

**(CCC) Biodiversity Net Gain**

- When is the Local Planning Authority planning to introduce Biodiversity Net Gain as a mandatory requirement for all small development projects in the LPA's jurisdiction? Please provide a specific date and a short definition of what the LPA classes as a 'small development project'.

- If a specific date has not yet been decided, does your Local Planning Authority intend to introduce a requirement for planning applications to include localised Biodiversity Net Gain plans for small development project within the 24 months following the passing of the Environment Bill? (Please define 'Biodiversity Gain Plan' as any document that is analogous to the type of document specified in the Environment Bill).

- Is there any material that sets out what criteria a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to meet in order to be accepted by the authority for a small development project? If such material exists please can it be attached to your response. If such material does not exist, please provide a brief description of what criteria a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to meet within your LPA. (Again, please define 'Biodiversity Gain Plan' as any document that is analogous to the type of document specified in the Environment Bill).

- Who is the official at your Local Planning Authority that is tasked with ensuring that Biodiversity Net Gain is implemented for the LPA?

- Does the LPA's approach to Net Gain require all 'Biodiversity Gain Plans' to be produced by an accredited ecologist?

**Response**

1. When is the Local Planning Authority planning to introduce Biodiversity Net Gain as a mandatory requirement for all small development projects in the LPA's jurisdiction? Please provide a specific date and a short definition of what the LPA classes as a 'small development project'.

Answer.

We anticipate that mandatory BNG will be introduced through the forthcoming UK Environment Bill and will follow that timeline, anticipated as Autumn 2021. BNG will be mandated for ALL developments falling under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, not just small development projects. National planning policy requires the Local Plan to promote a good mix of sizes of sites for housing. It requires us to identify small sites, no larger than one hectare, to accommodate at least 10% of the housing requirement.

2. If a specific date has not yet been decided, does your Local Planning Authority intend to introduce a requirement for planning applications to include localised Biodiversity Net Gain plans for small development project within the 24 months following the passing of the Environment Bill?

Answer.

Yes, the current version of preferred options for the forthcoming Local Plan consultation includes a mandatory BNG figure for ALL developments in Greater Cambridge. Additionally, our new Biodiversity SPD signposts developers to whatever the mandatory BNG is that emerges from the Environment Bill.

3. Please define 'Biodiversity Gain Plan' as any document that is analogous to the type of document specified in the Environment Bill.

Answer.

Until the Environment Bill is published in its final form, we cannot comment on this as complete guidance to LPAs on how to administer BNG is yet to be provided by the UK government.

4. Is there any material that sets out what criteria a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to meet in order to be accepted by the authority for a small development project?

Answer.

Until the Environment Bill is published in its final form, we cannot comment on this as complete guidance to LPAs on how to administer BNG is yet to be provided by the UK government.

5. If such material exists please can it be attached to your response.

Answer.

Until the Environment Bill is published in its final form, we cannot comment on this as complete guidance to LPAs on how to administer BNG is yet to be provided by the UK government.

6. If such material does not exist, please provide a brief description of what criteria a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to meet within your LPA.

Answer.

Until the Environment Bill is published in its final form, we cannot comment on this as complete guidance to LPAs on how to administer BNG is yet to be provided by the UK government.

7. Who is the official at your Local Planning Authority that is tasked with ensuring that Biodiversity Net Gain is implemented for the LPA?

Answer.

The ultimate responsibility for the delivery of this, and other services delivered through this LPA lies with the Service Director, Stephen Kelly.

8. Does the LPA's approach to Net Gain require all 'Biodiversity Gain Plans' to be produced by an accredited ecologist?

Answer.

Until the Environment Bill is published in its final form, we cannot comment on this as complete guidance to LPAs on how to administer BNG is yet to be provided by the UK government.

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Response sent

**04 Aug 2021**

Further queries on this matter should be directed to [foi@cambridge.gov.uk](mailto:foi@cambridge.gov.uk)