

FOI Ref
12512

Response sent
17 Feb 23

(CCC) biodiversity net gain

With regards to your work around biodiversity net gain, please can you tell me

1. How much you are currently charging, or plan to charge, developers for offsite biodiversity units so that they can meet their biodiversity net gain requirements
2. What % of biodiversity net gain you are requiring, or expect to require, from developers

Response

Answer to Q1.

Currently the LPA does not impose an "in house" BNG charge as the LPA does not hold any land to provide such a service. This may change in the future and charges will be dictated by the cost of delivery and the market forces present at the time. There is currently no means by which to predict what these future charges might be.

Answer to Q2.

This LPA will be seeking a minimum of 10% BNG as a mandatory requirement from November 2023, as per the Environment Act, but there are aspirations to seek higher amounts given the very low amount of land managed for nature in the County. This might manifest in the new Local Plan when it comes forward, but we are already encouraging developers to seek to mitigate biodiversity loss at 10% above baseline voluntarily in order to get everyone day-one ready for the new legislation.

Further queries on this matter should be directed to foi@cambridge.gov.uk