

## NEWS RELEASE

1 June 2010

### **GOVERNMENT'S DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT FAILS TO DEMAND A STRATEGIC APPROACH TO GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Landscape Institute broadly welcomes the principles of the draft PPS, *Planning for a Natural and Healthy Environment* on which consultation has just closed. In particular the Institute noted the importance it gives to the provision of green infrastructure (GI). LI policy committee member Ian Phillips said: "the challenge of climate change, energy efficiency and good place-making provide an imperative for making the best use of scarce resources. I hope that this PPS will encourage planners, developers and other decision-makers to realise the benefits that well-designed and managed green infrastructure can deliver."

However, the draft PPS has a number of serious shortcomings, which we have highlighted in our consultation response. It does not make it mandatory for local planning authorities to prepare formal GI strategies, based upon local needs and opportunities. There is no recognition of the connection between good design and functionality, although good design is critical in delivering the wide range of functions that GI can provide. The draft PPS does not address the key issues of maintenance and management of the urban and rural landscape. The importance of water contributing to the delivery of GI benefits is not adequately covered. The PPS also fails to address some of the key themes of the European Landscape Convention (ELC) which came into force in the UK in March 2007 – including the preparation of Landscape Character Assessments and objectives, and an emphasis on public participation and the preparation of action plans.

"The new government in Westminster has an opportunity to make good the shortcomings in this draft PPS which it has inherited from the previous administration. We urge the new government to use the opportunity of this new PPS to give effect to the commitment in the May 2010 Coalition Agreement to promote green spaces for their health, environmental, social and economic benefits," said Landscape Institute President Neil Williamson.

**ENDS**

**Further information:**

Paul Lincoln,  
Director of Policy and Communications  
T: 020 7299 4500  
E: [paull@landscapeinstitute.org](mailto:paull@landscapeinstitute.org)

Alastair McCapra  
CEO  
T: 020 7299 4500  
E: [alastair@landscapeinstitute.org](mailto:alastair@landscapeinstitute.org)

## Notes to editors:

1. Download the LI's response and policy paper on Green Infrastructure at <http://www.landscapeinstitute.org>
2. The Landscape Institute is an educational charity and chartered body responsible for protecting, conserving and enhancing the natural and built environment for the benefit of the public. It champions well-designed and well-managed urban and rural landscape. The Institute's accreditation and professional procedures ensure that the designers, managers and scientists who make up the landscape architecture profession work to the highest standards. Its advocacy and education programmes promote the landscape architecture profession as one which focuses on design, environment and community in order to inspire great places where people want to live, work and visit.
3. The Landscape Institute represents 6000 members who include chartered landscape architects, academics, scientists and students. Our members work for a range of organisations such as local authorities, government agencies and in private practice. They are involved in a broad range of tasks including master planning, environmental assessment, public consultation and design.
4. The Institute provides services to assist members including support and promotion of the work of landscape architects; information and guidance to the public and industry about the specific expertise offered by those in the profession; and training and educational advice to students and professionals looking to build upon their experience.
5. In May 2009, the Landscape Institute published its position statement *Green infrastructure: connected and multifunctional landscapes*. This publication called for green infrastructure (GI) to be afforded the same priority as more conventional infrastructure; a priority that the concept rightly deserves given its critical role in addressing a wide range of pressing environmental, social and economic challenges. The position statement recommended that, as one of the first steps towards achieving this, policy was developed to ensure that GI is a central and formative element of spatial planning. Download this statement from <http://www.landscapeinstitute.org/policy>