

# **BNG and Nature Recovery Autumn Events**

**Summary of PAS events held in  
Autumn 2022**

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# 1. Background

- Throughout November 2022, we hosted six events for local planning authorities on Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery:
  - Update for officers
  - Update for elected members
  - Essentials: DM focus (x2)
  - Policy and Strategy (x2)

**A total of 631 officers and 52 members took part in these events, representing 251 councils**

## 2. Key insights raised throughout the events

Linking approach  
to BNG and  
LNRS

Resourcing  
(employment of  
ecologists, new  
burdens funding)

How the national  
credits scheme  
will work

The viability of  
going over 10%  
BNG

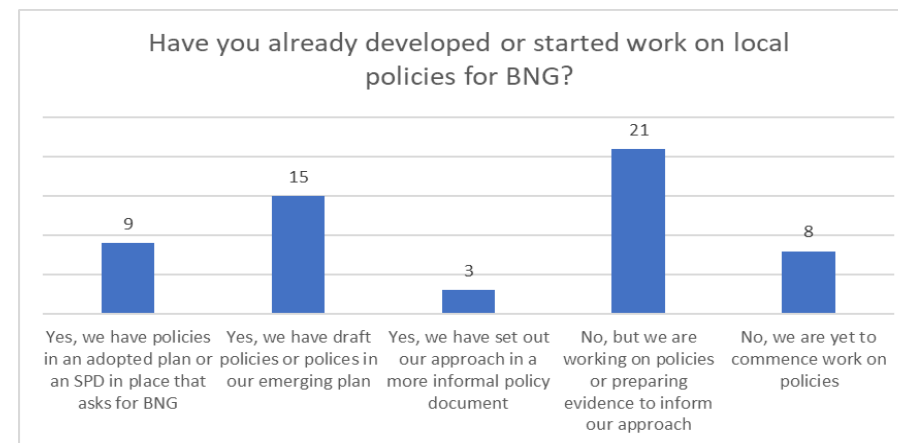
Baseline  
monitoring

Publication of  
secondary  
guidance

## 2.1 Key insights: How prepared are LPAs for BNG and nature recovery?

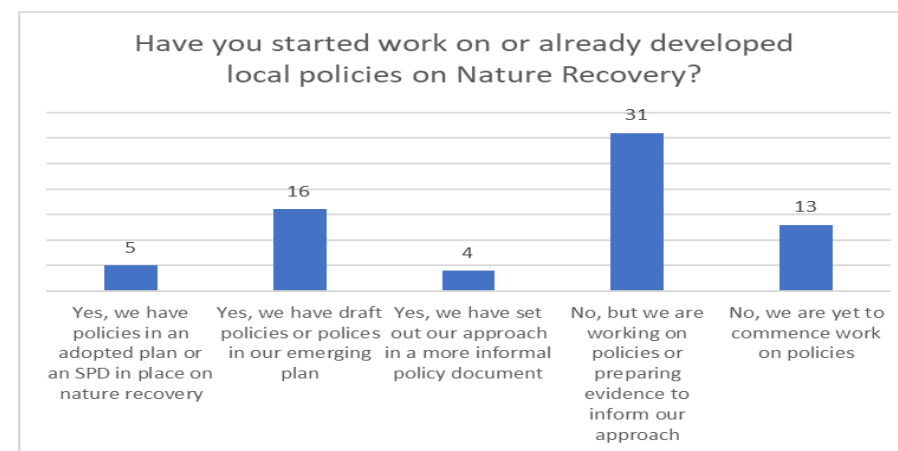
### BNG

- The majority of attendees feel neutral in their confidence in their authority's ability to deliver BNG in November 2023
- However, the majority of LPAs who attended the events have begun to determine planning applications with BNG. This is mostly being achieved through draft policies.



### Nature Recovery

- Most LPAs have not developed local policies for Nature Recovery
- However, many are now beginning work on policies and preparing evidence to inform their approach to nature recovery



## 2.2 Key insights: Delivery

Looking across the material generated by the events, particularly the questions and answer threads, it is clear that LPAs are most concerned about the monitoring and reporting, and the feasibility of off-site delivery.



LPAs feel most comfortable delivering:

Policy  
Development Management



LPAs feel least comfortable delivering:

Monitoring and reporting  
Off-site delivery

## 2.3 Key insights: information required

We gave attendees a list of topics and asked them what they wanted to know more about in relation to biodiversity net gain and development management. There were the three topics which LPAs most want to know more about:

The overarching process for taking an application with BNG - through from pre-application to post-consent monitoring

Planning conditions for BNG, the role of S106 agreements and validation checklists

What an LPA needs in place to start asking for BNG through planning applications

### 3. Feedback from the events

We received some great feedback from the events, particularly the usefulness of inviting other LPAs to share their experiences:

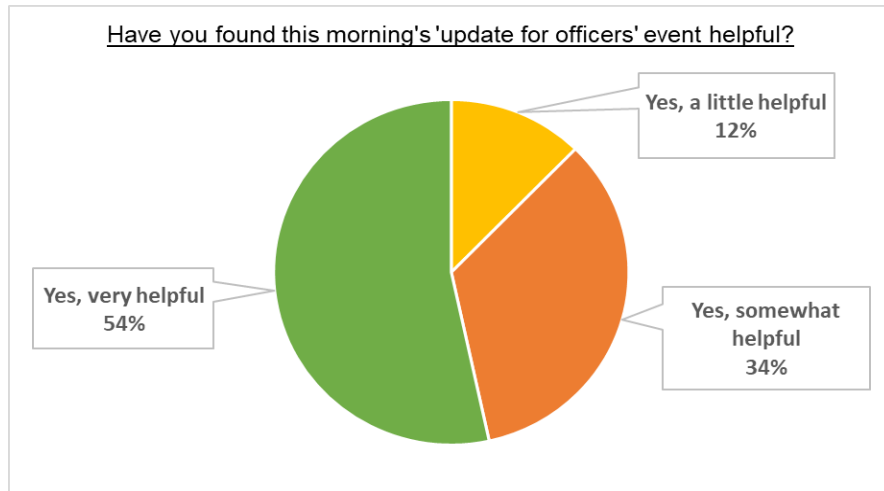
- “Thanks for organising the webinar this morning it was a very useful session particularly the case studies”
- “I found the LBS [London Borough of Sutton] presentation especially insightful given their progress”

The emphasis on including different experiences was also frequently expressed in recommendations for future events:

- “Thanks for organising this. Actual examples of how pilot areas are implementing this would be good”

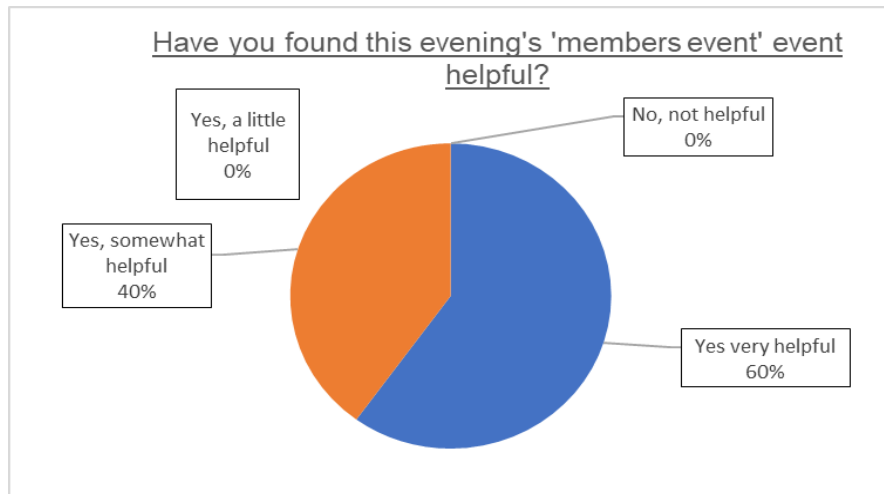


# Feedback from the events: continued



## Update for officers:

- 38% attendees hadn't attended PAS event before, 29% had attended a BNG event and 33% had attended an event on a different topic
- 54% found the event very helpful



## Update for members stats:

- 50% of attendees hadn't attended a PAS event before, 27% had attended a BNG event and 23% had attended an event on a different topic
- 60% found the event very helpful

## 4. Our next steps



We have collated all the views and points raised during the events and will seek to address through updating the FAQ page



We will use the views and experiences you shared to develop resources on the [BNG pages of our website](#)



We will hold events through our BNG practitioner network, particularly on key themes raised throughout the events and through inviting other LPAs to share their experiences



We are preparing case studies/examples from LPAs to showcase good practice and learn from experience.

# Acknowledgements

We are grateful to the officers and councillors who participated in these events and for the time and expertise they gave. The officers contributed their own opinions, based on experience, and these are not necessarily the formal views of their authority.

We are also grateful to colleagues in Defra and Natural England who also gave a great deal of their time, expertise and support to ensure the events were successful. This included advice and practical support in designing the events as well as participation.