



Information Governance Team

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11 January 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR)

Request ID: FOI470486783

Thank you for your request for information relating to Biodiversity Net Gain.

You have requested the following information:

1. Who is the BNG lead within the council and what are their direct contact details?

The BNG lead within the council is:

Simon Newell - Ecology and Biodiversity Manager

email: Simon.Newell@coventry.gov.uk

2. What practises/processes do the council currently have, or intend to have, in place for how they are going to manage/monitor the 30-year requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from November 2023 when 10% BNG becomes mandatory?

The Council has recently adopted a Biodiversity Net Gain Supplementary Planning Document (December 2022) which provides details of how BNG will be provided in new developments. The SPD is freely available from the following link. The Council has identified a number of sites where offsite net gain projects will be delivered for a minimum 30 year period but it is intended to continue management in perpetuity. The Council contribute to Warwickshire County Council Ecological Survey and Biodiversity Data teams who provide a site monitoring service. Individual planning permission include a condition requiring ongoing ecological monitoring of sites.

3. What information/technology systems do you plan to utilise to manage/monitor the delivery of BNG?

The service will be provided by Warwickshire County Council. We are also in discussion with Prof. Gary Bending (Director, University Warwick, Deputy Head, School of Life Sciences) regarding establishing an area-wide network of “Observatories” which will use DNA sampling techniques to assess species assemblages and population change within the City.

4. Which outside bodies (eg. wildlife trusts, ecologists, community groups, habitat banks) are you working with to assist in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain?

The Council has partnerships with a wide range of bodies including Local Authorities, NGOs and local communities. We are also actively engaged with Local Authorities across the country within the Planning Advisory Service's Biodiversity Net Gain Forum for Local Authorities. This forum also includes DEFRA and consultancies involved in BNG.

5. Is the council planning to use any of their own land to deliver BNG? If so, please provide details of the location and size.

The Council has agreed to use its own land for BNG and has identified a number sites. The Biodiversity SPD includes a list of sites and a map, further sites are being agreed presently.

6. What plans do you have in place, or intend to have for the training of staff on BNG?

The Council has recently appointed two additional staff to deliver BNG within the area. The staff were selected due to relevant skills and qualifications and have gained additional knowledge both in post and by actively engaging with resources such as the PAS BNG forum.

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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 icocasework@ico.org.uk.

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

Yours faithfully

Information Governance