



Information Governance Team

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Dear Sir/Madam

**Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA)
Request ID: FOI672164207**

Thank you for your request for information relating to the delivery of BNG requirements .

You have requested the following information:

1a. What percentage biodiversity net gain does your local authority currently require?

Coventry Council requires 10% gain, the nationally recognised amount. The metric allows considerable flexibility in the calculation of biodiversity units before and after. Any required mitigation is the subject of negotiation and Ecology staff must be satisfied that there is a genuine, long-term gain.

2a. How many employees are currently directly employed by the authority to specifically/solely support the delivery of BNG requirements?

Currently there are two full time Ecology Officers whose role is focussed on biodiversity (planning, BNG, projects, grants, community) and full time Team Manager (planning, trees, Natural Capital, projects, funding etc).

In April 2025 this should be increased by an additional 0.4 FTE Ecology Officer

2b. Has the local authority created any new positions specifically to support the delivery of BNG requirements since 1 April 2023? (Yes/no)

Yes.

2c. If so, please provide the job titles and whether these roles are temporary or permanent.

Ecology And Biodiversity Officer x 2, grade 6, permanent (1 staff seconded as LNRS Project Officer, temporary cover replacement).

3a. Has your authority invested in specific training or upskilling for existing staff to manage BNG assessments, requirements, or policies since 1 April 2023? (Yes/no)

Yes, various e.g. UK hubs training, MSc funding (Planning, Environmental policy), ecology courses, PAS workshops.

3b. If so, how much money has been invested in specific training or upskilling for existing staff to manage BNG assessments, requirements, or policies in total since 1 April 2023?

We do not record this information and are advising you as per Section 1(1) of the Act. The amount is not readily available. Training specifically and solely for BNG relatively little (Warwickshire/Coventry has been operating (a form of) BNG for many years.

4a. Has your authority hired external consultants or third-party experts to assist with BNG implementation since 1 April 2023? (Yes/no)

No.

4b. If so, how much has been spent on external consultants or third-party experts to assist with BNG implementation since 1 April 2023?

None (However external consultants have been engaged regarding the potential of Council-owned land outside the LA, this has included opportunities for BNG, ongoing).

5a. Has any additional budget been allocated specifically for implementing or enforcing BNG requirements? (Yes/no)

No. Currently BNG is implemented on Council-owned land (3 main sites), habitat creation/management is undertaken by Ecology and Park/Grounds teams. The need to enforce BNG mitigation is recognised and the need to monitor overall effectiveness of BNG. Discussions are underway internally and with external bodies to agree a long-term solution, this is likely to be a partnership with other LAs, NGOs and local universities. No costs are available, the solution (hopefully) will include BNG, SUDS, development sites etc. Currently the Council provides approximately £20k annually to Wildlife Trust for survey/monitoring/data, future figure will be substantially increased.

If so, please provide the total additional budget assigned for this purpose for:

5b,c,e) 2024/25 etc Not applicable.

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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

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