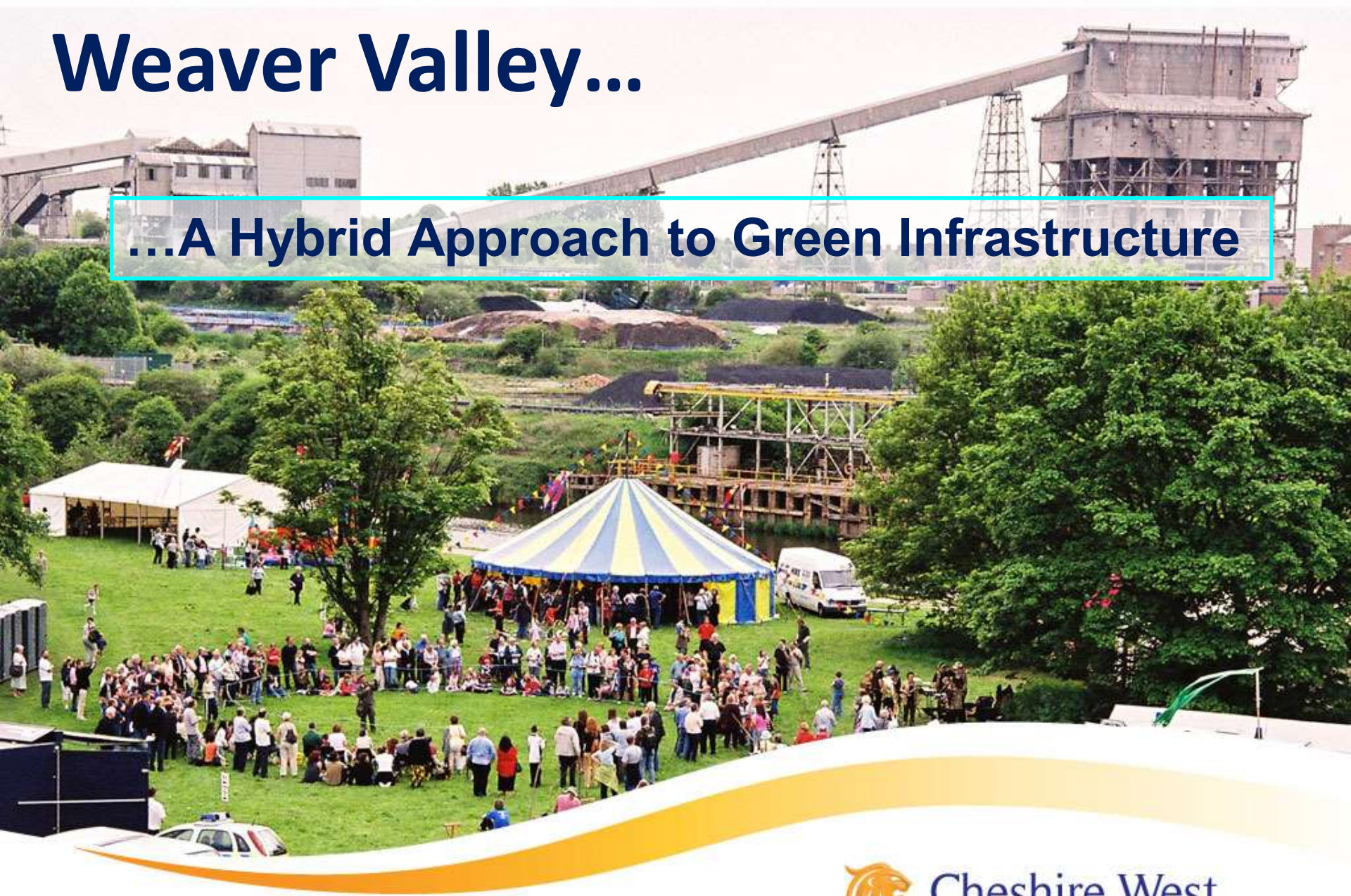
# HYBRID PARKS

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# Weaver Valley...

...A Hybrid Approach to Green Infrastructure



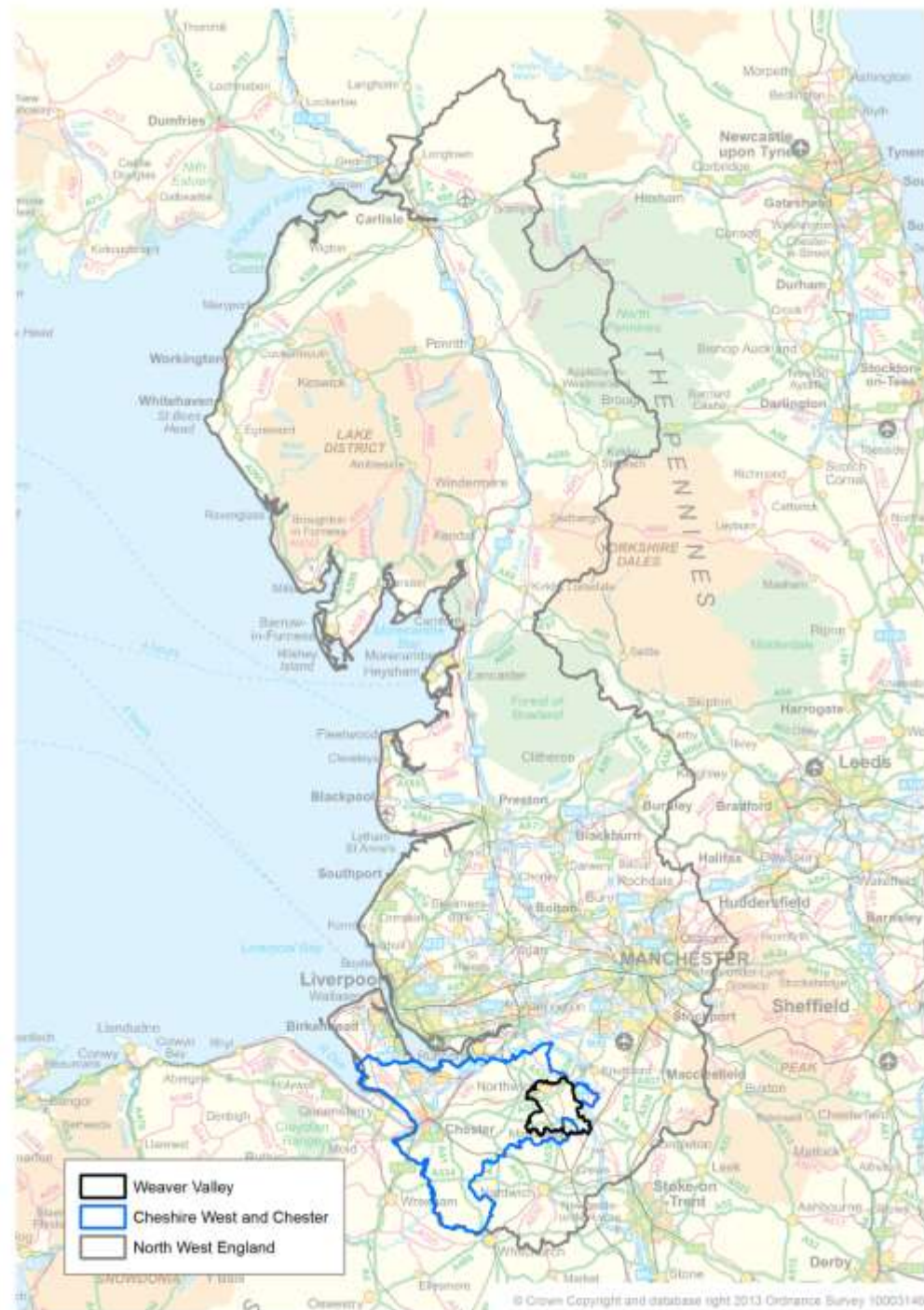
Visit: [cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk](http://cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk)



Cheshire West  
and Chester

# Where is it?

- North West region of England
- In the west of the borough of Cheshire West and Chester
- Focused upon the River Weaver and 3 towns of Northwich, Winsford and Middlewich
- Set between the urban conurbations of Manchester and Liverpool



# Our Story...

## A Total Environment Approach

- Partnership Working
- Track record of delivery
- New thinking
- New funding
- New ways of working









CANDOURITY



# Our Challenge

- Green Spaces or Green Infrastructure?
- Amenity or necessity?
- Liability or asset?
- Demonstrating value
- We plan our towns around
  - Energy infrastructure
  - Waste infrastructure
  - Transport infrastructure
  - Water infrastructure
  - *Why not green infrastructure?*



# What is Green Infrastructure?

Our life support  
system –

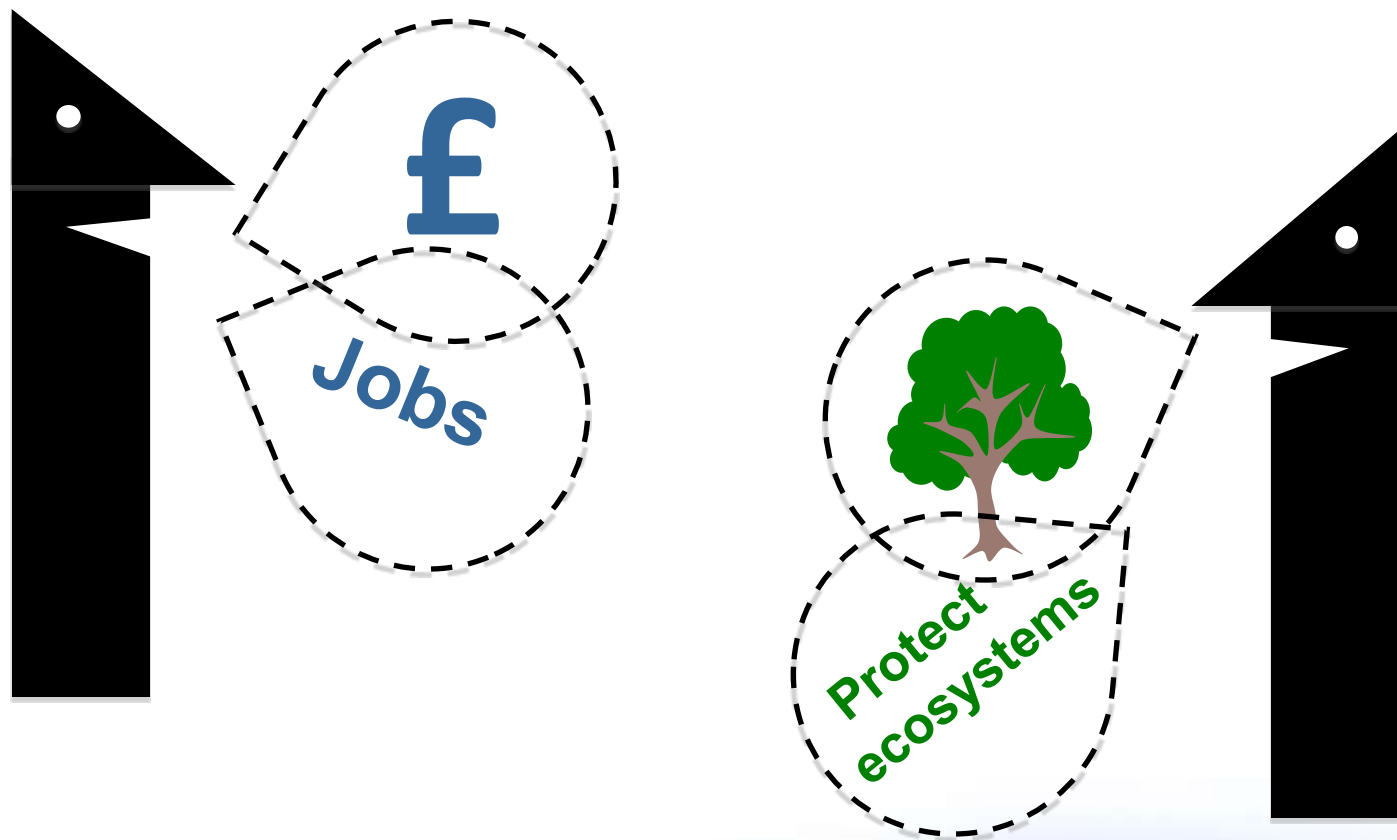
The network of natural  
environmental  
components and green  
and blue spaces

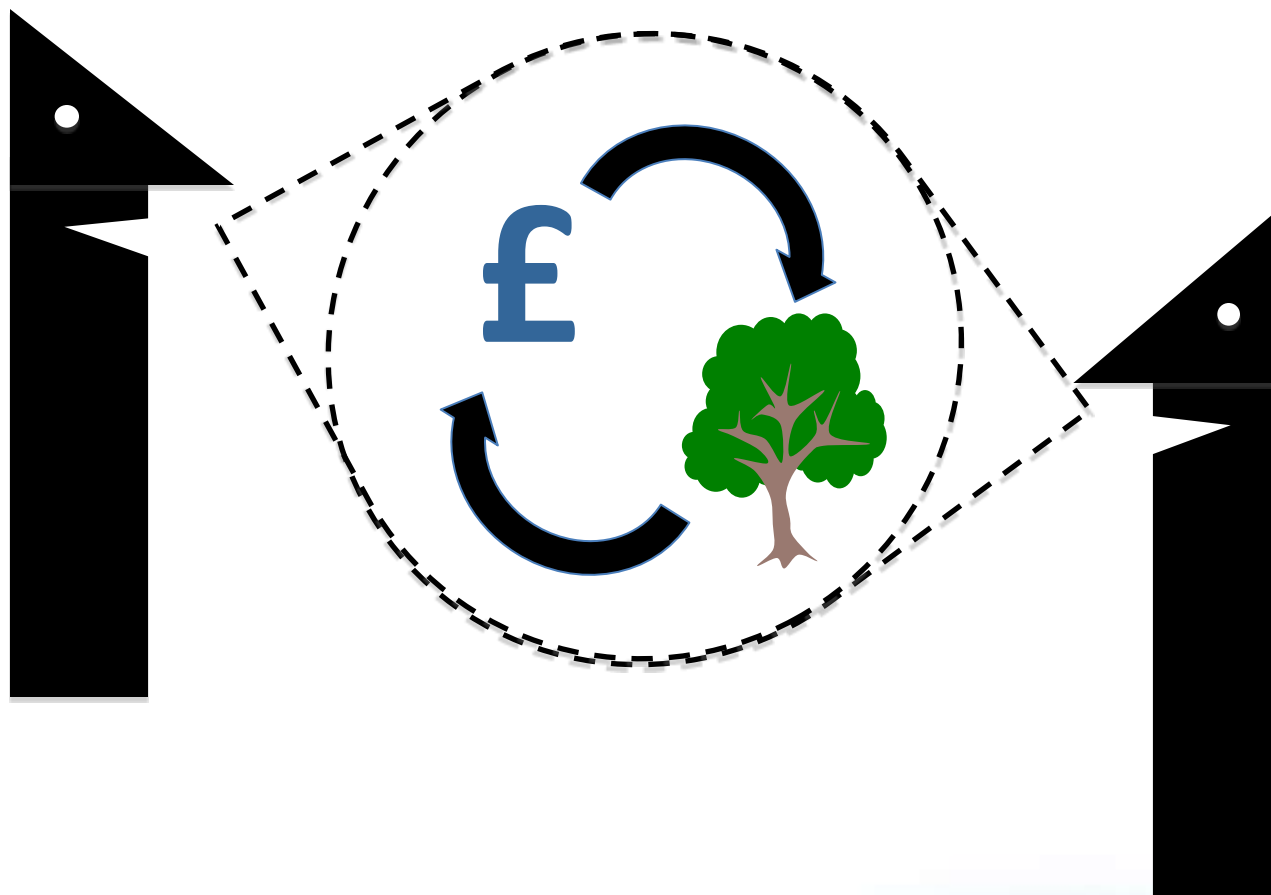
which provides multiple  
social, economic and  
environmental benefits =



HYBRID PARKS

# Overcome the “language” problem

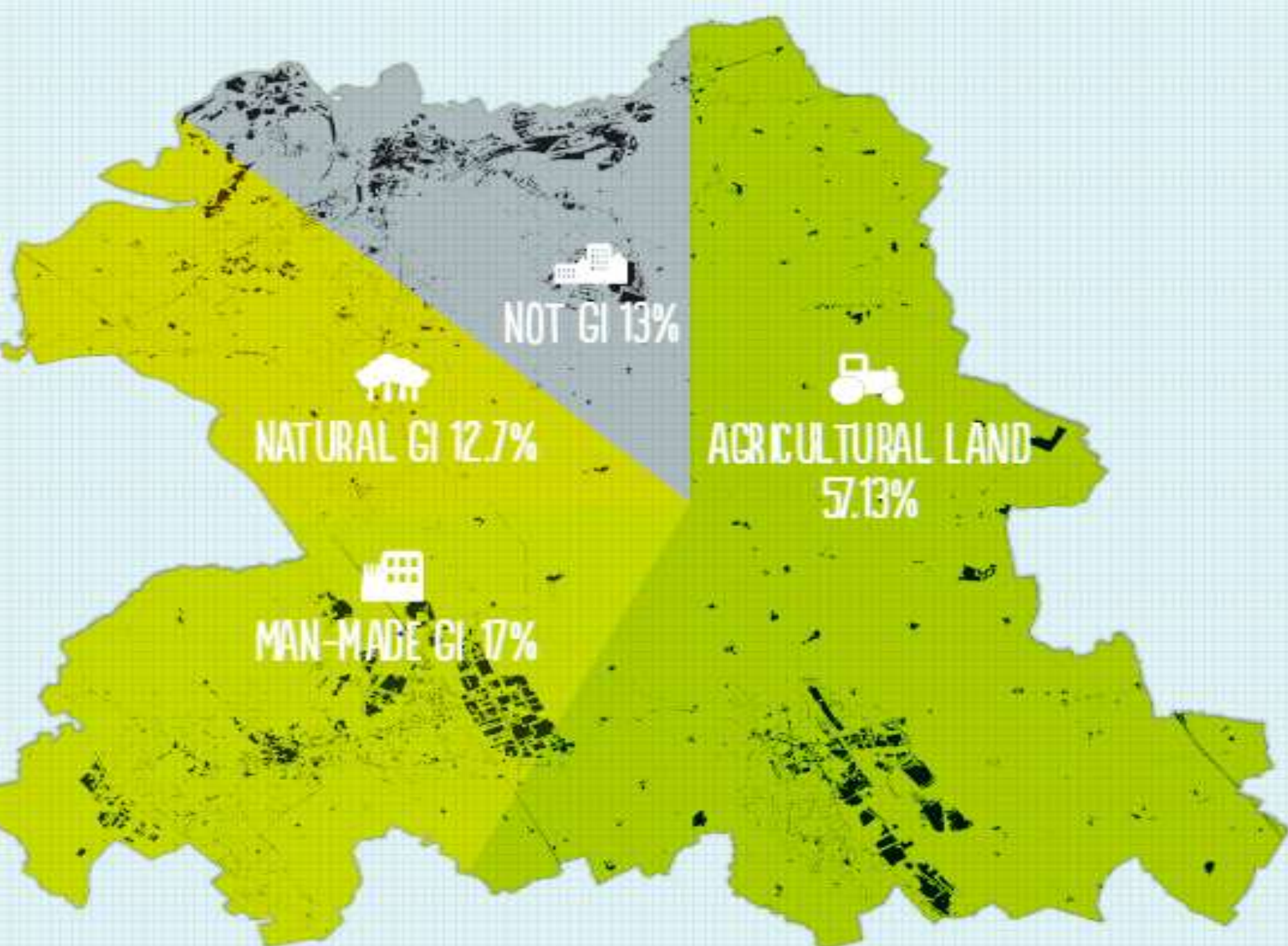




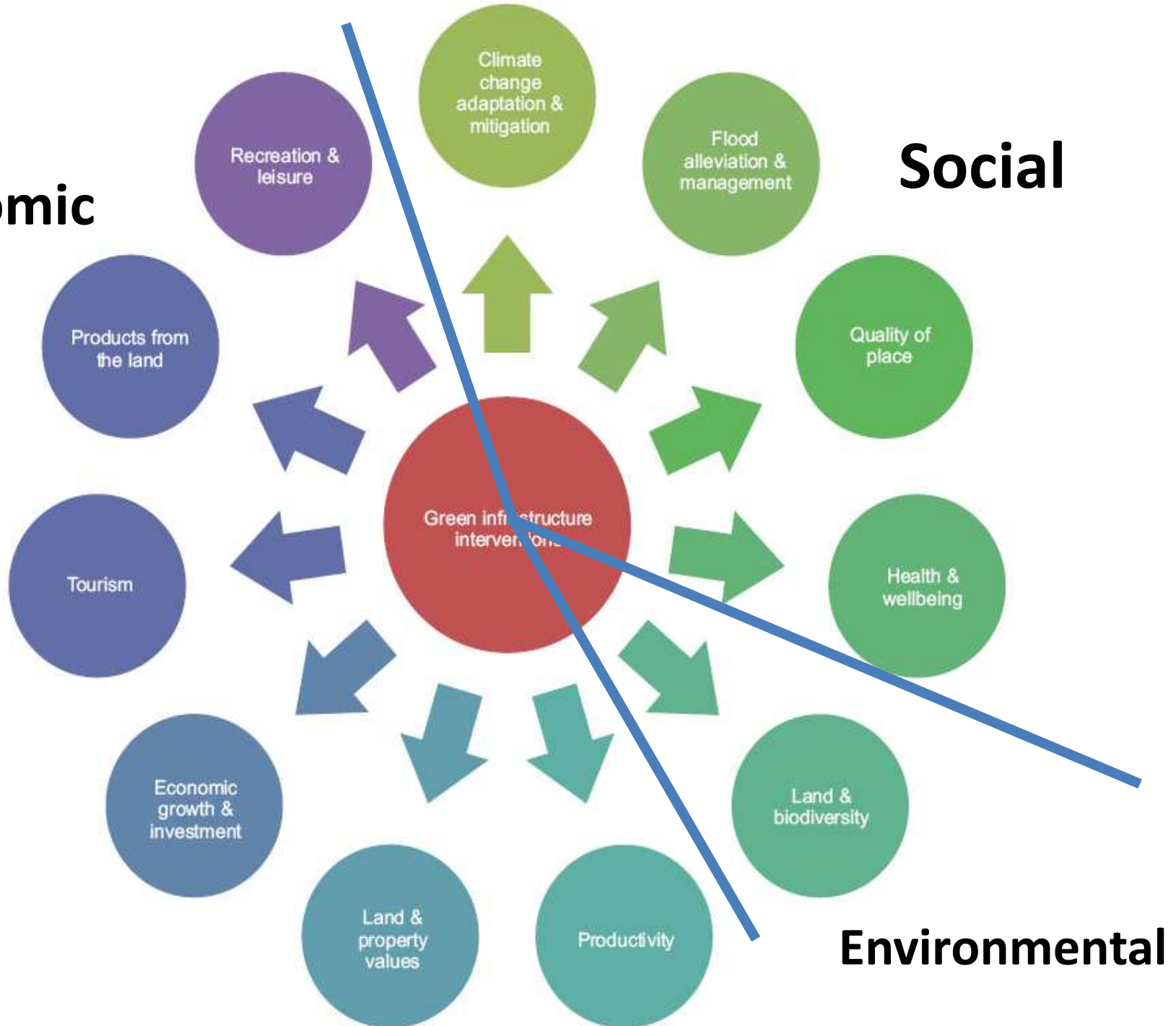
# The Big Question

- How do we make the best use of the natural environment for the sustainable development of The Weaver Valley?






**Economic**



# Our Priorities

- Health and wellbeing
- Climate Change Adaptation
  - Energy from the landscape
  - Reducing flood risk
- Economic development





# Returning urban parks to their public health roots

C. Philip Wheeler Elizabeth Potts Emma M. Shaw Clare Perkins  
Hannah Smith Helen Castles Penny A. Cook Mark A. Bellis

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# Natural Health Service

- The natural environment as one of the “wider determinants of health
- Bring together organisations that can provide nature based activity
- Tackles a range of physical and mental health issues
- Reducing health costs



# Exercise keeps us healthy!

- Australian men age >70 measured walking speed at usual pace.
- Walking speed of 2 mph was most predictive of mortality over 5 years
- No men walking at speeds of 3 mph were caught by Grim Reaper.

***The Grim Reaper cannot catch you at 3mph!***



# Key attributes to increased use of green space

- Perceived **quality** and **safety** of local green space.
- Good **access** to green space and lack of antisocial behaviour on the way.
- Improvement of quality and access can increase overall physical activity levels



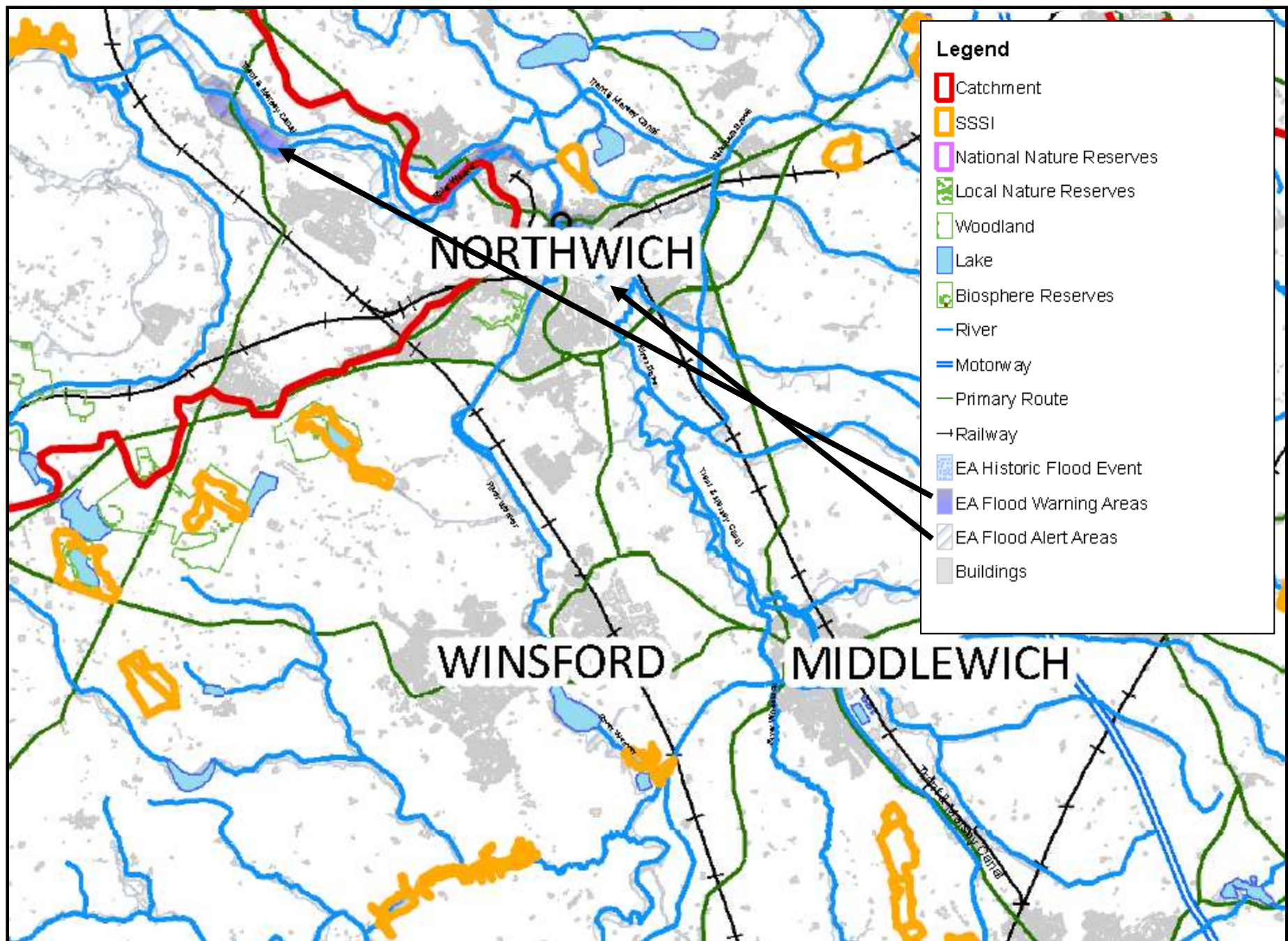
# Tackling projected climate change

- Moderating urban heat island
- Intercepting, infiltrating and storing rainwater to help reduce flooding
- Wildlife corridors
- Reducing soil erosion









# Wood Allotments<sup>©</sup>



Own a wood stove?



Want to get logs locally?



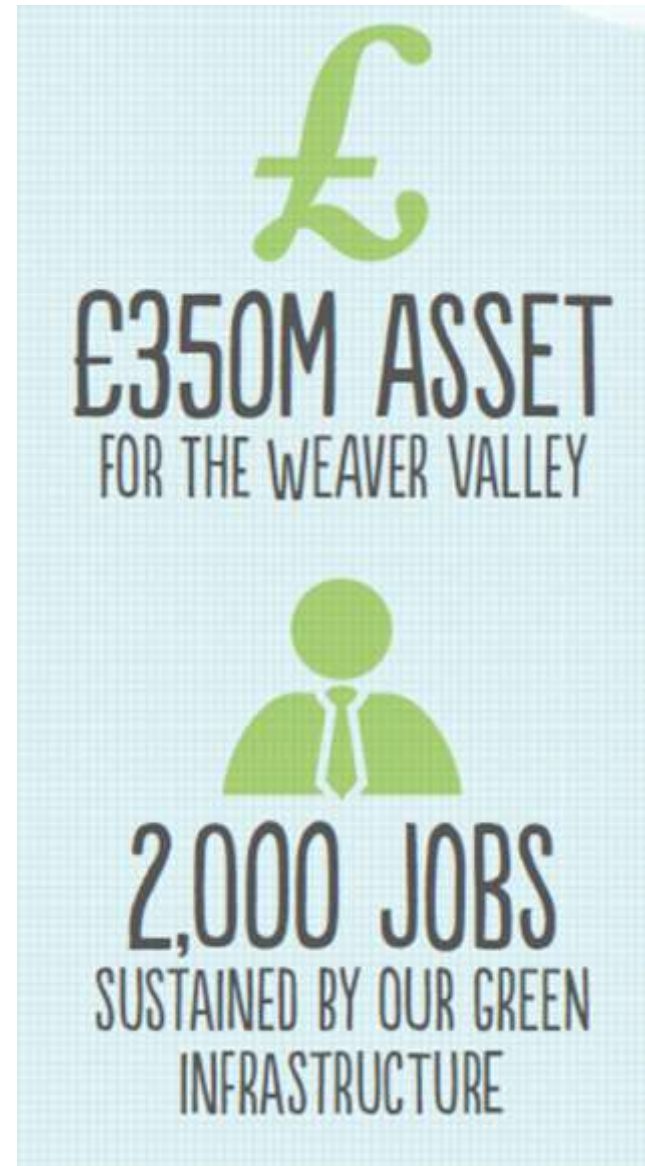
Happy to cut the wood yourself?

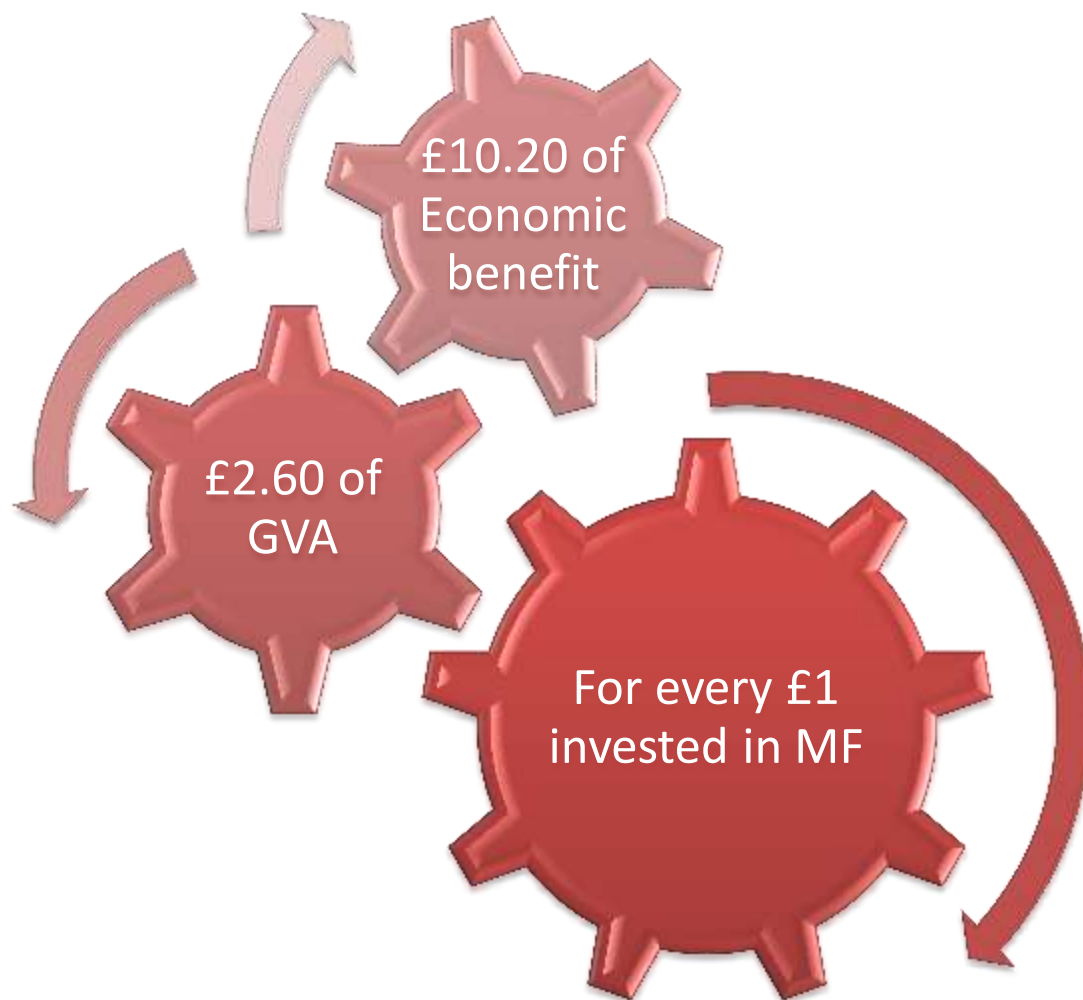
Wood allotments could be right up your street.



# Setting the Scene for the economy

- Attractive places
  - Attract investment
  - Attract talent
- Important part of the local economy
- Impacts bottom line





**Regeneris - 2009**

**It's the economy...**

# Evidence of economic value

- **Direct benefits** - by providing or safeguarding jobs
- **Indirect** – by providing benefits such as improved quality of place
- **Reduced Cost** – providing functions that would be expensive to replace
- **Reduced risk** – for example by controlling water flows, storing water or reducing air pollution.

# ***If we get it right...***

- More competitive towns
- Healthier communities
- Adaptation to climate change
- Increased value from the natural environment - a source of energy
- Jobs and business

***= Growth and Prosperity***