

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information Request.

The councils response is as follows:

I would like to request, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the following information:

- 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'.

The start date for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG), and the types of development which will need to provide BNG (including any definition of 'small development') will be set when the Environment Bill passes into law. At that point, there will be a two-year implementation period before BNG becomes mandatory.

- 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).

The County Council will adopt BNG, including in relation to small developments, in line with the statutory requirements and timescales. This could include using the two year implementation period to seek BNG in order to prepare for the mandatory introduction of BNG.

- 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).

No material exists, and criteria have yet to be developed. We would anticipate this being confirmed as the Environment Bill and any supporting Regulations come into effect.

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

The Group Manager (Planning) would have the ultimate responsibility for the implementation of BNG by the County Council.

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

The LPA will follow the statutory requirements and adopt best practice in this respect.

I hope this now satisfies your request, and should you have any further enquiries please do not hesitate to contact me directly on the details below.

In addition to this and for future reference Nottingham County Council regularly publishes previous FOIR,s and answers on its website, under Disclosure logs. (see link)
<http://site.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/thecouncil/democracy/freedom-of-information/disclosure-log/>

You can use the search facility using keywords.

If you wish to raise any concerns about the way your request was dealt with, then please write to the Team Manager, Complaints and Information, County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or e-mail foi@nottscc.gov.uk quoting the reference number above.

Kind Regards

Complaints, Information & Mediation Officer.
Complaints and Information Team
Chief Executive's Dept
Nottinghamshire County Council
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 7QP