

PAS Biodiversity Net Gain and Nature Recovery update for officers

20 October 2022

BNG & Nature Recovery update for officers

- We have a lot of people in the 'room' so you are muted and cameras are off
- Questions in the Q&A
- Please 'like' or thumbs up questions you want to ask, rather than repeating the same question
- We may not get round to all your questions, but will add answers to our biodiversity net gain FAQs page where relevant
- We will be using polls, so please answer these
- This event is being recorded, slides and the recording will be up on our website next week

Agenda

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Introduction and housekeeping | |
| 2. Introduction to BNG and nature recovery | Krista Patrick & Beccy Moberly, PAS |
| 3. Defra and Natural England update on BNG and nature recovery | Catherine Duggan, Defra
Nick White, Natural England |
| 4. BNG and nature recovery in local authorities | Beccy Moberly, PAS |
| 5. What we're doing in GMCA | Sam Evans, GMCA |
| 6. What we're doing in Bath & NES | Kären Renshaw, Bath & NES Council |
| 7. Q&A | |
| 8. Summing up and feedback | |

Finish at 11.30

Planning Advisory Service (PAS) and BNG

- PAS is part of Local Government family, Team of 14
- Funded by DLUHC to support **English planning authorities** (LPAs)
- Wide programme, including in 2022/23: design, developer contributions, Local Plans, Environmental Outcome Reports & development management designation
- Environmental planning a recent addition, covering nutrient neutrality, nature recovery and biodiversity net gain



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Who we are and what we do

Getting planning right is important for councils. It allows them to manage development, ensuring that the best possible outcomes are delivered for places. It requires political and technical leadership and engaged communities. Helping councils is what we do.

What we do

The [Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities](#) provides a grant each year for the PAS so we can provide support to councils. We are funded to help get local plans up-to-date and to improve decision-making, as well as running event series on topical issues. We can also work with councillors and do thorough "peer challenge" reviews of planning departments. We believe in a 'sector led' improvement approach, where local authorities help each other to continuously improve.

[Privacy settings](#)

Bulletin

Sign up for our Bulletin, which brings you news of our latest support, case studies, events and muses.

2. Introduction to Biodiversity Net Gain and nature recovery

Krista Patrick

Beccy Moberly

Why are we here? Valuing the natural environment in local decision making



The natural environment is the foundation for all aspects of our daily lives. Nature's systems link and underpin human life and economic activity by cycling water, pollinating crops and regulating the climate.

- The stock of the aspects of **UK natural capital** we are currently able to value was an estimated **£1.2 trillion** (2019)
- The net benefits, in terms of **climate change emissions alone**, of restoring 55% of peatlands to near natural condition were estimated to have a present value of approximately **£45 billion to £51 billion** (2019)
- The value of **health benefits** associated with outdoor recreation in the UK was estimated to be between **£6.2 billion and £8.4 billion** in 2020
- The extent of **UK urban environments increased 30%** between 1990 and 2019, while **enclosed farmland fell 5%**.

Background & Policy Context

Lawton Report 'Make Space for Nature' (2010) - *'Bigger, Better, More Joined up'*



25 Year Environment Plan (2018) -

'Be the first generation to leave the environment in a better state than we found it'. Develop a Nature Recovery Network



Agriculture Act (2020) – *public money for public goods*

Environment Act (2021) – *species and habitat targets, mandatory 10% BNG for developments*

30 by 30 Pledge (2020) – *protect 30% of land/sea by 2030*



A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to
Improve the Environment



Environment Act New Duties

- All planning permissions granted in England (with a few exemptions) will have to deliver at least 10% biodiversity net gain from Nov 2023 (S98-101).
- Enhanced duty for LAs to conserve and enhance biodiversity (S102) and report on their actions (S103).
- LPAs will need to comply with the above duty and have regard to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in local planning policy and decisions (S102).
- Responsible authorities appointed by the Secretary of State (S105) to lead the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), working with a broad range of stakeholders.



Environment Act 2021

CHAPTER 30

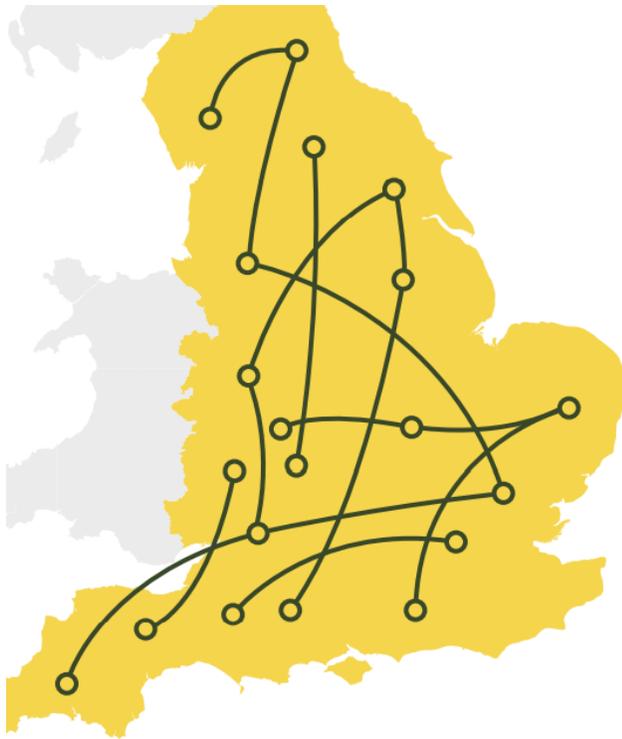
Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and Nature Recovery – what are they?



Net gain is an approach to development that aims to leave the natural environment in a measurably better state than it was beforehand.

Nature recovery is about stepping beyond conservation into active restoration of the natural world and halting the decline in species abundance by 2030.

What is the Nature Recovery Network?



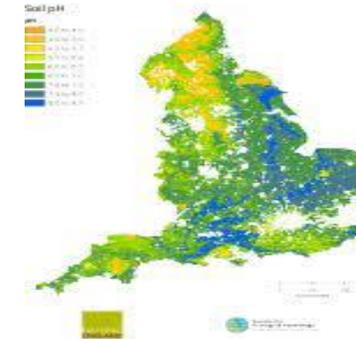
Nature Recovery Network (NRN):

- **National network of wildlife-rich places**
- Expand, improve and connect across towns, cities, countryside and coast
- Recover nature across England at scale
- **Tackle crises of biodiversity loss and climate change and improve public health and wellbeing**

How will the NRN be delivered?

1. New spatial tools

To target and plan the NRN – aligning needs at a national level and local priorities through Local Nature Recovery Strategies (**LNRS**)



2. Strong partnerships

To deliver action on the ground. Including: government, landowners and managers, business, local communities and conservation organisations

3. Integration of policies and funding streams Aligning and maximising existing opportunities, creating new, targeted policies and securing new funding or finance (**public and private**)



BNG in national policy

NPPF: Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by...minimising impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity, including by establishing coherent ecological networks that are more resilient to current and future pressures.

- National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)
- Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)
- Design Guides – NIC + MHCLG
- National Policy Statements
- Biodiversity Metric 3.1
- CIEEM, CIRIA & IEMA Good Practice Principles for BNG and guide for development
- British Standard *BS 8683: Process for designing and implementing biodiversity net gain*

Key components of mandatory BNG

- Amends Town & Country Planning Act (TCPA)
- **Minimum 10% gain required calculated using Biodiversity Metric & approval of net gain plan**
- **Habitat secured at least 30 years** via obligations/ conservation covenants
- Delivered on-site, off-site or via a new **statutory biodiversity credits** scheme
- **National register** for net gain delivery sites
- Does **not change existing legal protections** for important habitats and wildlife species
- **Maintains mitigation hierarchy** of avoid, mitigate, compensate
- Will apply to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) but not marine development



3. Updates from Defra and Natural England

Catherine Duggan, BNG team, Defra

Nick White, Principal Adviser, Natural England



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Biodiversity Net Gain

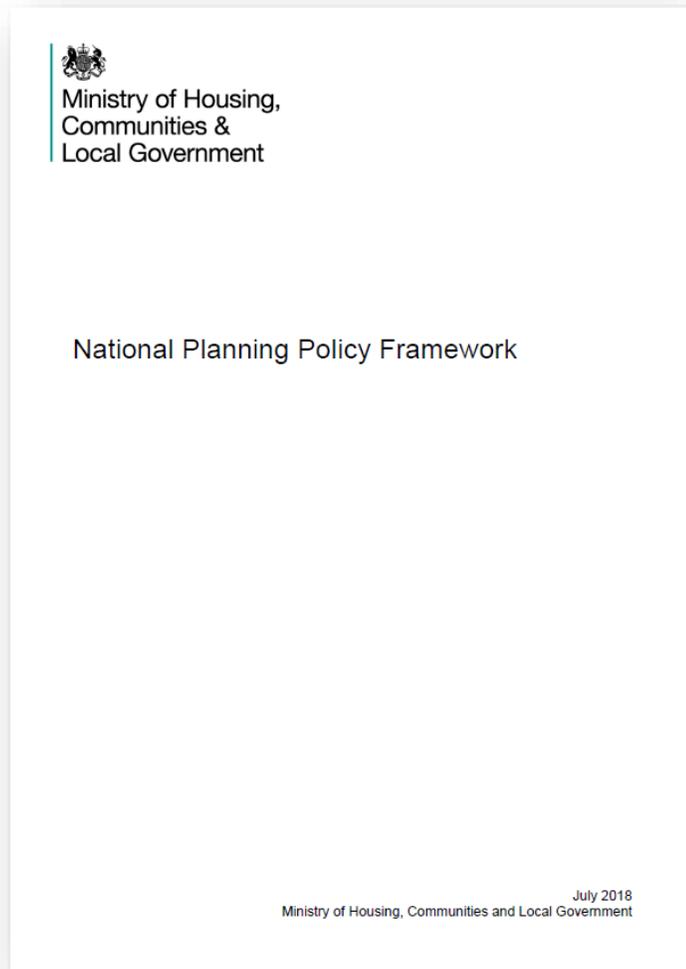
Catherine Duggan

Defra BNG Team

October 2022



Biodiversity net gain in the planning system



Biodiversity net gain is part of the National Planning Policy Framework. Principle of net gain in NPPF from 2012; strengthened in NPPF update in 2018.

Paragraphs 8 & 32: the environmental objective of sustainable development.

Paragraph 170: Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by (d):... ***providing net gains for biodiversity;***

Paragraph 174. To protect and enhance biodiversity and geodiversity, plans should: (b)... ***pursue opportunities for securing measurable net gains for biodiversity.***

Making biodiversity net gain mandatory in planning

- Government consulted on making biodiversity net gain mandatory in the planning system in 2019.
- The government committed to making BNG mandatory through the Environment Act. Publication of an impact assessment and government response.
- The government's response to the 2019 biodiversity consultation set out the intention for a 2 year transition period following Royal Assent of the Environment Act.
- Environment Act - achieved Royal Assent in November 2021. Includes clauses to apply a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity on most planning applications. Government proposed to some exemptions including householder development and permitted development.
- **Transition period; November 2021 - November 2023**
- Government consulted this year on BNG implementation and secondary legislation (Jan 22). This included questions on application of BNG in TCPA developments, proposed exemptions, and detail on the operation of the offsite market and register. It also included a section on the application of BNG in Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) – government proposed to apply in 2025.
- Government consulted over the summer on the BNG Metric for use in mandatory net gain.
- Government has also separately consulted on the principles of marine net gain.

Biodiversity net gain

- During the transition period, Defra and other are working on several areas.
- These include:
 - Development and passage of **secondary legislation**.
 - Publication of a **Biodiversity Metric**.
 - Development of the **systems** required to support BNG; for example to handle the sales of biodiversity credits and manage the registration of offsite mitigation
 - **Skills and capacity** – development and publication of guidance, tools and support for sectors implementing BNG. For example, consulting on a standard template for the biodiversity net gain plan.
 - **Monitoring, evaluation, assurance and reporting** – setting up an evaluation and monitoring framework to monitor, evaluate, assure and report on BNG; development of templates for capturing monitoring data.

Capacity and skills

- We are undertaking work to assess LA requirements to be able to implement BNG successfully:
- ALGE/ADEPT review project - Published
 - Surveyed LPAs on a range of questions relating to capacity and skills for BNG and LNRS
 - Published on Defra Science Search – Project NR0183
- New burdens
 - Initial £4.18M dispersed earlier this year.
 - Assessment looking at burdens in the remainder of the transition period and from Nov 23 onwards in line with new burdens doctrine.
- PAS (Planning Advisory Service)
 - Delivering training and guidance products
- Guidance
 - Scoping work underway; considering interaction with other existing guidance products; aiming to test guidance with users

What's next?



- Writing and testing guidance
- Statutory instruments
- Consultation responses
- Engaging supply and demand-side stakeholders
- Digital – register creation and development of a platform to sell statutory biodiversity credits
- New burdens process

BNG actions you can start now

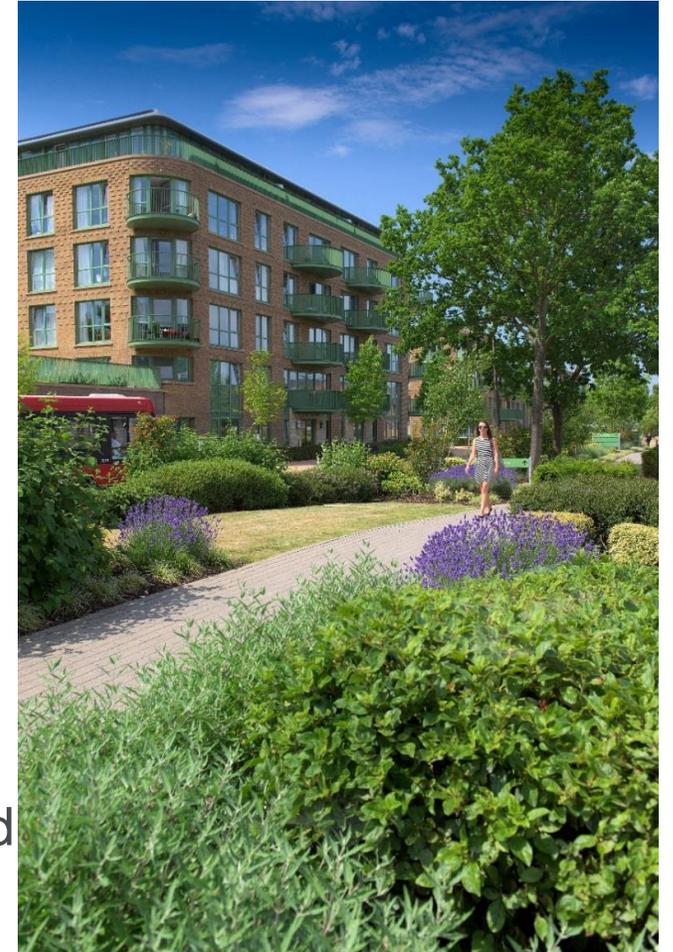
- **Consider early!** – site selection + outline design
- Refer to **guidance/standards** – CIRIA/CIEEM/IEMA, BS8683 or Government Advice
- What are the **local priorities**? Consider including BNG in Local Plans and other strategies e.g. LNRS, GI strategy, biodiversity opportunity areas etc
- Undertake **baseline metric calculations**
- Determine your **delivery strategy** – onsite/off-site or combinations of + how relates to other obligations. Set out monitoring and reporting expectations
- Identify **potential BNG Sites** – Consider whether LPA landholdings might also be suitable or appropriate to provide biodiversity units
- Ensure **Cross-Organisational Readiness** - Ensure that the planning; ecology, parks & greenspace; policy; legal and executive arms of local Government are aware of and prepared for mandatory BNG

4. BNG and nature recovery in local authorities

Beccy Moberly

BNG and nature recovery – why bother?

- Addressing the climate and biodiversity emergencies
- Place-making
- Green infrastructure
- Access to greenspace and nature
- Mental and physical health and wellbeing
- Flood resilience and drought management
- Energy efficiency
- Improving air and water quality
- Providing healthy soil that supports sustainable food production
- Thriving wildlife – including the pollinators on which we all depend
- Secure livelihoods and the basis of a healthy economy



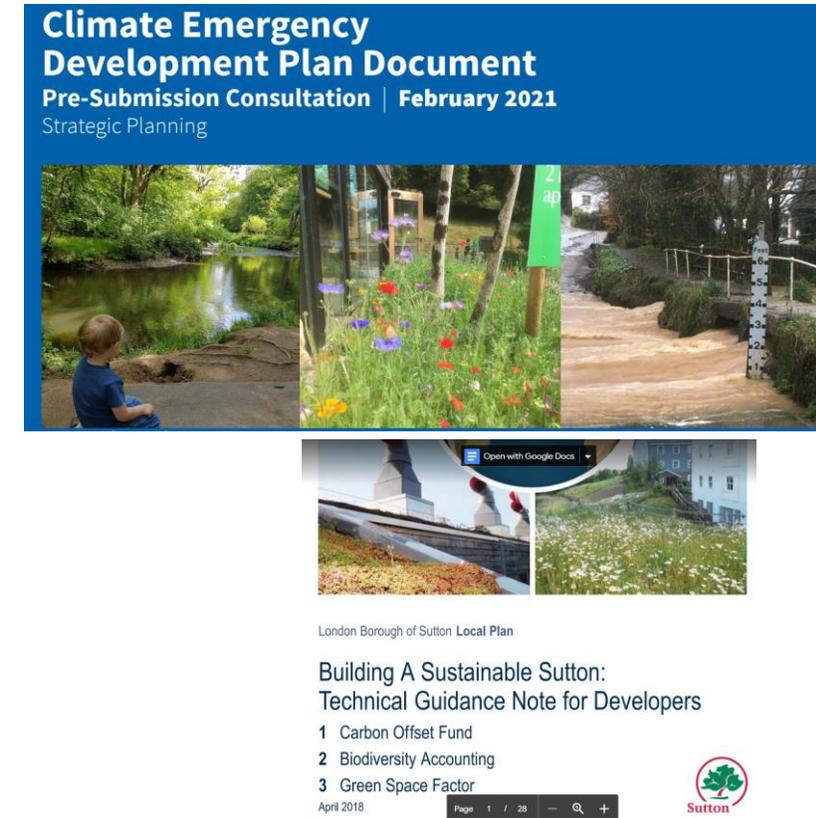
What is the local authority role in BNG and nature recovery?

- Planning decisions and Local Plan policies
- Setting strategy, linking to overarching council strategy and objectives:
 - Local Nature Recovery Strategy
 - Climate emergency
 - Place making & infrastructure
 - Natural capital and ecosystem services
- Embedding and joining up across council services, including estates
- Mapping, evidence and data
- Working in partnership
- Securing funding
- Delivering nature recovery on the ground
- Engage local communities, farmers and landowners



Why start now?

- Get ready early, test approaches and feed in experience to NE and Defra
- Not just about planning – how could you join up across council services?
- Address climate and ecological emergency
- Link into place-making and infrastructure:
 - what you want your borough's natural environment to look like
 - how the natural environment can deliver for local people
- Gather evidence
- Join up across LPAs - Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS)
- Resourcing – expertise needed
- Avoid rush of non-BNG applications before it becomes mandatory



BNG Journey



- Corporate embedding of BNG as a priority
- Development of place-making principles around BNG
- Development of local strategy and evidence
- **Embedding in Local Plans and Strategic Planning**
- **Establishing Development Management arrangements**
- Delivery of schemes
- Monitoring and reporting of progress

miro

What is PAS doing to help?

Web-based guidance, including case studies and best practice

- BNG FAQs
- BNG journey
- Nature recovery

Self-service presentations and training

- Event slides and recordings, including conservation covenants
- Introduction to BNG

Events

- BNG and nature recovery for planners and councillors – 7 events: overview x2; BNG essentials (DM focus) x2; Policy and Strategy x2; Insights on Nature Recovery x1

Networks

- Practitioner network
- Stakeholder liaison (ADEPT, ALGE, CIEEM, etc)
- Feeding into Defra, NE and DLUHC policy development



We're keen to find out – nature recovery:

Q1 How big an opportunity for improving your place will nature recovery be? (1 = very little / 5 = lots and lots)

Q2 How well prepared to deliver nature recovery is your authority at the moment? (1 = not at all / 5 = very well)

We're keen to find out – biodiversity net gain:

Q1 Has your authority started working on BNG?

Q2 Which of following aspects of BNG do you feel most able to deliver in your authority?

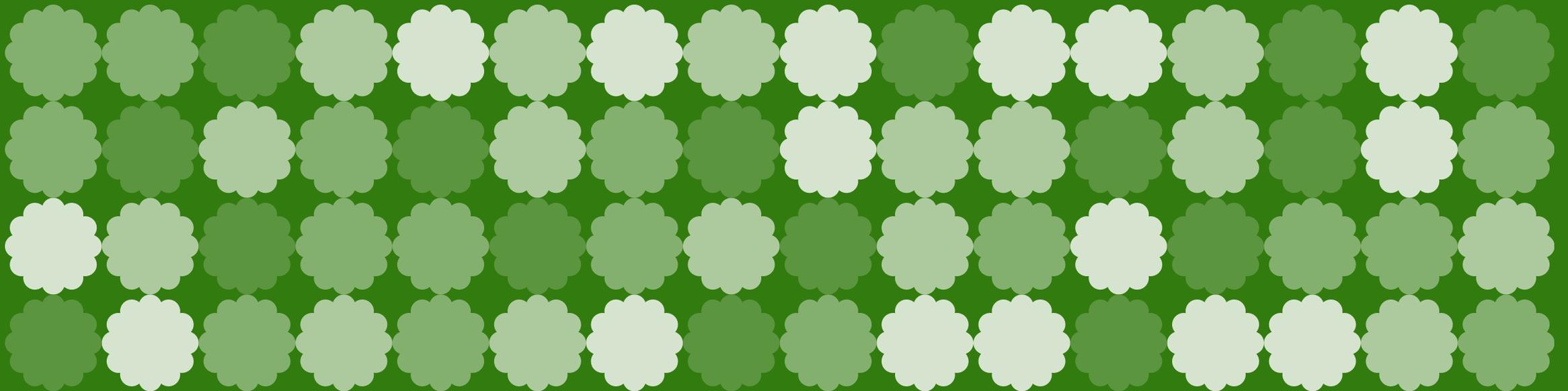
(You can select more than one)

- Policy
- Development Management
- Offsite delivery
- Monitoring and reporting progress
- Link to place making and wider authority interests
- Members' interest/understanding
- None of the above

5. What we're doing in GMCA

Sam Evans, Head of Natural Environment,
Greater Manchester Combined Authority

Biodiversity net gain and nature recovery: update for LPA



Greater Manchester: Our Natural Capital Journey



To build a structure of this scale, pump priming grants are required to bring in much needed development capacity to launch GMEF, implement pilot projects and showcase the benefits that GMEF has to offer.

Valuing our Natural Environment

£1bn - total annual benefit



£9bn – total value of **avoided healthcare costs** (over 60 yrs)



Preventing **370** hospital admissions, avoiding **1,200** life year's lost



Approx. **44,000** buildings receive noise mitigation



135,000 people meet their physical activity guidelines, giving over **4,600** QALYs

Greater Manchester's Environmental Ambitions



GM Strategy

“Greener, fairer, more prosperous city-region”

GM Environment Plan

“Protect, maintain and enhance, and take steps to achieve environmental net gain”

Places for Everyone

“Achieving a measurable net gain in biodiversity of no less than 10%”

Local Plans

National deadline for all Local Planning Authorities to have a Local Plan in place by December 2023.

Strategic Direction

Priority 1:
Managing our land sustainably

Priority 2:
Managing our water and its
environment sustainably

Priority 3:
Achieving a net gain in
biodiversity for new development

Priority 4:
Increasing investment into our
natural environment

Priority 5:
Increasing our engagement with
our natural environment



Environmental Challenges and Ambitions

GM's 5-Year Environment Plan (5YEP) sets out an ambitious vision for a “clean, carbon-neutral, climate resilient city region with a thriving natural environment”, and demands urgent action to achieve this.

Threats facing GM's natural environment...

Land	Unsustainable land management; GM accounts for 3.6% of the UK's annual CO ₂ emissions
Water	Over 90% of GM's waterbodies fail to meet quality standards; over 50,000 properties at risk of flooding
Biodiversity	Biodiversity net gain approach not yet adopted across districts; lack of green space and ecological networks
Investment	Insufficient funding available to protect nature; lack of business models to attract alternative sources
Environment engagement	Lack of public recognition of the wide range of benefits that nature delivers for the economy and society

...5YEP ambitions

Plant 1m trees by 2024, 3m by 2035 Restore 50-75% of GM's peatlands by 2040 Carbon neutral city region by 2038
Improve GM waterbodies to achieve standards by 2027; shift to more nature-based solutions for flood alleviation schemes
Embed biodiversity net gain for developments and accelerate the delivery of a GM Nature Recovery Network
Develop GMEF to broaden the range of funding sources; deliver investment readiness support and proof-of-concepts
Widen engagement via volunteering and employment opportunities; build on evidence base to promote benefits

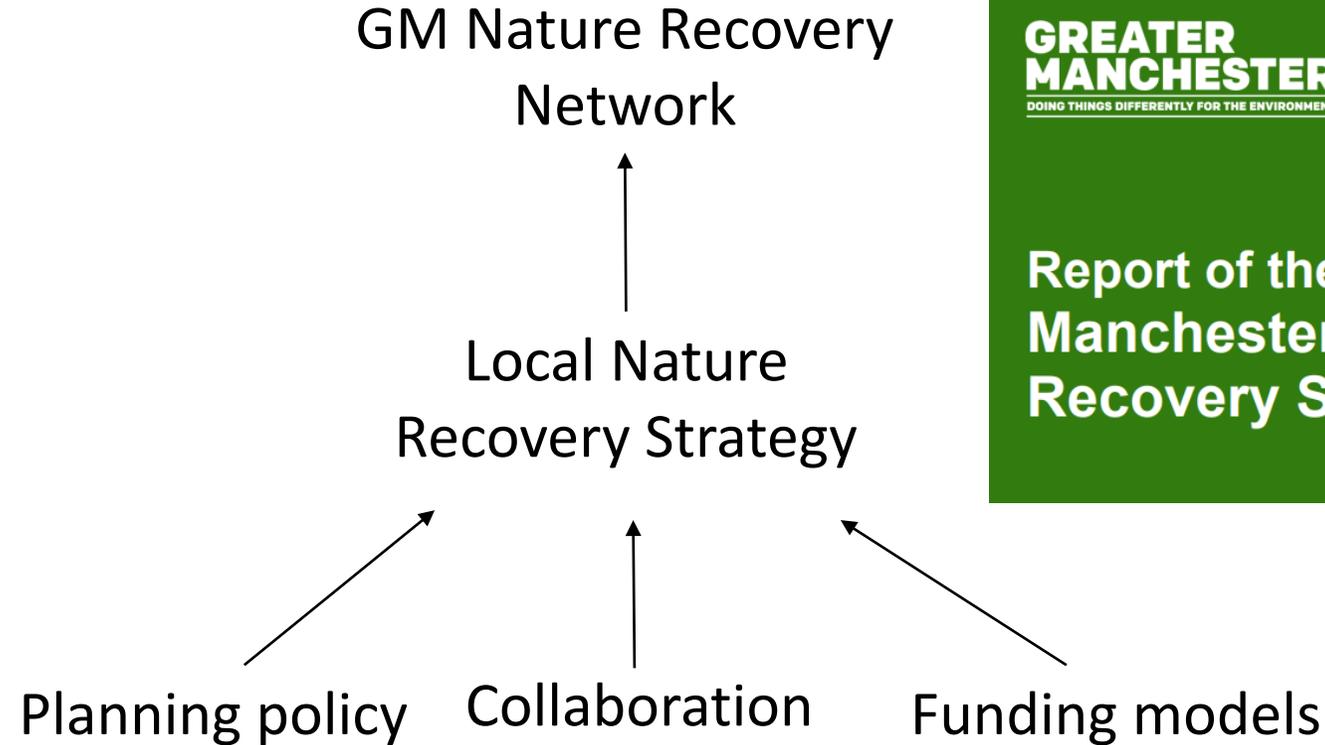
The Covid-19 pandemic has increased the importance of delivering on these ambitions to boost the local economy, create jobs, increase climate resilience and enhance the wellbeing of GM's residents.

Delivering Nature's Recovery

New or improved habitat that is connected and promotes the movement of biodiversity

What are the key priorities for, where they could be delivered and how?

Mechanisms for the delivery of nature recovery



GREATER MANCHESTER
DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Report of the Greater Manchester Local Nature Recovery Strategy Pilot



Natural Capital Investment Plan

The investment plan aims to support the agreed vision of:

“A Greater Manchester where investments in natural capital enhance the long-term social, environmental, and economic health and wellbeing of its people and businesses.”

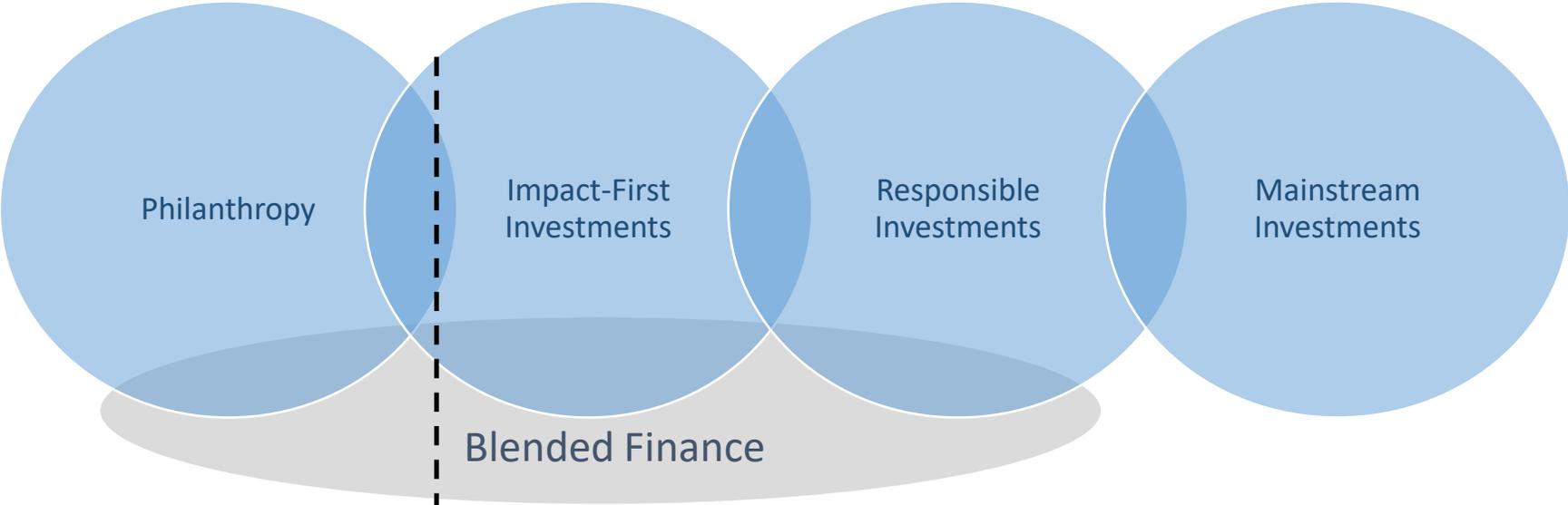
Investment in natural capital defined as:

“Funding that is intended to provide a return to the investor while also resulting in a positive impact on natural capital.”

- Returns are defined predominantly, although not exclusively, in financial terms.
- Public and third sectors still have an important role to play, as enablers and innovators.



Sources of capital



Business Model	No business model / non-revenue generating activities	Unproven business model / unpredictable cash flow	Robust business model / revenue generating activities	
Form of investment	Grants	Equity	Concessionary debt	Commercial debt and equity
Investors	Trusts & Foundations, NGOs, Lottery Funds	Impact Investors, aligned corporates	Commercial Investors	

GMEF Funding Opportunities Horizon

Liaison with a broad range of GM stakeholders and a dedicated GMEF Advisory Group has evidenced the significant opportunity for GMEF to raise public, philanthropic and private funds to deliver a thriving natural environment in GM and become self-sustaining over the long-term.

Short Term (1-3 year)		Medium Term (3-5 years)*		Long Term (5+ years)*	
Pump-priming public and philanthropic grants	To provide much-needed development capacity and to pilot approaches	Landfill funds	Surplus landfill funds	Sustainable Drainage Scheme ("SuDS") fund	Private investment mechanisms for SuDS are in development through the EU-funded IGNITION programme
Corporate funding programmes	Deliver corporate programmes – £200k committed from Suez Community Fund	Enforcement undertakings	Fines for pollution issued by the EA	Environmental Impact Bonds	Results-based payment models are being explored to finance NBS
Habitat Bank Facility	Further detail provided	Corporate sponsorship and individual giving	Long-term corporate partnerships and individual giving based on GMEF showcasing success	Built environment carbon fund	GM is considering a mandatory carbon offsetting approach to delivering net zero carbon development
Carbon Mitigation Facility		Plastic bag / waste levies; business levies	Levies through retail partnerships and / or Business Improvement District initiatives	Low-carbon / circular economy	Incorporate investment funds to achieve wider low carbon ambitions

Within 5 years, GMEF aims to accumulate sufficient funding, levies and private investment to become a self-sustaining funding source to support the delivery of GM's environmental ambitions.

**Funding opportunities are indicative based on market analysis and stakeholder engagement. Other funding opportunities may also be available.*

Grant funding projects – Green Recovery Challenge Fund

GMEF has formed a partnership with GM-based NGOs to support the delivery of the pilot GM Local Nature Recovery Strategy through a portfolio of collaborative projects that will demonstrate how activity can help both nature and people recover from Covid-19. Funding requested = £1,823,016

Shovel-ready project portfolio

GMEF and partners aim to deliver a portfolio of 10 ‘quick win’, collaborative projects in every Borough of GM, to help realise GM’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy through:

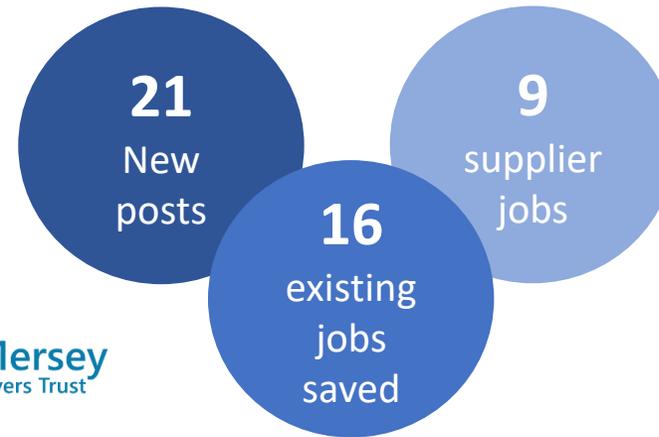
- **Delivering 537ha of habitat restoration, across 42 sites, benefitting 2,758ha of connected landscapes:**
 - 48ha wetland and lowland peat in GM Wetlands NIA, a constantly threatened pinch point between GM and Liverpool.
 - 117ha upland peat at Dovestone in Oldham
 - 58ha floating island habitat along GM canals
 - 59ha riparian habitats along GM river corridors
 - 255ha existing woodlands in Bury, Oldham and Trafford
- **Delivering nature-based solutions to address the climate emergency**
 - 446ha natural flood management projects across 5 boroughs
 - 155ha peatland restoration to transform areas into carbon stores



Connecting people with nature



Job creation and volunteering opportunities



Grant Funding - Green Spaces Fund



Purpose

We will create a new 'Green Spaces Fund' to give small grants to communities to clean up and improve pocket parks and local green spaces or create new ones where they are needed.

[We will] increase the amount and quality of accessible nature-rich green space, particularly for our poorest residents."

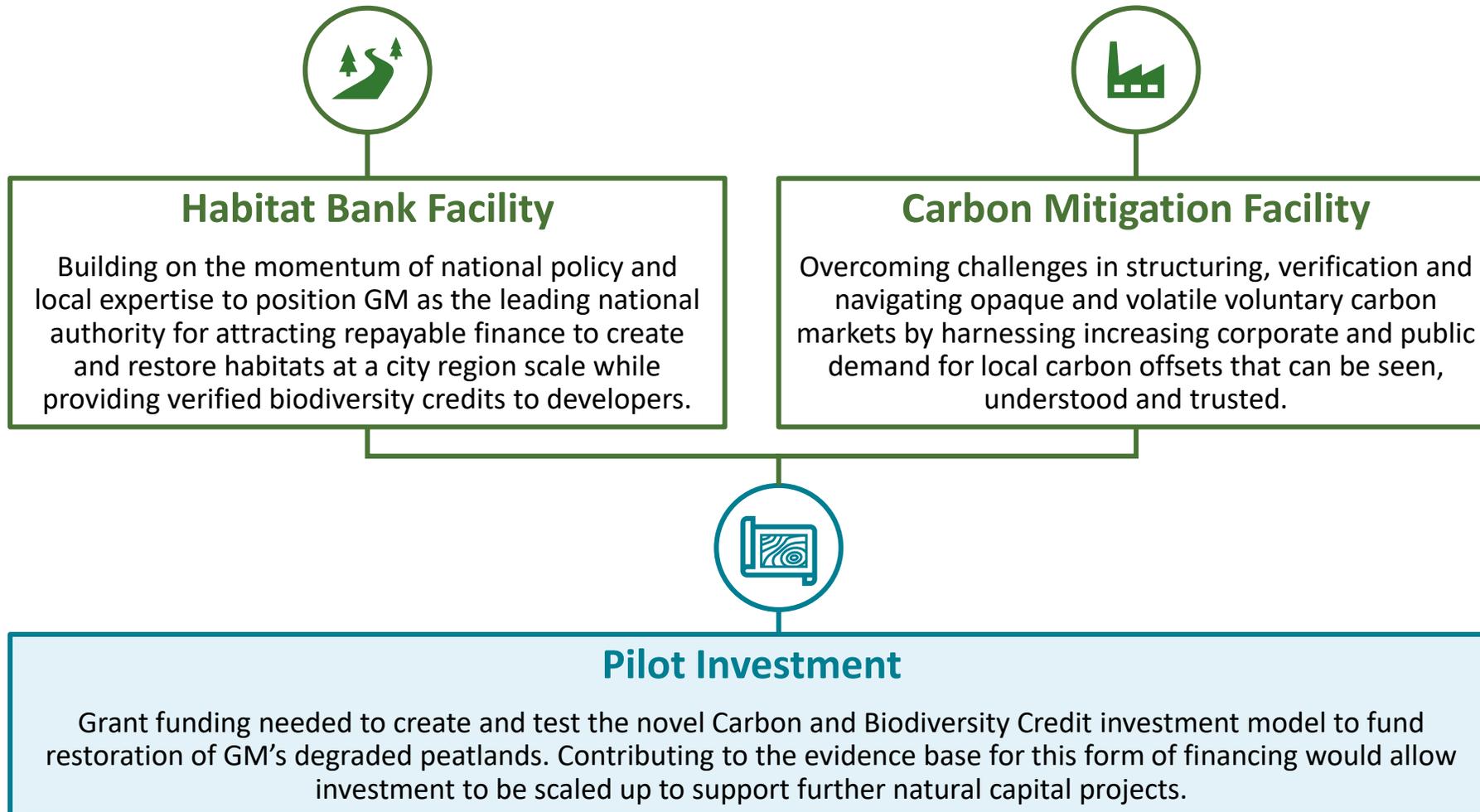


Round 1 Proposals:

- Over 70 projects proposed from across Greater Manchester – 21 awarded funding.
- A range of small (<£10k) and large (<£40k) proposals submitted.
- A range of organisations and project types.

Investment Opportunity Deep Dives

Two key investment models have been identified as the initial focus of GMEF, with the need to deliver a proof of concept pilot investment to support model scale up.



Aim: To establish innovative nature-based solution funding and delivery mechanism to increase GM urban green infrastructure coverage to build resilience of the city-region to climate change



**the
Ignition
PROJECT**

NATURE-BASED
SOLUTIONS TO
THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY



**Develop business
models and funding
mechanisms**

**Create pipelines of
projects across the
City Region**

**Build investor
confidence in
nature based
solutions**

**Develop special
purpose vehicle for
city region scale
delivery**

Taking Action, Today, Tomorrow and Together



Further Information

- <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/natural-environment/natural-course/>
 - <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/natural-environment/biodiversity-net-gain/>
 - <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/natural-environment/natural-capital/>
 - <https://www.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/what-we-do/environment/natural-environment/ignition/>
 - <https://gmenvfund.org/>
-

6. What we're doing in Bath & North East Somerset

Kären Renshaw, Principal Ecologist,
Bath & North East Somerset Council

BNG/LNRS – What are we doing in B&NES

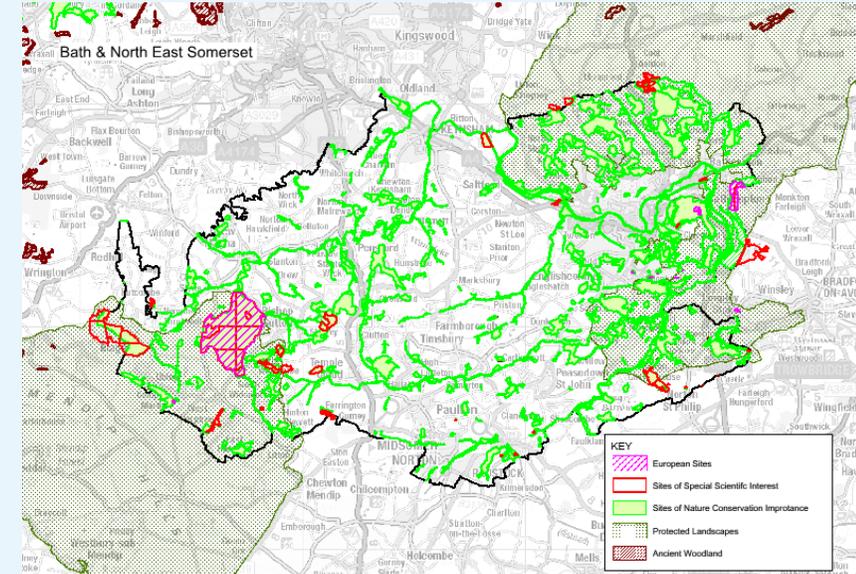
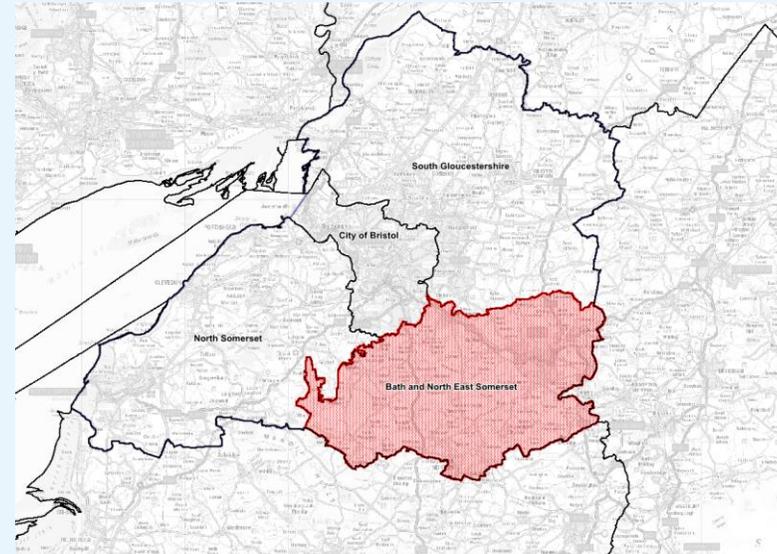


- Context
- What we are doing
- Key drivers
- How we got started
- Barriers and solutions
- Key points



A Biodiversity Bubble.....?

Context: where / what is Bath & North East Somerset?



Unitary Authority (1996)

One of the least deprived authorities in the country but life expectancy for men varies by 8 years between those in our least and most deprived areas

Located in South West England

Area : 35112 Ha

Population : 19200

2/3 area in green belt

400plus registered agricultural holdings

2017/18 : Considered > 3000 planning applications

1.75FTE Ecologist in planning

Within the West of England Combined Authority area

2 protected landscapes

3 Natural Character Areas

26 SSSIs

54% of SSSIs in favorable condition

15% of SSSIs in unfavorable declining condition

14% area designated as SNCI

7.2% UK Priority Habitat

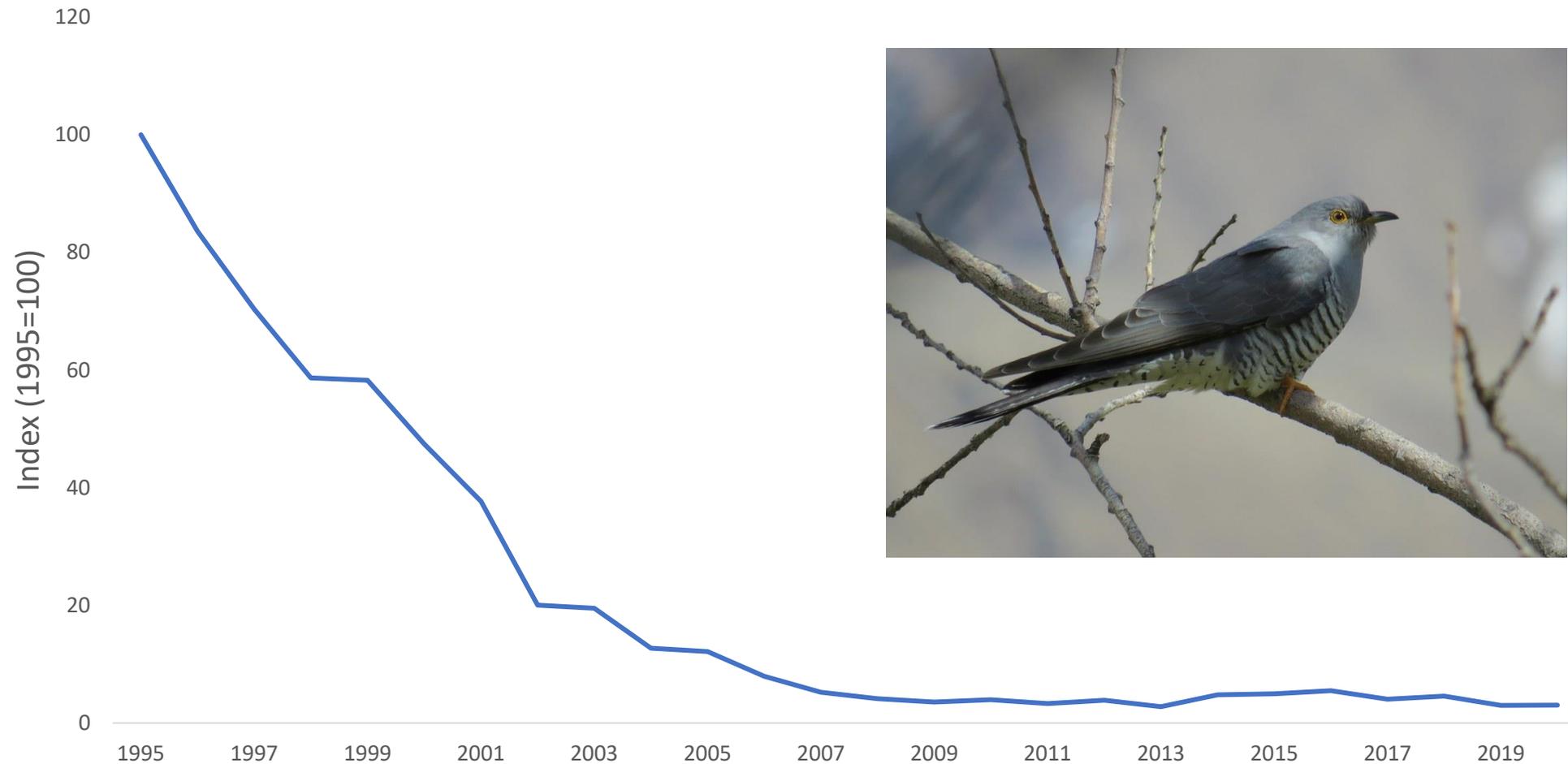
8.25% woodland cover

16.5% tree & woodland canopy cover

52008 tonnes CO2 sequestered each year

On-going species & habitat decline

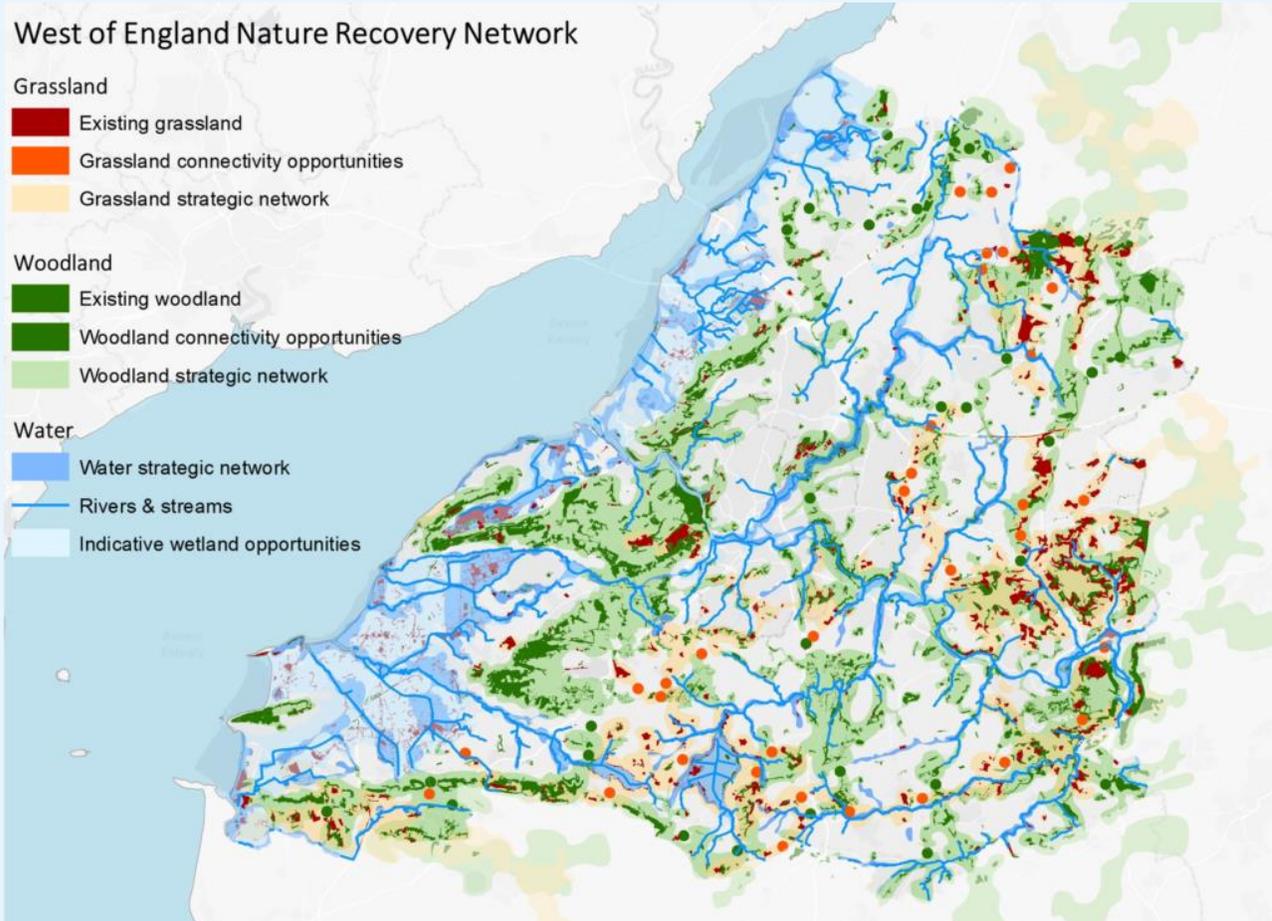
Relative abundance of cuckoo in the WoE, 1995-2020



LNRS – what are we doing?

West of England Nature Recovery Network

- Grassland**
 - Existing grassland
 - Grassland connectivity opportunities
 - Grassland strategic network
- Woodland**
 - Existing woodland
 - Woodland connectivity opportunities
 - Woodland strategic network
- Water**
 - Water strategic network
 - Rivers & streams
 - Indicative wetland opportunities



- B&NES leading on LNRS for WoE (commissioned by WECA)
- Local Nature Recovery Manager
- Building on work of WENP & Nature Recovery Networks (NNR) already mapped – strategic significance

By 2030 we want to: By 2050 we want to:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Increase the abundance of wildlife from 2020 levels by 30% | Double the abundance of wildlife from 2020 levels |
| Increase our semi-natural broadleaved woodland cover by 2500ha (from 8,000 to 10,500 ha) | Double our semi-natural broadleaved woodland cover (from 6% to 12%, or 8,000 to 16,000 ha) |
| In addition to woodland, create 2000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network | In addition to woodland, create 6000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network |
| Close at least 40% of the NNR connectivity gaps through the creation of new habitat | Close all the NNR connectivity gaps through the creation of new habitat |
| Ensure all water catchments are in at least moderate ecological status, with half in good ecological status | Ensure all water catchments are in good ecological status |
| Ensure 70% of designated sites are in favourable condition | Ensure all designated sites are in favourable condition |



BNG – what are we doing ?

1. Lots of thinking
2. Adopting BNG policy
3. Restructuring
4. Developing council-wide BNG practice
5. Learning as we go....



BNG – 1. Thinking



- Long term
- In collaboration with WECA & neighbouring LPAs
- Cross council implications & opportunities
- Recognise BNG as “just” a tool for nature recovery (bigger, better, more joined up spaces for nature)
- The process needs to be “well-oiled” but the outcome needs sustained care

BNG – 2. Adopting BNG policy

Developed interim planning policy:

tool for nature recovery

- Proposed a BNG policy through Local Plan Partial Update – Adoption Feb 23
- Mirrors emerging mandatory approach but differentiates between majors (>10%) & (>0%) minors
- Drafted BNG guidance....plan to develop as SPD once secondary legislation
- Updated Planning Obligations SPD to deliver BNG



In addition site allocations modified to

- Site allocations reference need for >10% net gain with requirement to consider on site provision first

AND ecological networks policy amended:

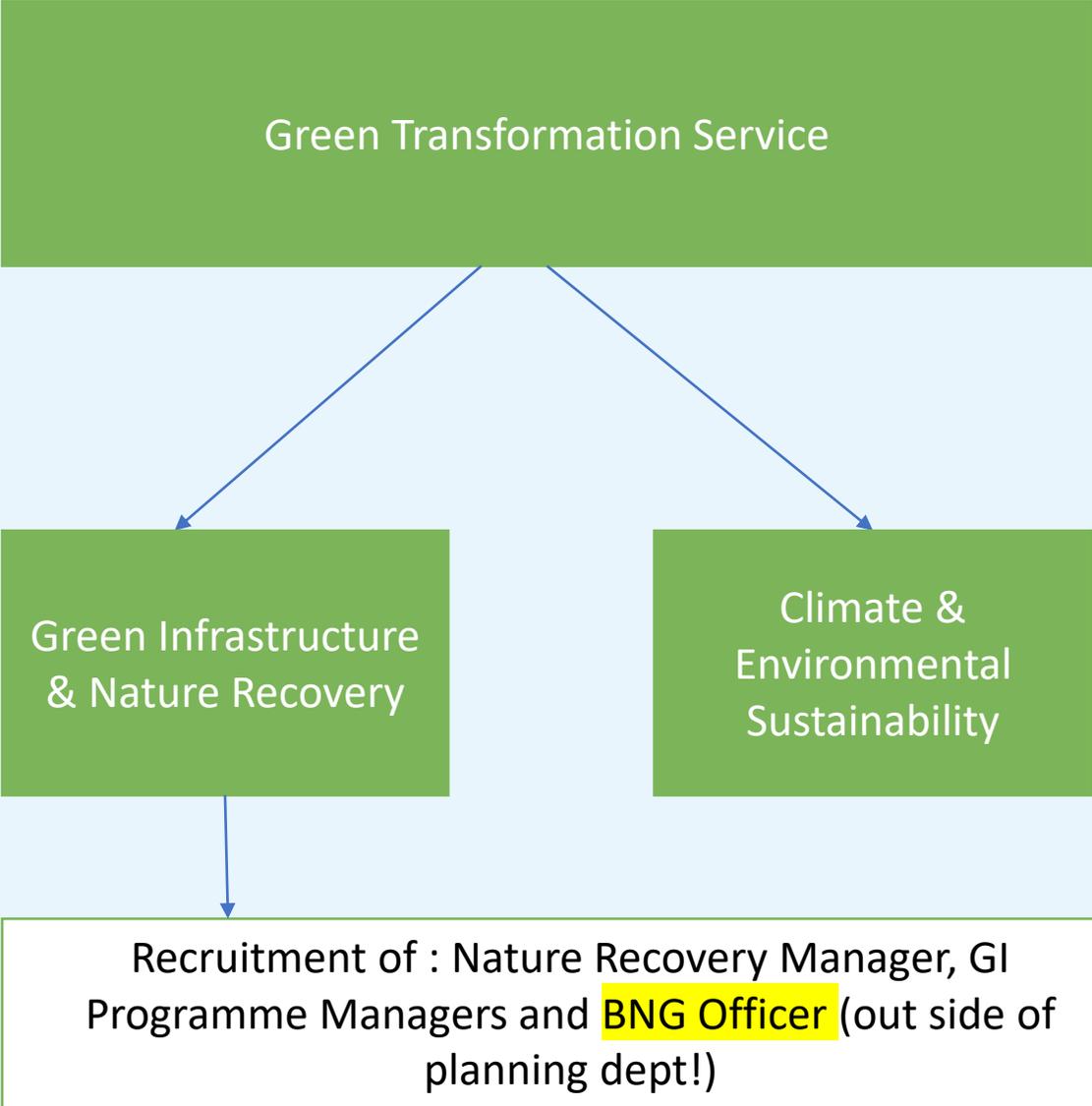
- Adopted WENP NRN as our ecological networks within ecological networks policy & will use to identify locations of Strategic Significance

BNG – 3. Restructuring



tool for nature recovery

We must deliver effective
stewardship & monitoring
of BNG outcomes



BNG – 4. Developing council-wide BNG practice

A tool for nature recovery



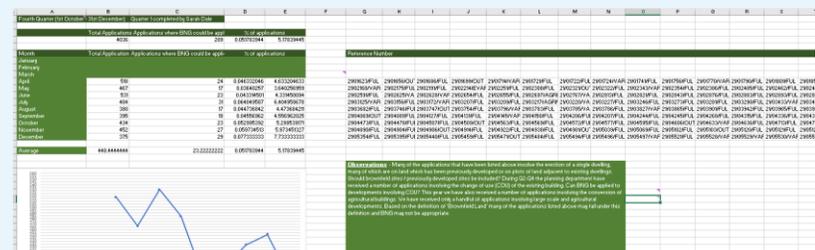
Work Areas

- Promotion & Awareness
- Training
- Off-set Provision
- IT Systems
- Admin Systems
- DM Process
- Data
- Forward Planning
- Monitoring & Review
- West of England collaboration
- Partnerships
- Council performance monitoring

nb see: [\\GIS\Ecology\BNG-trial\Charicombe Lane-ambition 1.xlm](#)
[\\GIS\Ecology\BNG-trial\Charicombe Lane-ambition 2.xlm](#)
[Charicombe Lane_Condition Sheet-ambition2.docx](#)
[Charicombe Lane_Condition Sheet.docx](#)

• 32.89 Ha in Bath
• Somer Valley Sites

The Council needs to assess and promote small sites outside of the BACM.



By 2030 we want to: By 2050 we want to:

- Increase the abundance of wildlife from 2020 levels by 30%
- Double the abundance of wildlife from 2020 levels
- Increase our semi-natural broadleaved woodland cover by 2500ha (from 8,000 to 10,500 ha)
- Double our semi-natural broadleaved woodland cover (from 6% to 12%, or 8,000 to 16,000 ha)
- In addition to woodland, create 2000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network
- In addition to woodland, create 6000 hectares of wildlife-rich habitat outside the protected site network
- Close at least 40% of the NRN connectivity gaps through the creation of new habitat
- Close all the NRN connectivity gaps through the creation of new habitat
- Ensure all water catchments are in at least moderate ecological status, with half in good ecological status
- Ensure all water catchments are in good ecological status
- Ensure 70% of designated sites are in favourable condition
- Ensure all designated sites are in favourable condition

Work area	product/outcome	GIS&NR Lead	Task
Forward planning	B&NES LPPU policy	KR	
	BNG Guidance	KR	
	Planning obligation SPD	KR	
IT Systems	Review of adopted site allocations	KR	
	Review of policy for New local Plan	KR	
	Exacom function	AP	
	Idox	AP	
Admin Systems	Review of JB's	TS	
	GIS	AP	
	Registration	TS	
Off-set provision	Legal Agreement template	AP	
	Model conditions	AP	
	Council land review	KR	
	Work with BACM	AP	
Data	Works with Parish Council's		
	Understanding of council need	KR	
	Understanding of council asset	AP	
	data review and development	KR	
Promotion & awareness	ready access to BNG data	AP	



Off-set Provision

- Council Land Review
- Work with BACM
- Work with Parish Councils
- Understanding of Council Need
- Understanding of Council Assets
- Understanding developer needs
- Understanding nature recovery needs
- Knowing what we need from the LNRS
- Biodiversity “handler”

Key Drivers

Current administration hugely supportive and expecting of
BNG & Nature Recovery agenda – Biodiversity Champion

**“The survival of our
society and economy
depends absolutely on
the health of the
natural environment.”**

- Cllr Jess David



Enabling change.....

2018



Home > Environment

Policy paper 25 Year Environment Plan

'A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment', sets out what we will do to improve the environment, within a generation.

2019



2019

Bath & North East Somerset Climate Emergency Action Plan

Bath and North East Somerset Council (B&NES) declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019 and pledged to provide the leadership to enable carbon neutrality in the district by 2030. Tackling the Climate Emergency means creating a different vision for all parts of Bath and North East Somerset, including the World Heritage Site of Bath itself. The Council is committed to providing the leadership to enable this scale of ambition to be realised and recognises that this requires a significant and fundamental shift within all sectors of the community.

Our first phase of research completed in October 2019 incorporated a district carbon footprinting exercise, indicating that the main sources of greenhouse-gas emissions across the district are energy use in buildings (66%), and transport (29%), and modelled a pathway to 2030 to cut emissions from these segments. This enabled a clear definition of three immediate priorities for action and the scale and speed of ambition needed to achieve the 2030 target.

Priority areas for action:

- **Energy efficiency improvement** of the majority of existing buildings (domestic and non-domestic) and zero carbon new build;
- **Transport:** a major shift to mass transport, walking and cycling to reduce transport emissions;
- A rapid and large-scale increase in **local renewable energy generation**.

As identified in the Council report (October 2019), further research is needed on the complex range of land use issues, including biodiversity, soil health, food production and carbon sequestration issues. The second phase of research and development includes road-mapping action against the three priority areas, to identify key next steps that need to be taken to get us on the right trajectory. The next annual Climate Emergency report to Council in September 2020 will be informed by this work and will provide the next stage of the action plan.

Alongside this, a comprehensive community engagement programme will:

- Utilise and build on current work with the Community Forums, the Parish Liaison Committee and parish councils;
- Develop a public communications campaign to ensure that we're enabling well-informed community dialogue and using input to inform ongoing action planning;
- Include the development of a citizen jury/juries on key issues to enable engagement and consensus building.

2020

CORPORATE STRATEGY 2020-2024

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives

Bath & North East Somerset Council
Improving People's Lives



2020

Green Renewal in Bath and North East Somerset 2021

In response to the COVID-19 crisis, we are developing a Recovery and Renewal Programme. A green renewal is fundamental to how we will lead the district towards a more resilient future, and is central to our strategic priority of addressing the Climate Emergency.

Nature Recovery – a new era for B&NES

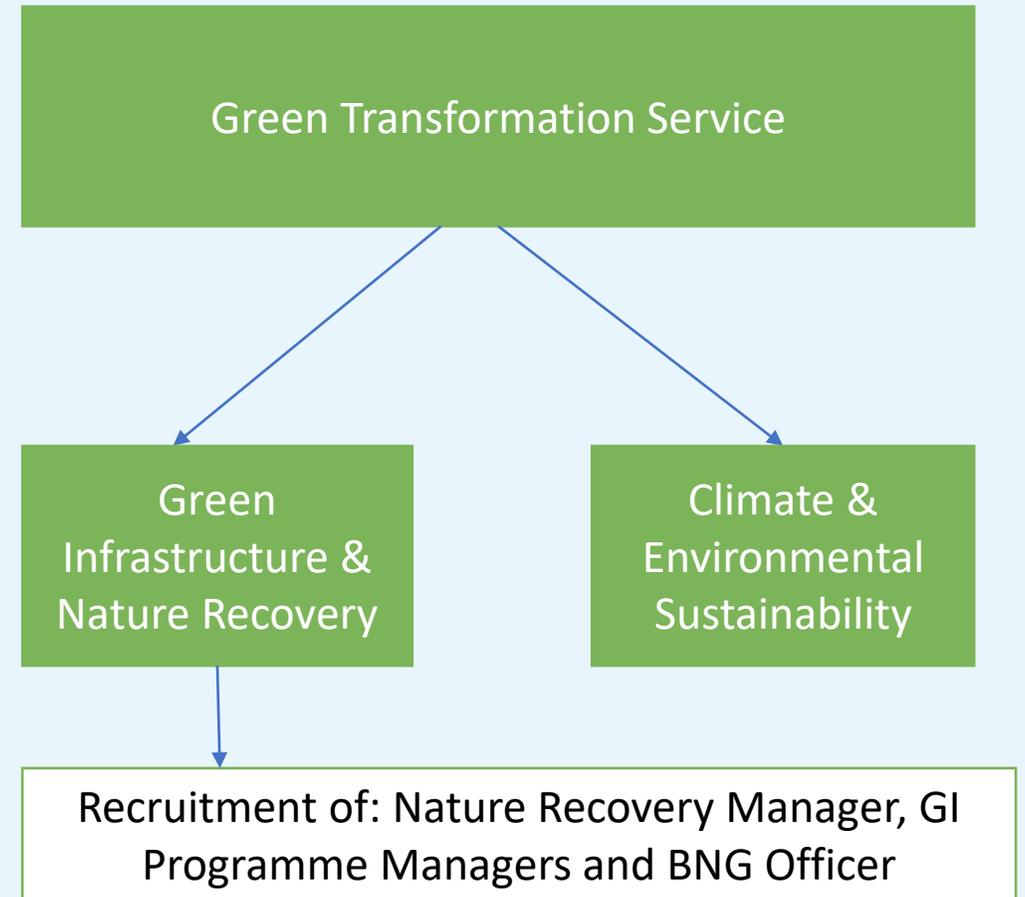
2030 timeline for change

Corporate Strategy 2020-24

Two core policies:

- Tackling the climate and nature emergencies
- Giving people a bigger say

Declaration of Ecological Emergency in July 2020



How we got started

- Early sharing of Env Bill Implications within planning
- Declaration of CE; Declaration of EE
- ***Responding to climate & nature emergency & New Corporate Plan***
 - BNG input to Local Plan Partial Update (powerful snowball....)
- Outside of planning - little traction for corporate response to Ecological Emergency (2019-2020)
 - Cards on table about structure & governance needed for responding to EE & nature recovery
 - Happenstance/ opportunity/ luck/ design ?
 - Green recovery
- ***Restructuring***
 - Courage for some upfront investment (1.4fte capacity for preparation NOT front line delivery)
- ***Extra capacity to think – really transformational for progressing BNG***

Key Barriers & Solutions

Key Barriers

- View that BNG is a single issue/ single dept or officer responsibility
- **Resources** (real problem that LPAs havnt been resourced yet)
- Understanding of what BNG is and what is isn't
- Lack of front-line planning input to national process ?
- Lack of data on local habitat & species change to “sell” need & why all this is so important

Solutions

- Corporate responsibility & opportunity (council-wide)
- Recognising complexity & need for shared ownership (council-wide/developers?)
- Courage for some up-front staff investment
- Mechanisms to share knowledge & experience (PAS Basecamp brilliant!)
- Working with partners
- Funding opportunities - thinking outside 'LPA ecologists' box

Shared learnings

Council practice

- B&NES has gone early with an interim policy – provides opportunity to learn from experience & happy to share
- Lots to think about – not easily be done by individuals, really helpful to find others services or neighbouring LPAS that you can work with
- **A little upfront investment delivers a massive amount – process needs to be developed pro-actively not reactively.**
- Needs to be considered beyond a simple planning process – about delivering nature recovery & better places for people (wider council connections & investment?)

National process

- Need real ability to share outputs – role of PAS? (tell us what we need to know!?)
- Need more answers about process more quickly (need secondary legislation & guidance NB legal agreements & covenants)
- Perhaps need front line planners to help inform final solutions?

7. Questions and answers

- Please submit your questions through the Q&A
- We will answer as many as we can today
- We will add answers to FAQs on the PAS website



8. Summing up & next steps

What do you think?

How did we do?

Next steps:

- BNG and nature recovery event for members, officer events on 'BNG essentials', policy & strategy and insights on nature recovery
- Answering outstanding questions and adding to FAQs
- Ongoing support on biodiversity net gain and nature recovery through PAS projects

For more information:

- <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/topics/environment>
- Sign up to the PAS bulletin: <https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/our-work/keep-touch>
- Join our BNG practitioner network – email: rebecca.moberly@local.gov.uk