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Please contact Information Governance  
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Dear Sir/ Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)  
Request ID: REQ07652**

Thank you for your request for information relating to biodiversity offset schemes.

Your request and our responses are outlined below:

- 1. How many biodiversity offset schemes have been approved by Coventry?**
- 2. Of each of these how many are:**
  - a. Planning Applicants/developers offsetting on their own land?**
  - b. Planning Applicants/developers arranging offsets on 3rd party land?**
  - c. Offsets arranged by the local authority?**
  - d. Offsets arranged through brokers?**
  - e. Offsets arranged directly with conservation NGOs?**
  - f. Offset arranged on local authority owned land?**
  - g. Offset payments made to the council?**
- 3. What are the enforcement and monitoring mechanisms and standards the LPA require for each type of the above?**
- 4. Of the offset payments taken by the council –**
  - a. How many biodiversity units have been paid for in each financial year and how many of these units have actually commenced in offsets on the ground?**
  - b. What funds were taken by the council in each financial year (for the payment of biodiversity units) and how many have so far been allocated to a commenced offset?**

Please see the attached document.

In response to question 4a, we can confirm that we do not hold this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. To assist, these projects are managed by Warwickshire County Council which can be contacted via the weblink – <https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk>.

The supply of information in response to a freedom of information request does not confer an automatic right to re-use the information. You can use any information supplied for the purposes of private study and non-commercial research without requiring further permission. Similarly, information supplied can also be re-used for the purposes of news reporting. An exception to this is photographs. Please contact us if you wish to use the information for any other purpose.

Should you wish to make any further requests for information, you may find what you are looking for is already published on the [Council's web site](#) and in particular its FOI/EIR [Disclosure log](#), [Council's Publication Scheme](#), [Open Data](#) and [Facts about Coventry](#).

If you are unhappy with the handling of your request, you can ask us to review our response. Requests for reviews should be submitted within 40 days of the date of receipt of our response to your original request – email: [infogov@coventry.gov.uk](mailto:infogov@coventry.gov.uk)

If you are unhappy with the outcome of our review, you can write to the Information Commissioner, who can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF or email [casework@ico.org.uk](mailto:casework@ico.org.uk).

Please remember to quote the reference number above in your response.

Yours faithfully

## **Information Governance**

Enc: REQ07652 - Biodiversity Offset Schemes.pdf

## **REQ07652 - Biodiversity offset schemes**

<b>1</b>	<b>How many biodiversity offset schemes have been approved by Coventry?</b>	
	11	Agreed schemes: All planning developments which included a contribution specifically for biodiversity that have been schemes agreed since 1998 (note after 1998 there were no agreements until in 2014)
	7	Expected schemes: The number of schemes which are expected to be agreed in the near future
<b>2</b>	<b>Of each of these how many are:</b>	
<b>a</b>	<b>Planning Applicants/developers offsetting on their own land?</b>	
	1	Agreed schemes: (Note: All agreements involve a greater or lesser element of offset on-site including features such as ponds, wildflower verges, green roofs and tree/hedge planting. Offset contribution is required where this does not entirely offset overall loss in biodiversity.)
	0	Expected schemes
<b>b</b>	<b>Planning Applicants/developers arranging offsets on 3rd party land?</b>	
	0	Agreed schemes:
	0	Expected schemes
<b>c</b>	<b>Offsets arranged by the local authority?</b>	
	1	Agreed schemes:
	7	Expected schemes
<b>d</b>	<b>Offsets arranged through brokers?</b>	
	10	Agreed Schemes: have previously been brokered by Warwickshire County Council (WCC) in partnership with Coventry City Council (CCC). Since late 2019 schemes are arranged by the CCC with the support of WCC. No schemes have been brokered by any other body.
	0	Expected schemes: No schemes currently, it is expected that WCC will manage future schemes where appropriate (eg cross border projects)
<b>e</b>	<b>Offsets arranged directly with conservation NGOs?</b>	
	0	Agreed schemes: (Note; Local conservation NGOs are closely involved in offsetting schemes in partnership with the City Council. NGOs have received funding to deliver mitigation and are expected to have a significant role in the future. However offsets are not arranged directly with NGOs.)
	0	Expected schemes
<b>f</b>	<b>Offset arranged on local authority owned land?</b>	
	2	Agreed schemes: 1 of these has been completed.
	?	Expected schemes: 4 of the future schemes are anticipated to provide offset on LA owned land. This includes developments where land will be transferred to the LA as part of the agreement. Other schemes are in discussion and include land outside LA ownership

<b>g</b>		<b>Offset payments made to the council?</b>
	<b>1</b>	Agreed schemes: Existing agreements brokered by Warwickshire County Council require payment to WCC (either directly to via City Council). The one agreement with payment to CCC will be passed to local NGO entirely.
	<b>7</b>	Expected schemes: schemes in development will provide payments to CCC and will fund long term management directly or by 3 <sup>rd</sup> parties (NGOs)
<b>3</b>		<b>What are the enforcement and monitoring mechanisms and standards the LPA require for each type of the above?</b>
		<p>All offset agreements are based on a site management plan which details objectives of management work and targets for habitat and species management. Individual agreements include detailed breakdown of annual costs for each management operation.</p> <p>The Warwickshire Biodiversity Impact Assessment metric supported by CCC includes an element of funding for long-term monitoring of offset projects. Details of monitoring depend on the type of biodiversity mitigation provided.</p> <p>Separately CCC contributes to the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre which provides the essential data that supports effective monitoring.</p> <p>CCC also contributes to Warwickshire Wildlife Trust Habitat Biodiversity Audit. The team provides the skills required for ecological survey work together with habitat and land-use data for the city.</p> <p>Enforcement is via the normal planning enforcement systems (Planning and Housing Enforcement). At this time enforcement has not become a requirement as projects are in early stages.</p>
<b>4</b>		<b>Of the offset payments taken by the council</b>
<b>a</b>		<b>How many biodiversity units have been paid for in each financial year and how many of these units have actually commenced in offsets on the ground?</b>
		This information is not available as all projects have been managed by WCC
<b>b</b>		<b>What funds were taken by the council in each financial year (for the payment of biodiversity units) and how many have so far been allocated to a commenced offset?</b>
		Note: Payment is normally prior to commencement of the development or at different stages of a large development. Payments received reflect the time scale involved in implementing a large-scale development and income is expected to increase significantly in future years as trigger points are met.
	2018/19	£61,866.11- (£33k passed to WCC, in £28k in budget awaiting expenditure)
	2019/20	£133,056.35 (Parks and Open Spaces team for site management)
	Future	Existing and in-prep projects total £2.5 million (to be paid at different stages, approx. £350k allocated to specific projects)