

# **Local authority biodiversity net gain consultation workshop: additionality**

17 March 2022

# Agenda

|                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| Introduction            | Additionality in the BNG consultation document   |
| Break-out discussion    | What do you think of the proposals?<br>What do you need more clarity on?<br>What works well now? |
| Summing up & next steps |  |
| Finish by 4pm           |  |

## Additionality

“a real increase in social value that would not have occurred in the absence of the intervention being appraised”

- BNG will be delivered alongside other development and environmental policies and legal requirements.
- Additionality = the habitat enhancement specifically attributed to be “biodiversity net gain” achieved by the project must be above business as usual.
- How much can habitat enhancements provided in response to wider policies, legislation and markets be counted towards a development’s BNG calculation?

# Additionality principles

| Measure   | BNG?  |
|---|---|
| Habitat enhancements taken to fulfil a statutory obligation (e.g. getting SSSI designated features to favourable condition) | No, may not usually be counted as BNG, but can be for protected site habitats in intertidal zone and up to 2km from MHW   |
| On-site habitat enhancements, including green infrastructure, SuDS and nutrient mitigation                                  | Yes, providing they demonstrate an uplift in biodiversity value measured using the biodiversity metric                    |
| Protected species and off-site protected site impact mitigation measures  | Yes, but only up to no net loss, i.e. 10% of the habitat enhancement needs to be above and beyond mitigation requirements |
| Actions and measures within River Basin Management Plans  | Yes   |
| Actions to fulfil NERC biodiversity duty  | Yes   |
| Enhancement of non-designated features of SSSIs   | Yes, providing not in conflict with designation   |
| Enhancement of Local Wildlife Sites and Local Nature Reserves   | Yes   |

## Stacking payments for environmental services

- Market for biodiversity units will need to work alongside other environmental markets, e.g. carbon offsetting, nutrient neutrality, ELMS
- Government is minded to allow landowners and managers to combine payments for biodiversity units with other payments for environmental services from the same parcel of land, provided they:
  - Are paying for distinct, additional outcomes;
  - Are compatible; and
  - Do not pay for the same outcome twice.
- Should take into account relevant local nature priorities, including LNRS.
- Guidance to be produced.

# Break-out discussion session

- What do you think of the proposals on additionality in the consultation
  - For BNG with protected species mitigation measures?
  - For BNG with protected site mitigation measures - including Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace (SANGs) and nutrient neutrality?
  - On-site?
  - Off-site?
- What do you think about the proposals for combining payments for BNG with other environmental services?
- What do you need more clarity on?
- Do you have good examples of how you manage additionality and delivering different environmental services provided by development now?

# Next steps

What do you think?

How did we do?

- More topic-focused events:
  - Process for TCPA development
  - Additionality
  - Biodiversity gain plan
- Ongoing support through PAS project

**Don't forget to respond to the consultation! It closes 5 April.**

# For more information:

Look at our website:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/topics/environment/biodiversity-net-gain>

Sign up to the PAS bulletin:

<https://www.local.gov.uk/pas/our-work/keep-touch>

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