

I am writing to you under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to request the following information Please may you provide me with:

- 1) Who is the BNG lead within the council and what are their direct contact details?

The Strategic Planning team:- planningpolicy@wigan.gov.uk

All Greater Manchester authorities access a shared Ecology service provided by the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU):

Greater Manchester Ecology Unit
Clarence Arcade
Stamford Street
Ashton-under-Lyne
Tameside, OL6 7PT
- 2) What practises/processes do the council currently have, or intend to have, in place for how they are going to manage/monitor the 30-year requirement for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) from November 2023 when 10% BNG becomes mandatory?

Processes are currently being developed with the other local authorities in Greater Manchester with the support of the Combined Authority and the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit. There is still a need to fully understand the resources required but the likelihood is that GMEU will have some role in this on behalf of the 10 authorities. With regards to specifics around monitoring we are still awaiting full guidance and regs from Defra but expect that planning conditions will be applied to permissions requiring applicants to submit monitoring reports at regular timescale across the management and maintenance period.
- 3) What information/technology systems do you plan to utilise to manage/monitor the delivery of BNG?

We expect from a development management perspective that the existing Exacom Section 106 monitoring system will be used to monitor BNG in the Development Management process. It is anticipated that there will also be a need to map the sites on the national register.
- 4) Which outside bodies (eg. wildlife trusts, ecologists, community groups, habitat banks) are you working with to assist in delivering Biodiversity Net Gain?

Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Lancashire Wildlife Trust, Community Groups (e.g 'Friends of' volunteer groups)
- 5) Is the council planning to use any of their own land to deliver BNG? If so, please provide details of the location and size.

We are currently exploring opportunities with the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit as part of the BNG Needs and Supply Assessment for Wigan.
- 6) What plans do you have in place, or intend to have for the training of staff on BNG?

Several members of staff have already completed certified training organised by Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

More staff sessions will be delivered in 2023 when we receive all the regulations and guidance; and potentially training for elected members as well.