Green infrastructure and the Health and wellbeing Influences on an Ageing population (GHIA)

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What do we aim to do?

- To better understand the benefits and values of urban GI to older people and how GI attributes and interventions can best support healthy ageing in urban areas.

- *How GI can be best designed, enhanced, managed and promoted to support its use for older adults' health and wellbeing*

Greater Manchester as the case study

Older adults as co-researchers

Multiple perspectives on values

Natural experiments

biodiversity as a specific attribute of interest

**To agree the multi-disciplinary foundation for the research**

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2 To develop knowledge and methods for older people to realise their potential for physical, social & mental wellbeing within green and blue spaces, whilst providing adequate protection, security & care

- *What is the role of cultural participation and creative practice in tackling loneliness and isolation in old age?*
- *What role can GI & environmental volunteering play?*
- *How can all ageing individuals, with different needs, be effective stakeholders in GI?*
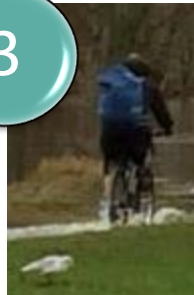
3 To understand, categorise & evidence the ways in which GI can influence the health and wellbeing of older people

- *What are the different profiles of older people across GM and how do they relate to health & wellbeing indicators?*
- *To what extent does urban greening result in improvements in physical activity & overall well-being of older people?*
- *How are environmental exposures likely to change with changes in participation?*
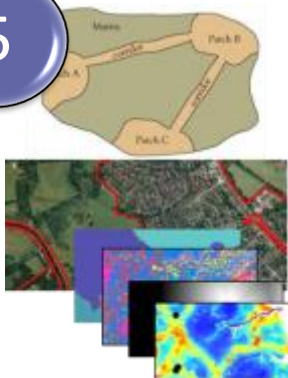
4 To examine valuation procedures of the role of GI in improving the health & wellbeing of older people

- *How can more participatory and equitable forms of valuation be developed?*
- *How can non-monetary valuations be better represented in policy making and public deliberation?*
- *What are the critical limits of monetary valuation in this context?*

5 To develop and apply a new methodology for representing the needs, provision and value of GI for older people

- *How can different representations of provision and need be represented spatially?*
- *What is the spatial diffusion of benefits for older people in the urban environment?*
- *How do needs, benefits & values vary with spatial scale?*
- *How well does the current provision of benefits match older peoples' needs and what inequalities emerge?*
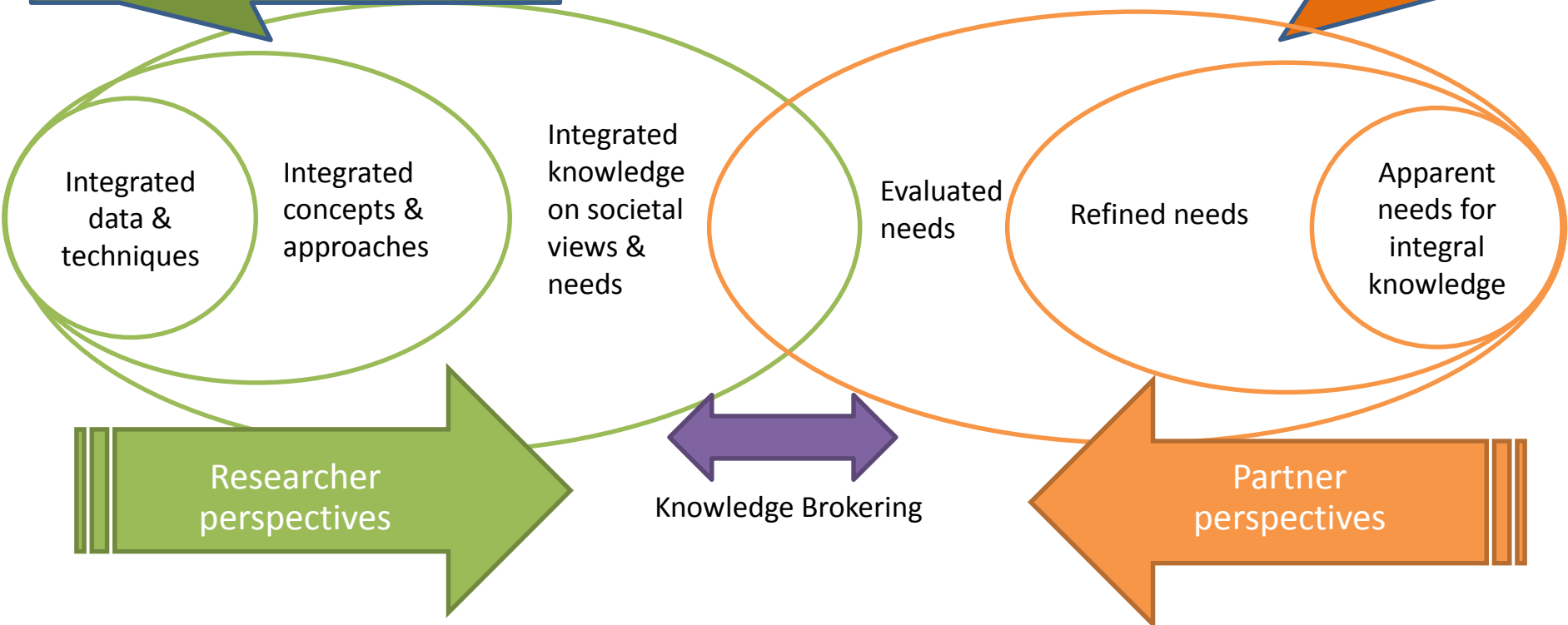
6

To co-develop a set of web-based tools, reference materials and design guide

Functional model of knowledge exchange with iterative, integrative stages (ellipses) (after Assmuth & Lyytimaki, 2015).

What will we produce?

- **Easy-read documents** → our project framing, the different dimensions of well-being affected by GI and a summary of key concerns on monetary valuation
- **Maps** → including a **creative digital map of our case studies** and acting as a **digital heritage resource**. An **online mapping tool**
- **Datasets** → including of assessments of exposure, ultra-fine particle counts and their associations with urban GI types, evidence-based predictions about what types of environments are most likely to result in improvements in usage, physical activity or well-being.
- **Toolkits, manuals and other resources**,
  - **toolkit and design guide** through which park and other green infrastructure managers can better appreciate the needs of older populations
  - **manual for developing and using participatory and equitable forms of valuation** in local government settings in the UK.
  - **Recommendations** for integrating socially engaged arts practice into GI, ageing and wellbeing agendas
  - **databases** of student artists working on themes covered in the project
  - **exhibitions** of project work and other outreach activities.

VALUING NATURE RESEARCH PROJECT

1st Aug 2016 – 31st July 2019

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