

- 1) Please provide a list of ecological surveys undertaken since 2016 (showing the date of the survey) for each of the Places for Everyone Allocations, together with the associated reports received and any logs/reports that show how the data set out in the ecological reports impacted or revised the proposed Allocation.

The Council only holds and/or has access or records of ecological appraisals, survey work and resultant reports in relation to Places to Everyone (PfE) or those submitted as part of submitted planning applications. The former are contained in the Supporting and Background Evidence Documents 2021, [Supporting Documents 2021 - Greater Manchester Combined Authority \(greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk\)](#) in particular the documents relating to the site allocations, document references 10.01 to 10.10 and evidence published on the examination website: [GMCA – Places For Everyone Joint DPD | Helen Wilson Consultancy Limited \(hwa.uk.com\)](#); the latter are publicly available via the Council's [planning application webpages](#). A list can be produced from this information.

Further information regarding this matter may be available from the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU).

- 2) Please also provide any associated correspondence relating to consideration of these specific sites, particularly in relation to consideration of their status as Priority Habitats.

Having carefully considered the matter, the Council has determined that request for '*communications between the Local Planning Authority and the GMCA/ GMEU*' is exempt under section 12(4)(c) of the Environmental Information Regulations relating to the disclosure of internal communications.

In coming to this conclusion, consideration has been given to what is known as "the public interest test". In relation to that, it is recognised that the disclosure of the requested information promotes openness and transparency, thereby improving the confidence of the public that they are involved in the plan-making process.

However, it is also recognised that a public authority needs a safe space to develop ideas, debate live issues, particularly as part of the process of formulating and developing policy. The need for public authorities to have a "thinking space" for policy development still in the course of completion is important and it protects the integrity of the formal decision-making process and public consultation which follows. On balance, it is therefore considered that the public interest in maintaining the exception outweighs the public interest in disclosure.