

* **Green Bullet**

30th November 2016

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

We are members of VSNW, the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

This bulletin is intended to keep NWEL members and wider networks up to date on events and issues that will be of interest to environmental voluntary and community sector organisations in the North West. Please send any items for inclusion in the next bulletin to [andyyuille@gmail.com](mailto:andyyuille@gmail.com) - and feel free to forward all or parts of these bulletins throughout your own networks to help spread the word!

The Green Bullet is also available to download from the [VSNW](http://www.vsnw.org.uk/publications/nwel-green-bullet) website.

**CPRE North West have kindly agreed to continue their support to enable the Green Bullet to be produced throughout 2016 – very many thanks!**

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***Campaigns***

**Climate change**

* The Paris Agreement has come into force. Edie reflects on [what Paris means in practice](http://www.edie.net/news/9/Paris-Agreement-enters-into-force--What-happens-next/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%2095716986a0-dailynewsletter), and on [things learned](http://www.edie.net/news/9/COP22-round-up/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%205c304b74ef-dailynewsletter) from the [COP22 in Marrakech](http://www.cop22-morocco.com/), which was intended to concentrate on discussing how to implement it. Although the implications of [Trump’s America](https://thinkprogress.org/trump-climate-change-bunk-28c5c44cee#.gfu64pkcd) shared the spotlight, the US has become one of the first countries to publish a [long-term strategy](http://unfccc.int/files/focus/long-term_strategies/application/pdf/mid_century_strategy_report-final_red.pdf).
* But meanwhile the United Nations Environment Programme has said in its [2016 Emissions Gap report](http://web.unep.org/emissionsgap/overview) that global ambitions from the Paris Agreement for emissions cuts by 2030 will need to be scaled up by [at least another 25%](http://www.unep.org/newscentre/Default.aspx?DocumentID=27088&ArticleID=36295) to have any chance of avoiding dangerous climate change.
* This is supported by the IEA’s [World Energy Outlook](https://www.iea.org/newsroom/news/2016/november/world-energy-outlook-2016.html) report, generally considered the ‘gold standard’ of energy research, which suggests that although the national contributions to the Paris agreement are likely to be met, this falls a long way short of the urgent action needed.
* On the bright side, the [Global Carbon Budget 2016](https://www.uea.ac.uk/about/-/low-growth-in-global-carbon-emissions-continues-for-third-successive-year) report published by the University of East Anglia (UEA) suggests that global emissions have barely risen over the past three years. Although this is of course a long way away from the trajectory of absolute reductions that we need to be on, and it also points out that the annual growth rate of atmospheric CO2 concentration reached a record-high last year and remains on course to increase in 2016.
* The latest figures for [UK greenhouse gas emissions](http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/SN03950) are available in a House of Commons Library briefing note.
* The UK has finally ratified the Paris Agreement, becoming the 111th country to do so. World-leadingly quick off the mark.
* [Analysis from Sandbag](https://sandbag.org.uk/blog/2016/nov/2/uks-carbon-price-under-threat/), a climate change think-tank, shows UK coal generation will most likely fall 66% this year, and an 82% fall between 2012 - 2016. This fall in coal use is entirely responsible for the 18% drop in UK CO2 emissions, as over that four-year period net emissions from other sectors are unchanged.

**Biodiversity**

Cumbrian campaigner Kate Rawles is cycling 6,000 miles through South and Central America on a bamboo bike to [raise awareness of biodiversity loss](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2016/nov/03/environmental-activist-gears-up-for-6000-mile-bamboo-bike-ride) on a trip she calls [The Life Cycle](http://www.outdoorphilosophy.co.uk/life-cycle/). Meanwhile [Scottish beavers](http://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/magazine/scotland-beavers-saved) are being granted protection, and evidence is emerging of the beneficial effects of [beavers in Devon](http://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/magazine/scientific-evidence-proves-the-value-of-british-beavers).

**Air pollution**

ClientEarth have [won another High Court case](http://www.clientearth.org/major-victory-health-uk-high-court-government-inaction-air-pollution/) against the UK Government over the failure of ministers to tackle illegal air quality levels across the country. The Court has given the Government until [July next year](http://www.clientearth.org/high-court-gives-uk-government-8-months-draw-fresh-air-quality-plan/) to produce a final, legally-compliant plan. There will be consultation on a draft plan next April. This may well have significant knock-on effects for airport expansion and other projects that will worsen air quality. Greenpeace have launched a petition to cut diesel emissions by banning new diesel cars and accelerating the shift to cleaner, greener road transport. 4 out of 5 new diesel cars will be pump out dangerous levels of Nitrogen Dioxide – some of them 15 times over the legal limit – while a new report shows that the UK has the [second highest rate of deaths](http://www.airqualitynews.com/2016/11/24/9204/) from nitrogen dioxide in Europe. You can use [examples of good practice](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/integration/research/newsalert/pdf/car_free_cities_healthier_citizens_476na1_en.pdf) in reducing urban car use to change your city! And Friends of the Earth are running a [citizen science project](http://liverpoolfoe.org.uk/air-quality-in-liverpool/) in Liverpool to try to get more accurate local air pollution data.

**Bees**

The results of this year’s great [British Bee Count](https://www.foe.co.uk/page/great-british-bee-count-results?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=620e7f9000-LM1611117&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-620e7f9000-20757677) are in and there are a [range of actions](https://www.foe.co.uk/page/the-bee-cause-act) you can take organizationally, individually or politically to further the Bee Cause – including checking out which [farmers have independently pledged](http://www.rapeseedoilguide.com/?utm_source=Friends+of+the+Earth+Communications&utm_campaign=65c3649e68-LM1611128&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_383af65c6b-65c3649e68-20757677) not to use neonicotinoid pesticides.

***Information update***

**Brexit & beyond**

* Doubt has been cast on the Prime Minister’s recent assurance that a Great Repeal Bill will transfer the body of EU law into UK law, leaving [environmental protection in doubt](http://www.wcl.org.uk/environmental-law-endangered.asp): the Wildfowl and Wetlands trust highlight the specific risks and gaps.
* A number of Wildlife and Countryside Link blogs this month focused on the need to safeguard EU environmental law. Specific subjects included the [Great Repeal Bill](http://www.wcl.org.uk/five-fights-that-still-need-to-be-won.asp), the [Birds Directive](http://www.wcl.org.uk/we-cannot-risk-the-long-term-survival-of-uk-birds.asp), and the need to control [toxic chemicals](http://www.wcl.org.uk/control-toxic-chemicals-and-make-brexit-safe.asp). Related subjects include the future of [upland farming](http://www.wcl.org.uk/money-spent-on-upland-farming-is-money-well-spent.asp) and [farm wildlife](http://www.wcl.org.uk/farms-can-be-vibrant-businesses-with-thriving-wildlife.asp), and [the 25 year plan](http://www.wcl.org.uk/keeping-the-25-year-plan-alive-for-25-years.asp) for the environment.
* The House of Lords has heard fears from the UK’s [water and waste](http://www.edie.net/news/5/Brexit-concerns-for-water-and-waste-industries/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%2095716986a0-dailynewsletter) industries that Brexit will mean a ‘stroll to the bottom’
* The newly-formed Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) Committee launched a new inquiry examining the implications of Brexit on the Britain's [energy sector and its national climate change commitments.](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/business-energy-industrial-strategy/inquiries/parliament-2015/brexit-energy-climate-change-inquiry-16-17/) The deadline for written submissions is 16th December.
* A coalition of major UK environmental NGOs are calling on all MPs to support a [Pledge for the Environment](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/pledge_for_the_environment.php) in the wake of the EU Referendum. Check to see if your MP has signed up and ask them to if not!
* The [autumn statement](https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/autumn-statement-2016) didn’t mention [climate change or the environment](https://www.theguardian.com/environment/damian-carrington-blog/2016/nov/23/drive-baby-drive-hammonds-autumn-statement-is-more-grey-than-green), while the fuel tax was frozen and there was £1.3billion extra for roads. So that sets out our post-Brexit direction quite clearly. There were some billions to [boost housebuilding](https://www.planningportal.co.uk/news/article/460/autumn_statement_promises_funds_to_boost_housebuilding?utm_source=PPQ+Newsletter&utm_campaign=64de967b77-Newsletter_24112016_HTML&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_734e0b63a9-64de967b77-6976173). And the [Brexit bill](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/brexit-bill-migrants-16bn-autumn-statement-2016-obr_uk_5835c11ce4b0207d191712c3) of at least £59 billion, with borrowing up and the economy £122 billion worse off by 2020, means even harsher competition for scarce funds.

**Energy**

* The Government has been accused of suppressing a [damaging fracking report](http://energydesk.greenpeace.org/2016/11/25/fracking-report-andrea-leadsom-lancashire/) until after the Preston Cuadrilla decision, so that local councilors could not scrutinize it in advance of their vote. Not that it made any difference to the outcome!
* Single wind turbines have been allowed at appeal by Sajid Javid on farms in [Yorkshire](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-at-green-holes-farm-coal-gate-lane-soyland-halifax-ref-3134617-27-october-2016) and [Cornwall](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-at-wilton-farm-herodsfoot-liskeard-cornwall-ref-3097706-27-october-2016), and he has dismissed appeals for solar farms in [Hertfordshire](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/called-in-decision-land-south-of-three-houses-lane-codicote-herts-ref-3131943-31-october-2016) and [Lincolnshire](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-at-new-fen-dike-spalding-lincolnshire-ref-3138266-1-november-2016) – the latter perhaps most noteworthy for the Secretary of State saying that he "attaches special weight and considerable importance" to the harm caused by the minor impact on two nearby listed buildings.
* But despite these onshore decisions, the Government has [committed significant funding to other renewables](http://www.edie.net/news/11/Government-unveils-support-for-renewables--pledges-to-phase-out-coal-power-generation/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%205ceb8d3145-dailynewsletter), and committed to phase out coal

**Planning**

* A High Court judge has ruled that approvals of [developments which are contrary to a local plan](http://www.bailii.org/cgi-bin/lucy_search_1.cgi?query=CO%2F2856%2F2016&results=50&submit=Search&rank=on&callback=on&mask_path=ew%2Fcases%2FEWHC%2FAdmin), made under the National Planning Policy Framework's (NPPF) presumption in favour of sustainable development, should be the 'exception rather than the norm'. If this decision stands, it may add an [additional and significant hurdle](http://www.theplanner.co.uk/news/high-court-ruling-influences-reading-of-presumption-in-favour-of-sustainable-development) to speculative development proposals
* And in a [Court of Appeal judgement](http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2016/1146.html), it has been ruled that significant weight can still be given to old ‘saved’ policies from ‘out-of-date’ plans, because “significant weight should be given to the general public interest in having plan-led planning decisions even if particular policies in a development plan might be old.”
* In its response to consultation on the process and methodology for the National Infrastructure Assessment, the [National Infrastructure Commission](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-infrastructure-assessment-consultation-response) has clarified that it will take into account the interactions between housing and infrastructure, but won’t plan for housing as national infrastructure itself. It is not very promising in the way it says it will engage with stakeholders and the public more widely, but it will publish an engagement plan.
* The Department for Communities and Local Government has published [four factsheets](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/neighbourhood-planning-bill-policy-factsheets) which provide background information on the measures within the Neighbourhood Planning Bill.
* Tacking in the opposite direction to his decisions last month, Sajid Javid allowed two appeals for housing estates, in [Sandbach](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-off-abbey-road-sandbach-cheshire-ref-3128707-31-october-2016) and nearby [Brereton](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-off-london-road-holmes-chapel-cheshire-ref-3100555-31-october-2016), in Cheshire, ruling that the lack of five year supply outweighed the recently-made Neighbourhood Plans. However, he dismissed another appeal in [Sandbach](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-to-the-rear-of-park-lane-and-crewe-road-sandbach-cheshire-ref-3129235-31-october-2016) due to loss of open countryside and conflict with the Local and Neighbourhood Plans. Another appeal was refused in [Hampshire](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recovered-appeal-land-west-of-hamble-lane-hample-hampshire-s031-4bt-ref-2228566-9-november-2016), largely due to the adverse environmental impacts of reducing a gap between settlements.
* New research shows [huge profits in the housebuilding sector](https://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/2016/11/27/uk-housing-crisis-house-prices/) as the housing shortage – particularly of affordable housing - worsens and prices rise uncontrollably
* Two neighbourhood plans have survived a legal challenges: in one a developer claimed that by containing text that asserted the Parish Council’s [objection to a site that was allocated](http://localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=28824%3Adeveloper-fails-in-high-court-challenge-to-neighbourhood-plan&catid=63&Itemid=31) in the Local Plan it was unlawful, but the judge ruled that because the statement was not a policy, it was allowable; in the other a judge ruled that St Ives could legally [prevent the building of second homes](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cornwall-37938885).
* The forthcoming Housing White Paper will contain the Government’s responses to the [Local Plan Expert Group](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-plans-expert-group-report-to-the-secretary-of-state) recommendations that weren’t dealt with in the Neighbourhood Planning Act. The Secretary of State has said that he broadly supports them. If the Group’s recommendations on calculating housing need are adopted, it is estimated that national “need” will rise by around 40,000 homes per year (para 2.7 in this [NIC interim report](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/569867/Cambridge-Milton_Keynes-Oxford_interim_report.pdf)). The White Paper is also likely to include further encouragement for [Green Belt swaps](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2016/11/26/housing-crisis-ministers-urge-councils-build-green-belt-land/).
* A new [position statement from the RTPI](http://www.rtpi.org.uk/briefing-room/news-releases/2016/november/rtpi-fresh-approach-needed-for-housing-location/) encourages strategic Green Belt reviews and greenfield housing proposals, but also backs prioritizing brownfield first and calls for public funding to make brownfield renewal a reality
* The Ministry of Justice has announced it won’t proceed with a proposal to double the cap on the costs of claimants lodging judicial reviews on planning and environmental issues. Small win!

**Transport – HS2**

The Government has [confirmed its preferred route for phase 2b of HS2](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/568208/high-speed-two-crewe-manchester-west-midlands-leeds-web-version.pdf), taking it from Crewe to Manchester (phase 2a, from the west Midlands to Crewe, was announced last year), and from the West Midlands to Leeds. They are also [consulting on seven “refinements”](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/hs2-crewe-to-manchester-west-midlands-to-leeds-route-refinement-consultation-2016) to the route.

**Charity fundraising**

[New rules for charity fundraising](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/charities-act-2016-new-fundraising-rules) started on 1 November 2016. They affect the trustees’ annual reports of larger charities that fundraise from the public, as well as the contents of the agreements that must be in place when professional fundraisers or other businesses (‘commercial participators’) raise money for charities.

**Flood management**

* The EFRA select committee have published a report calling for a [radical overhaul of flood management](https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environment-food-and-rural-affairs-committee/news-parliament-2015/future-flood-prevention-report-published-16-17/) in England to respond to the growing threat from climate change, which would include sidelining the Environment Agency and a more holistic approach to flooding, including more natural management techniques.
* Since then, and following [criticism from conservation groups](http://www.edie.net/news/9/-UK-government-not-funding-natural-flood-prevention-methods/?utm_source=dailynewsletter,%20edie%20daily%20newsletter&utm_medium=email,%20email&utm_content=news&utm_campaign=dailynewsletter,%20e8c0edd7b0-dailynewsletter), the Government have announced £15 million for [natural flood management](http://www.rewildingbritain.org.uk/magazine/govt-to-fund-rewilding). Although given the [£2.5 billion](http://www.waterbriefing.org/home/flooding/item/13239-government-to-invest-%C2%A315m-in-natural-flood-management) they claim to be spending on flood defences, this is quite literally a drop in the ocean.
* And [new research](http://www.green-alliance.org.uk/smarter_flood_risk_management_england.php) from Green Alliance labels the UK Government's flood strategy as "[perverse](http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-38126030)" for making four times as much money available to actions that could increase flood risk instead of preventing flooding.

***Publications***

**Brownfield**

New research from CPRE, based on information from the Government’s pilot brownfield register scheme, shows a big increase in the [amount of brownfield land available](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4414-more-than-a-million-homes-possible-on-suitable-brownfield-land) and suitable for development – enough for well over a million new hones. This suggests that Government has previously severely underestimated the brownfield capacity.

**Long term sustainability**

The Environmental Audit Committee has published a report into [how the Treasury treats long term sustainability issues](http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/environmental-audit-committee/news-parliament-2015/sustainability-treasury-report-published-16-17/), concluding that it puts short-term economic issues first and that this risks severe social, economic, and environmental damage. Who wold have guessed?

**Marine ecosystem services**

The [Joint Nature Conservation Committee](http://jncc.defra.gov.uk/page-7290)has published a study of the components and processes of the marine environment that are critical to ecosystem service generation. As part of this, the potential for delivery of three specific ecosystem services in the UK was mapped.

**Affordable Housing**

While new figures show that new [affordable housing provision is down by 52%](https://brownfieldbriefing.com/51149/affordable-housing-is-down-52-says-dclg) (despite an [11% increase in overall completions](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/britain-building-again-as-new-homes-rise-by-highest-level-in-8-years)) this year compared to last, CPRE have published a paper which sets out measures that would make it [easier for landowners to offer their land](http://www.cpre.org.uk/media-centre/latest-news-releases/item/4429-landowners-can-help-solve-the-rural-housing-crisis) for affordable housing. The document proposes changes to tax legislation and to councils’ waiting list systems for social housing.

***Events***

**Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

[CPRE](http://www.cprelancashire.org.uk) are holding an open meeting to consider the GM spatial framework – probably the most significant development in land use planning since the NPPF and abolition of Regional Strategies - on 7th December 2016 from 10.30am - 12.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Members of CPRE, local community and environmental groups as well as members of the public are welcome to attend to help shape a response to try to make the plan as sustainable as possible: it’s free but please [register](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/greater-manchester-spatial-framework-meeting-tickets-29605004365?ref=ebtnebregn) in advance.

**Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group**

Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group (formerly known as the Local Nature Partnership) are hosting a conference to discuss how we can understand the multiple benefits and opportunities which can be delivered from natural solutions. The conference will bring together leading practitioners from across the public, private and third sectors to consider ‘What can Natural Capital do for our urban environments’. The Lowry, Salford Quays, Wednesday 1 February from 9.30-4.30pm.  To reserve your place, book online [here](file:///C:\Users\mzdiwgm2\AppData\Local\Temp\naturalcapitalgroupconference.eventbrite.co.uk). Please note that this event is free to attend and places are limited so early booking is advisable.

**People’s Food Plan**

December 3rd, Bridge 5 Mill, 11-2. The Kindling Trust are leading a movement to use Greater Manchester’s devolution as an opportunity to build a sustainable food future, by developing the [food section of the People's Plan for Greater Manchester](http://feedingmanchester.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=3870). If your organisation, small business, family firm or community have an interest in food, join them for a few hours on the 3rd of December to change your city for the better.

**Media training**

The Media Trust and My Community have teamed up to develop the media and marketing skills of community groups in regions across the country from November 2016 – March 2017, including a series of sessions in Manchester. 15 groups per region will be selected from [online applications](http://mycommunity.org.uk/funding-options/media-marketing-savvy-training/) – deadline December 5th.

**#LocalCharitiesDay**

16 December 2016 is [#LocalCharitiesDay](http://dcmsblog.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/LocalCharitiesDay2016.pdf) and small, local charities across the UK and everyone who supports them are encouraged to join in. You can find out more about the day in the [Minister for Civil Society Rob Wilson's blog marking 1 month to go](http://dcmsblog.uk/2016/11/marking-month-localcharitiesday/). You can [find out how to get involved in the #LocalCharitiesDay toolkit](http://dcmsblog.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/LocalCharitiesDay2016.pdf). You can also download an [Accessible Toolkit](http://dcmsblog.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/11/Local-Charities-Day-toolkit-accessible-version.docx). Small, local charities can sign up for [fundraising training opportunities](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/fundraising-training-opens-for-small-local-charities) on and around Local Charities Day, and take part in Localgiving's [#GiveMe5](http://localcharitiesday.localgiving.org/) campaign.

**North West England Tree Health Update**

Liverpool Waters Marketing Suite, 4th Floor Princes Dock, Liverpool on Tuesday 24th January 2017 9.30am – 3.30pm, organised by the Forestry Commission. Please register using [this link](mailto:nwwm@forestry.gsi.gov.uk?subject=NW%20Tree%20Health%20Event%20&Body=First%20Name%3A%0ASurname%3A%0AOrganisation%3A%0AEmail%3A%0APhone%3A) for a seminar on planting, growing, pests, passporting and biosecurity.

**CPRE is 90!**

CPRE reaches its 90th anniversary this December, and they are marking the milestone on the 1st with a special event exploring their historic achievements and the future of the countryside. [Visions of Rural England](https://www.e-activist.com/ea-action/broadcast.record.message.click.do?ea.url.id=768387&ea.campaigner.email=9fvwWIaMrZEXbizhjQl4ulESkN1MQhKC&ea.campaigner.id=BdU2tw7NTCmZkArzVWMSmA==&ea_broadcast_target_id=0) will see former CPRE President Jonathan Dimbleby chair a panel discussion at the Museum of English Rural Life, featuring Kate Adie, Clive Aslet and their President, Emma Bridgewater.

***Resources***

**Health & green spaces**

The Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology has published a briefing which summarises the evidence for [physical and mental health benefits](http://researchbriefings.parliament.uk/ResearchBriefing/Summary/POST-PN-0538) from contact with nature, and the challenges for urban green spaces. The Ecosystems Knowledge Network has updated their resource page on [linking health with the natural environment](http://ecosystemsknowledge.net/resources/tools-guidelines/health). It includes Natural England evidence briefings and a review for The Wildlife Trusts on 'wellbeing benefits from natural environments rich in wildlife'. Here in the North West the ‘[Natural Health Service’](http://naturalhealthservice.org.uk/wordpress/), coordinated by the Mersey Forest, is being made [ready for GPs](http://www.merseyforest.org.uk/our-work/health/natural-health-service-next-steps/) to prescribe to people who they think will benefit. There will be five different Natural Health Service treatments available for prescription – health walking, mindful contact with nature, Forest Schools, horticulture therapy and practical conservation.

**Climate vulnerability map**

The [Climate Just Map Tool](http://www.climatejust.org.uk/map) shows the geography of England’s vulnerability to climate change at a neighbourhood scale. Its purpose is to support local planning and responses to a changing climate.

**Good things in nature**

[New research](https://findingnature.org.uk/2016/11/01/3-good-things-in-nature/) shows how encouraging people to pay attention to just a few ‘good things in nature’ over a week increases their sense of nature connectedness.

***Consultations***

**Greater Manchester Spatial Framework**

A reminder that the consultation on the draft [Greater Manchester spatial framework](https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/info/20081/draft_plan) is now open, until December 23rd. You can register on the [consultation portal](http://gmsf-consult.objective.co.uk/portal) to make comments, email them directly or write by post. It plans for nearly an extra quarter of a million homes by 2035 – equivalent to building a new city of Manchester in 20 years. Over a quarter of them, plus additional industrial development, will be in the Green Belt, with major Green Belt releases planned for Trafford, Salford, Bury, Rochdale, Oldham and Stockport: 4,900 hectares of Green Belt loss in all.

[CPRE](http://www.cprelancashire.org.uk) are holding an open meeting to consider the Plan on 7th December 2016 from 10.30am - 12.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. Members of CPRE, local community and environmental groups as well as members of the public are welcome to attend to help shape a response to try to make the plan as sustainable as possible: it’s free but please [register](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/greater-manchester-spatial-framework-meeting-tickets-29605004365?ref=ebtnebregn) in advance.

**North West Coast Connections**

A reminder also that the Lake District and other parts of Cumbria and Lancashire are still threatened by [major new powerline development](http://www.northwestcoastconnections.com/), despite proposals to underground some of the potentially most damaging sections. [Friends of the Lake District](http://www.friendsofthelakedistrict.org.uk/Pages/News/Site/say-no-to-pylons-in-the-lake-district-setting/Category/campaign-overview-nwcc) are leading the campaign to protect vulnerable landscapes.

***Funding***

**Big Potential**

[Big Potential](http://www.bigpotential.org.uk/), a Big Lottery Fund [grant](http://www.bigpotential.org.uk/lexicon/7) fund, will deliver approximately £20m of grant funding over 3 years to eligible VCSE organisations with the aim of improving the sustainability, capacity and scale of VCSE organisations in order that they may deliver greater [social impact](http://www.bigpotential.org.uk/lexicon/7). The programme aims to raise awareness of the social investment market and support VCSEs who want to prepare themselves for social investment or winning contracts.

**Near Neighbours**

The [Near Neighbours programme](http://www.cuf.org.uk/near-neighbours) offers small grants of between £250 and £5,000, as seed funding for local groups and organisations working to bring together neighbours, and to develop relationships across diverse faiths and ethnicities to improve their communities. Grants have offered funding to a broad range of work; environmental, social, cultural, artistic, and sporting, that furthers the programme’s aims of encouraging community interaction and social action.

***Tenders***

**Contracts available: CPRE in the city**

CPRE Lancashire is currently offering two contracts to start to raise interest in its campaigning work in the city regions where currently it doesn’t have a very high profile. One is to raise the funding for a longer term urban development project, the other to work with CPRE’s planning manager Jackie Copley to undertake the initial networking crucial for the success of the longer term project. For more details [apply here](http://www.cprelancashire.org.uk/news/current-news/item/2387-urban-pilot-project-branch-hiring-for-two-new-positions).

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To subscribe to NWEL’s Bulletin please email [andyyuille@gmail.com](mailto:andyyuille@gmail.com) with the subject line: *“Subscribe to NWEL Bulletin*”. Please send items for inclusion in the next Bullet to me by **18th December.**

North West Environment Link (NWEL) is a partnership of environmental voluntary sector organisations, representing hundreds of thousands of members in the North West.

VSNW is the regional voluntary sector network for the North West, whose purpose is to support a connected and influential voluntary and community sector (VCS).

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