

North Yorkshire Council
Executive Member for Open to Business

29 August 2023

Defra S31 Biodiversity Net Gain Grant No 31/6804

Report of the Corporate Director Community Development

1.0 Purpose Of Report

- 1.1 To recommend that the Executive Member for Open to Business following consultation with the Corporate Director of Community Development, the Corporate Director- Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) authorises the acceptance of a further £231,116 of funding from Defra to support preparations during 2023-24, for the rollout of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain commencing in November 2023.
- 1.2 To provide context and evidence of how the grant will be spent in line with the conditions set out by Defra.

2.0 Background – Biodiversity Net Gain

- 2.1 The 2021 Environment Act provided a framework for improving the UK's natural environment over several categories including improving air and water quality, enabling nature recovery and reducing deforestation.
- 2.2 To improve biodiversity and facilitate nature recovery, three key duties and policies for local authorities were outlined:
1. Biodiversity net gain, a mandatory duty within the planning system to protect and enhance habitats and ensure they are not compromised by housing, employment, and infrastructure development.
 2. NERC (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006) Biodiversity Duty update, important enhancements to the current requirement for public authorities to 'have regard' for biodiversity, and an additional need to publish regular biodiversity reports
 3. Local nature recovery, the planning and creation of nature recovery networks.
- 2.3 One of primary goals of the Environment Act is to protect and expand UK habitats and halt or reverse species decline by 2030. One of the policies created to reach this goal was BNG (Biodiversity Net Gain); it is the mandatory requirement for developments needing planning permission to demonstrate a 10% biodiversity net gain at the time of submission. This can include creation of new habitats or enhancement of existing habitats on development sites. Defra has confirmed that all major development will need to secure 10% BNG from November 2023, with small scale developments being brought into the scheme from April 2024.
- 2.4 In situations where 10% BNG cannot be delivered on the development site, habitat creation and/or enhancement will need to be provided offsite. These offsite BNG sites can be provided by the developer, National Government Organisation or local authority. Local planning authorities will be able to use their own land to sell

biodiversity units for this purpose, if habitat creation, restoration or management can be demonstrated, however, they will not be able to promote their own sites ahead of other biodiversity gain sites. There will also be the opportunity for developers to purchase credits from the Secretary of State if they cannot secure other off-site units, although this will be seen as a last resort.

- 2.5 All habitats created or retained that form part of the 10% (whether onsite or off site) must be secured for a period not less than 30 years to include monitoring and management. It is expected that section 106 agreements will be used to secure the long-term management obligations. Enforcement of the section 106 will be the responsibility of the Local Planning Authority. Every five years each Local Planning Authority will be required to report the losses and gains of biodiversity through the planning process.
- 2.6 Resource constraints are a big concern for local planning authorities, there is a need to prepare policy guidance, development management systems, additional ecological staff resource to review and comments on the BNG submissions, input from legal services to draw up section 106 agreements, investment in data systems to provide baseline habitat maps, systems for monitoring and reporting to Defra and resources in planning and enforcement. Additionally, there will be a need for training for all staff involved in the process and for planning committee members.

3.0 Finance

- 3.1 In March 2022, Defra provided £10,047 of grant funding in the form of a Section 31 grant to each Local Planning Authority (LPA) (County and District) to prepare for BNG. This is revenue funding intended to facilitate preparation and preparedness and was provided ahead of further resourcing confirmation associated with the full roll-out of BNG. Each of the NY authorities claimed the Defra funding and agreed to pool the funding. The pooled funding has secured a BNG Officer working full time on a fixed term contract from 1st January 2023 to 30th June 2024.
- 3.2 In March 2023, Defra offered additional revenue funding of £26,807 per North Yorkshire LPA (except Harrogate BC who received £43,467) to support ongoing preparatory work for BNG to cover the period 22-23. This funding was secured by each of the former eight North Yorkshire authorities and totalled £231,116 – Defra confirmed that this funding could be carried forward into 23-24 provided that it could be ring fenced for BNG work. NYC is currently in the process of recruiting two Ecologists to work with existing staff to process the ecological aspects of planning applications, with a focus on BNG. Evidence will be provided to Defra to demonstrate how the grant has been used.
- 3.3 On 4th August 2023, Defra offered additional revenue funding of £231,116 to North Yorkshire Council (using the same funding formula as the previous year considering each of the eight former authorities). This funding will be paid as a Section 31 grant and is intended to cover work undertaken during the period 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024 and continues to be in support of the preparation and implementation of new BNG burdens. There is no match funding required as a result of accepting the grant. It should be noted that Defra have requested evidence of spend against the 22-23 burdens funding alongside acceptance of the 23-24 grant.
- 3.4 Evidence can be provided in the form of newly created job roles (which have recently been through job evaluation) and agreement to recruit to these posts in the next few weeks. The intention is to recruit 2 members of staff for a fixed term period making use of the full £231,116 allocated and carried forward from the 22-23 funding.

- 3.5 In terms of a plan for spending the recently offered £231,116 for 23-24, no formal decision has been made, as the offer has only just been received with no advance warning from Defra. However, an early consideration would be to utilise funding to extend the contract of the BNG Officer who is in post until 30th June 2024, commissioning of work from NEYEDC (North & East Yorkshire Ecological Data Centre) to support BNG strategic significance mapping, buying in of bespoke training – in particular on the legal aspect of BNG. The funding could also be used to extend the contracts of the two members of staff that are in the process of being recruited on fixed term contracts. Records of spend will be kept with evidence being provided to Defra against each funding period.
- 3.6 Evidence as set out above for the period 22-23 (para 3.4) will be supplied to Defra alongside or following the grant acceptance form within Annex C (ii) – template provided by Defra.

4.0 Legal

- 4.1 The Grant conditions have been reviewed by NYC legal services.

5.0 Equalities

- 5.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed – this is appended to this report.
- 5.2 No equalities issues are raised by the matters addressed in this Report.

6.0 Climate Change

- 6.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment has been completed – that is appended to this report.
- 6.2 The matters addressed in this report do not directly impact on the Council's response to climate change. However, improvements to nature recovery and biodiversity arising from implementation of mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain, are likely to be beneficial both in terms of helping to mitigate further damaging climate change and in helping the natural environment adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts.

7.0 Recommendations

- 7.1 Approval is sought for the following matters:
- i. That the Executive Member for Open to Business, following consultation with the Corporate Director of Community Development, the Corporate Director - Resources and the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal and Democratic Services) authorises acceptance of a further Section 31 Grant of £231,116 offered by Defra to support ongoing work on mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain.

Nic Harne:
Corporate Director Community Development

Author of Report:
Julia Casterton, Principal Ecologist, Community Development

Appendices

1. S31 Grant Determination 31-6804 - Biodiversity Net Gain
2. Annex C (i) – Acceptance form
3. Annex C (ii) – Evidence of spend for 22-23 (Defra Grant 31-6499)
4. Equalities Impact Assessment
5. Climate Change Impact Assessment



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31 July 2023

To all Local authorities listed in Annex A,

Dear colleagues,

Section 31 (Local Government Act 2003) Grant Determination Letter for Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 2023/24: Grant No. 31/6804

This Determination is made between:

- (1) **The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and**
- (2) **The local authorities listed at Annex A.**

Background

Biodiversity net gain (BNG) is an approach to development that leaves biodiversity in a measurably better state than before. This means protecting existing habitats and ensuring that lost or degraded habitats are compensated for by enhancing or creating habitats that are of greater value to wildlife and people.

The Environment Act 2021 includes provisions that make the achievement of 10% biodiversity gain mandatory for most developments under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The requirement is due to come into force in November 2023 for most developments (unless exempt) and for small sites from April 2024.

Purpose of the Grant

The purpose of this grant is to provide funding to the local authorities in England listed at Annex A, towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them in delivering biodiversity net gain. Any further funding for this purpose, beyond this period, would be confirmed in due course.

Grant amounts

The grant covers the 12-month period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.


- The funding allocated for the 2023/24 grant is a maximum of £11.06 million; this includes additional funding to allow authorities that were unable to claim their 2022/23 grant to spend an equivalent amount in 2023/24. There is also up to £4.26


million further funding available to allow LPAs who are holding funds in a ring-fenced reserve from 2022/23 to spend up to this allocation in 2023/24.

The grant amount for each local authority includes funding for one off set up and preparation costs for BNG assessment between 1 April 2023 and 31 October 2023 and early operation of BNG from November 2023 – 31 March 2024.

Local authorities have been placed in one of two bands, with the amount per authority listed at Annex A.

Band	2023/24
Band 1 (authorities with 500 or fewer applications of types that fall within the scope of BNG)	£26,807
Band 2 (authorities with 501 or more applications of types that fall within the scope of BNG)	£43,467

This grant is subject to conditions, which can be found at Annex B. This requires that LPAs spend any funding held in the ring-fenced reserve first before further funding is accessed. 

Payment of the grant will be made in arrears. Details of how to claim the grant will be provided on receipt of the grant acceptance 

Templates for grant acceptance and provision of evidence of spend are included at Annex C.

Enquiries

For all enquiries about BNG please contact SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



Rachel Fisher
Deputy Director, Land Use

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

REVENUE grant determination (ring-fenced)

Biodiversity Net Gain Grant GRANT DETERMINATION 2023/2024: No. 31/6804

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP) (“the Secretary of State”), in exercise of the powers conferred by section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003, makes the following determination:

Citation

1) This determination may be cited as the Biodiversity Net Gain Grant Determination 2023/2024 [No.31/6804].

Purpose of the grant

2) The purpose of the grant is to provide support to local authorities in England towards expenditure lawfully incurred or to be incurred by them to apply a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity to planning permissions (unless otherwise exempt) granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Determination

3) The Secretary of State determines as the authorities to which the grant is to be paid and the amount of grant to be paid, the authorities and the amounts set out in Annex A.

Grant conditions


4) Pursuant to section 31(3) and 31(4) of the Local Government Act 2003, the Secretary of State determines that the grant will be paid subject to the conditions in Annex B.

Treasury consent

5) Before making this determination in relation to local authorities in England, the Secretary of State obtained the consent of the Treasury.

UK Government Branding

6) The Grant Recipient shall at all times during and following the end of the Funding Period:

6.1 comply with requirements of the Branding Manual in relation to the Funded Activities; and 

6.2 cease use of the Funded by UK Government logo on demand if directed to do so by the Authority.

7) **Branding Manual** means the HM Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland ‘Funded by UK Government branding manual’ first published by the Cabinet Office in November 2022 and is available at:

<https://gcs.civilservice.gov.uk/guidance/marketing/branding-guidelines/>

including any subsequent updates from time to time.

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Rachel Fisher, Deputy Director, Land Use, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel Fisher', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

31 July 2023

Annex A – List of authorities

Column A	Column B	Column C	Column D
Local Authority	Notes on council changes from 01 April 2023	2023/24 BNG grant allocation for period 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024	Funds already distributed in 2022/23 and held in a ring-fenced reserve ¹
Adur District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Allerdale Borough Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Cumberland Council		£21,085
Amber Valley Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Arun District Council		£26,807	£11,195
Ashfield District Council		£26,807	£19,264
Ashford Borough Council		£26,807	£18,768
Babergh District Council		£26,807	£0
Barking and Dagenham London Borough		£26,807	£17,007
Barnet London Borough		£43,467	£0
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£8,071
Barrow-in-Furness District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Westmorland and Furness Council		£26,807
Basildon District Council		£53,614	£0
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council		£26,807	£557
Bassetlaw District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Bath and North East Somerset Council		£26,807	£9,446
Bedford UA		£26,807	£5,863
Bexley London Borough		£26,807	£17,677
Birmingham City Council		£43,467	£9,772
Blaby District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Blackpool Borough Council		£26,807	£21,624
Bolsover District Council		£26,807	£0
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£18,307
Boston Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council		£43,467	£23,811
Bracknell Forest Borough Council		£26,807	£18,081

Braintree District Council		£53,614	£0
Breckland District Council		£43,467	£0
Brent London Borough		£43,467	£15,467
Brentwood Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Brighton and Hove Council		£43,467	£11,304
Bristol Council		£43,467	£29,159
Broadland District Council		£26,807	£0
Bromley London Borough		£43,467	£13,216
Bromsgrove District Council		£53,614	£0
Broxbourne Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Broxtowe Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Buckinghamshire Council		£43,467	£0
Burnley Borough Council		£26,807	£23,355
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Cambridge City Council		£26,807	£16,807
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority		£26,807	£16,807
Cambridgeshire County Council		£26,807	£25,374
Camden London Borough		£43,467	£34,722
Cannock Chase District Council		£26,807	£11,447
Canterbury City Council		£26,807	£15,041
Carlisle City Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Cumberland Council		£26,807
Castle Point Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Central Bedfordshire UA		£43,467	£0
Charnwood Borough Council		£26,807	£23,517
Chelmsford Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Cheltenham Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Cherwell District Council		£26,807	£25,876
Cheshire East UA		£43,467	£0
Cheshire West and Chester UA		£43,467	£0
Chesterfield Borough Council		£26,807	£13,872
Chichester District Council		£26,807	£20,200
Chorley Borough Council		£26,807	£13,342
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council		£43,467	£25,036
City of London		£26,807	£6,807
City of York Council		£26,807	£6,124
Colchester Borough Council		£26,807	£25,607

Copeland Borough Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Cumberland Council		£21,085
Cornwall County UA		£43,467	£29,467
Cotswold District Council		£26,807	£22,607
Coventry City Council		£26,807	£0
Craven District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Crawley Borough Council		£26,807	£21,587
Croydon London Borough		£86,934	£0
Cumberland Council ²		£93,825	£0
Cumbria County Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and is reallocated across the new administrations		£26,807
Dacorum Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Darlington Borough Council		£26,807	£16,166
Dartford Borough Council		£26,807	£18,768
Derby City Council		£26,807	£0
Derbyshire County Council		£26,807	£0
Derbyshire Dales District Council		£26,807	£11,984
Devon County Council		£26,807	£18,903
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Dorset Council		£43,467	£7,000
Dover District Council		£26,807	£8,451
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£23,065
Durham County UA		£43,467	£40,548
Ealing London Borough		£43,467	£18,467
East Cambridgeshire District Council		£26,807	£0
East Devon District Council		£43,467	£0
East Hampshire District Council		£26,807	£14,010
East Hertfordshire District Council		£26,807	£26,807
East Lindsey District Council		£43,467	£0
East Riding of Yorkshire Council		£43,467	£39,133
East Staffordshire Borough Council		£26,807	£9,619
East Suffolk District Council		£43,467	£28,349
East Sussex County Council		£26,807	£9,131

Eastbourne Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Eastleigh Borough Council		£26,807	£1,385
Eden District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Westmorland and Furness Council		£1,807
Elmbridge Borough Council		£26,807	£15,577
Enfield London Borough		£86,934	£0
Epping Forest District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council		£26,807	£8,429
Erewash Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Essex County Council		£26,807	£0
Exeter City Council		£26,807	£18,148
Fareham Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Fenland District Council		£26,807	£5,455
Folkestone and Hythe District Council		£26,807	£18,768
Forest of Dean District Council		£26,807	£22,514
Fylde Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Gedling Borough Council		£26,807	£18,613
Gloucester City Council		£53,614	£0
Gloucestershire County Council		£26,807	£15,157
Gosport Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Gravesham Borough Council		£26,807	£14,908
Great Yarmouth Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Greater London Authority		£26,807	£0
Greater Manchester Combined Authority		£26,807	£1,804
Greenwich London Borough		£26,807	£26,807
Guildford Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Hackney London Borough		£43,467	£32,721
Halton Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Hambleton District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough		£26,807	£1,865
Hampshire County Council		£26,807	£14,665
Harborough District Council		£26,807	£25,039
Haringey London Borough		£26,807	£0
Harlow District Council		£26,807	£23,307

Harrogate Borough Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£43,467
Harrow London Borough		£26,807	£11,613
Hart District Council		£26,807	£0
Hartlepool Council		£53,614	£0
Hastings Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Havant Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Havering London Borough		£53,614	£0
Herefordshire Council		£43,467	£14,279
Hertfordshire County Council		£26,807	£26,807
Hertsmere Borough Council		£26,807	£12,573
High Peak Borough Council		£26,807	£16,407
Hillingdon London Borough		£86,934	£0
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council		£26,807	£18,468
Horsham District Council		£26,807	£0
Hounslow London Borough		£43,467	£20,573
Hull City Council		£26,807	£17,088
Huntingdonshire		£26,807	£19,107
Hyndburn Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Ipswich Borough Council		£26,807	£22,195
Isle of Wight Council		£26,807	£26,807
Isles of Scilly Council		£26,807	£26,807
Islington London Borough		£43,467	£43,467
Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough		£43,467	£40,487
Kent County Council		£26,807	£19,307
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council		£43,467	£0
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough		£26,807	£6,807
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council		£43,467	£32,137
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Lambeth London Borough		£43,467	£1,291
Lancashire County Council		£26,807	£2,149
Lancaster City Council		£26,807	£0
Leeds City Council		£43,467	£0
Leicester City Council		£26,807	£0
Leicestershire County Council		£26,807	£18,140
Lewes District Council		£53,614	£0
Lewisham London Borough		£43,467	£20,013
Lichfield District Council		£26,807	£436
Lincoln City Council		£26,807	£428

Lincolnshire County Council		£53,614	£0
Liverpool City Council		£26,807	£0
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority		£26,807	£24,107
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames		£43,467	£36,367
Luton Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Maidstone Borough Council		£26,807	£18,768
Maldon District Council		£26,807	£11,807
Malvern Hills District Council		£26,807	£0
Manchester City Council		£43,467	£31,467
Mansfield District Council		£26,807	£0
Medway Borough Council		£26,807	£15,392
Melton Borough Council		£26,807	£25,276
Mendip District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Somerset Council		£23,207
Merton London Borough		£26,807	£0
Mid Devon District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Mid Suffolk District Council		£43,467	£0
Mid Sussex District Council		£26,807	£9,355
Middlesbrough Borough		£26,807	£22,567
Milton Keynes Council		£26,807	£0
Mole Valley District Council		£53,614	£0
New Forest District Council		£26,807	£0
Newark and Sherwood District Council		£26,807	£19,522
Newcastle City Council		£26,807	£6,092
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council		£26,807	£18,507
Newham London Borough		£26,807	£0
Norfolk County Council		£26,807	£0
North Devon District Council		£26,807	£0
North East Combined Authority		£53,614	£0
North East Derbyshire District Council		£53,614	£0
North East Lincolnshire Council		£26,807	£0
North Hertfordshire District Council		£26,807	£21,879
North Kesteven District Council		£26,807	£0
North Lincolnshire Council		£26,807	£24,320
North Norfolk District Council		£26,807	£24,977
North Northamptonshire		£43,467	£4,467
North of Tyne Combined Authority		£26,807	£26,807
North Somerset Council		£26,807	£21,807
North Tyneside Metropolitan		£26,807	£2,454

Borough Council			
North Warwickshire Borough Council		£26,807	£15,700
North West Leicestershire District Council		£26,807	£22,108
North Yorkshire Council ²		£231,116	£0
North Yorkshire County Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Northumberland County UA		£43,467	£0
Norwich City Council		£26,807	£0
Nottingham City Council		£26,807	£6,499
Nottinghamshire County Council		£26,807	£26,807
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council		£26,807	£10,650
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council		£26,807	£22,453
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Oxford City Council		£26,807	£3,667
Oxfordshire		£26,807	£5,991
Pendle Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Peterborough City Council		£26,807	£0
Plymouth City Council		£53,614	£0
Portsmouth City Council		£53,614	£0
Preston city Council		£26,807	£14,888
Reading Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Redbridge London Borough		£26,807	£15,807
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council		£26,807	£16,657
Redditch Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Ribble Valley Borough Council		£26,807	£8,449
Richmondshire District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Rochford District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Rossendale Borough Council		£26,807	£23,685
Rother District Council		£26,807	£3,622
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£7
Rugby Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Runnymede Borough Council		£26,807	£11,816

Rushcliffe Borough Council		£26,807	£2,713
Rushmoor Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Rutland County Council District Council		£26,807	£0
Ryedale District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Salford Metropolitan District Council		£26,807	£0
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£3,019
Scarborough Borough Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Sedgemoor District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Somerset Council		£25,273
Sefton		£26,807	£7,347
Selby District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of North Yorkshire Council		£26,807
Sevenoaks District Council		£26,807	£18,768
Sheffield City Council		£43,467	£41,527
Shropshire County UA		£43,467	£0
Slough Borough Council		£26,807	£23,682
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Somerset Council ²		£150,695	£0
Somerset County Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Somerset Council		£24,892
Somerset West and Taunton District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Somerset Council		£24,202
South Cambridgeshire District Council		£43,467	£18,467
South Derbyshire District Council		£26,807	£0
South Gloucestershire Council		£43,467	£0
South Hams District Council		£43,467	£43,467
South Holland District Council		£26,807	£0
South Kesteven District		£53,614	£0

Council			
South Lakeland District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Westmorland and Furness Council		£16,807
South Norfolk Council		£43,467	£0
South Oxfordshire District Council		£43,467	£15,849
South Ribble Borough Council		£26,807	£0
South Somerset District Council ³	Due to council changes from 1 April 23; this allocation ceases from 31 March 23 and becomes part of Somerset Council		£42,297
South Staffordshire District Council		£26,807	£14,707
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority		£53,614	£0
Southampton City Council		£26,807	£5,426
Southend on Sea City Council		£26,807	£21,942
Southwark London Borough		£43,467	£0
Spelthorne Borough Council		£26,807	£572
St Albans District Council		£26,807	£26,807
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£10,627
Stafford Borough Council		£26,807	£13,242
Staffordshire County Council		£26,807	£22,962
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council		£26,807	£4,263
Stevenage Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council		£26,807	£18,407
Stoke-on-Trent City Council		£26,807	£0
Stratford-on-Avon District Council		£43,467	£25,467
Stroud District Council		£26,807	£1,727
Suffolk County Council		£26,807	£0
Sunderland City Council		£26,807	£16,343
Surrey County Council		£26,807	£6,807
Surrey Heath Borough Council		£53,614	£0
Sutton London Borough		£26,807	£0
Swale Borough Council		£26,807	£18,768
Swindon Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Tamworth Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Tandridge District Council		£26,807	£26,807

Tees Valley Combined Authority		£53,614	£0
Teignbridge District Council		£26,807	£0
Telford and Wrekin Council		£26,807	£26,807
Tendring District Council		£26,807	£307
Test Valley Borough Council		£26,807	£21,589
Tewkesbury Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Thanet District Council		£26,807	£14,007
The West Yorkshire Combined Authority		£26,807	£0
Three Rivers District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Thurrock Council		£53,614	£0
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council		£26,807	£15,132
Torbay Borough Council		£26,807	£12,413
Torridge District Council		£26,807	£26,807
Tower Hamlets London Borough		£43,467	£38,907
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£42
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Uttlesford District Council		£43,467	£12,911
Vale of White Horse		£26,807	£8,395
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council		£26,807	£709
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£7,198
Waltham Forest London Borough		£43,467	£13,314
Wandsworth London Borough		£86,934	£0
Warrington Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Warwick District Council		£26,807	£8,256
Warwickshire County Council		£26,807	£0
Watford Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Waverley Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Wealden District Council		£26,807	£22,177
Welwyn Hatfield District Council		£26,807	£25,080
West Berkshire District Council		£26,807	£0
West Devon Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
West Lancashire District Council		£26,807	£18,612
West Lindsey District Council		£26,807	£4,429
West Midlands Combined Authority		£26,807	£0
West Northamptonshire		£43,467	£32,577
West of England Combined Authority		£26,807	£1,040
West Oxfordshire District Council		£26,807	£21,935
West Suffolk District Council		£26,807	£26,807

West Sussex County Council		£26,807	£26,807
Westminster City Council		£43,467	£0
Westmorland and Furness Council ²		£93,825	£0
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Wiltshire County UA		£43,467	£0
Winchester City Council		£53,614	£0
Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£5,091
Woking Borough Council		£26,807	£22,817
Wokingham District Council		£26,807	£0
Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council		£26,807	£5,815
Worcester City Council		£26,807	£20,807
Worcestershire County Council		£26,807	£0
Worthing Borough Council		£26,807	£26,807
Wychavon District Council		£26,807	£5,876
Wyre Borough Council		£26,807	£0
Wyre Forest		£26,807	£0

Table notes


¹Funds in column D were distributed to local authorities in 22/23 financial year and are held by the local authority in a ring-fenced reserve to be used by the authority within the period 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024.

²Grant amounts for 2023/24 for the four new local authorities that were created on 01/04/2023 include the grant amounts that the authorities they replaced would have been allocated.

³Funds held in ring-fenced reserves by local authorities that were replaced by the four new local authorities on 01/04/2023 are provided for information. These funds will be managed by the relevant new local authority.

Annex B

GRANT CONDITIONS

1. The funding must only be used by the local authority ("the authority") between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024 to deliver measures that apply at least a 10% biodiversity net gain, as introduced in the  Environment Act 2021 to planning permissions (unless otherwise exempt) granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

2. Any funds allocated to the authority held in a ring-fenced reserve and held by the authority under the allocation of the Biodiversity Net Gain Grant Determination 2022/2023 No.31/6499 can be used by the authority within the period 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024.
3. When incurring eligible expenditure, the authority must first apportion expenditure to the ring-fenced reserve held under the conditions of Biodiversity Net Gain Grant Determination 2022/2023 No.31/6499 in so far as the authority holds it. The ring-fenced reserve must be spent in full before funds in column C of Annex A can be accessed.
4. An authority must confirm agreement to the grant conditions, by completing the grant acceptance form at Annex C and sending to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by 31 August 2023.
5. An authority must provide updates of evidence of spend incurred against the condition in paragraph 1 and any use of the ring-fenced reserve in paragraph 2, by completing the evidence form provided at Annex C and sending to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by:
 - 15 September 2023 for the period 1 April 2023 to 31 August 2023;
 - 15 March 2024 for the period 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.

Eligible expenditure

6. Eligible expenditure means payments made by the authority or any person acting on behalf of the authority, between 1 April 2023 and 31 March 2024, for the purposes as set out in paragraph 1.
7. If the authority incurs any of the following costs, they must be excluded from eligible expenditure:
 - a) contributions in kind
 - b) payments for activities of a political or exclusively religious nature
 - c) depreciation, amortisation or impairment of fixed assets owned by the authority
 - d) input VAT reclaimable by the authority from HM Revenue & Customs
 - e) interest payments or service charge payments for finance leases
 - f) gifts, other than promotional items with a value of no more than £10 in a year to any one person
 - g) entertaining (Entertaining for this purpose means anything that would be a taxable benefit to the person being entertained, according to current UK tax regulations)
 - h) statutory fines, criminal fines or penalties
8. The authority must not deliberately incur liabilities for eligible expenditure before there is an operational need for it to do so.
9. If an authority is unsure if expenditure planned is considered eligible expenditure they should contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (“the

Department”) at SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk before spending those funds so the Department can confirm if it would be considered eligible expenditure.

10. For the purpose of defining the time of payments, a payment is made by the authority when money passes out of its control (or out of the control of any person acting on behalf of the authority). Money will be assumed to have passed out of such control at the moment when legal tender is passed to a supplier (or, if wages, to an employee), when a letter is posted to a supplier or employee containing a cheque, or an electronic instruction is sent to a bank to make a payment to a supplier or employee by direct credit or bank transfer.

Payment arrangements

11. Grant will be paid in arrears on receipt of an invoice.



12. If at any time the authority becomes aware that payment in arrears is not suitable due to financial arrangements within the authority, the authority must inform the Department as soon as possible. The Secretary of State reserves the right to alter the timing of grant payments accordingly.

Financial Management

13. The authority must maintain a sound system of internal financial controls.

14. If the authority has any grounds for suspecting financial irregularity in the use of any grant paid under this funding agreement, it must notify the Department immediately, explain what steps are being taken to investigate the suspicion and keep the Department informed about the progress of the investigation. For these purposes “financial irregularity” includes fraud or other impropriety, mismanagement, and the use of grant for purposes other than those for which it was provided.

Records to be kept

15. The authority must maintain reliable, accessible and up to date accounting records with an adequate audit trail for all expenditure funded by grant monies under this Determination.

16. The authority and any person acting on behalf of the authority must allow:

- a) the Comptroller and Auditor General or appointed representatives; and
- b) the Secretary of State or appointed representatives;

free access at all reasonable times to all documents (including computerised documents and data) and other information as are connected to the grant payable under this Determination, or to the purposes for which grant was used, subject to the provisions in paragraph 18.

17. The documents, data and information referred to in paragraph 16 are such which the Secretary of State or the Comptroller and Auditor General may reasonably require for the purposes of his financial audit or any department or other public body or for carrying

out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any department or other public body has used its resources. The authority must provide such further explanations as are reasonably required for these purposes.

18. Paragraphs 16 and 17 do not constitute a requirement for the examination, certification or inspection of the accounts of the authority by the Comptroller and Auditor General under section 6(3) of the National Audit Act 1983. The Comptroller and Auditor General will seek access in a measured manner to minimise any burden on the authority and will avoid duplication of effort by seeking and sharing information with the Audit Commission.

Breach of Conditions and Recovery of Grant

19. If the authority fails to comply with any of these conditions, or if any overpayment is made under this grant or any amount is paid in error, or if any of the events set out in paragraph 20 occurs, the Secretary of State may reduce, suspend or withhold grant payments or require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant monies paid, as may be determined by the Secretary of State and notified in writing to the authority. Such sum as has been notified will immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State who may set off the sum against any future amount due to the authority from central government.

20. The events referred to in paragraph 20 are:

- a. the authority purports to transfer or assign any rights, interests or obligations arising under this Determination without the prior agreement of the Secretary of State;
- b. any information provided in any application for grant monies payable under this Determination, or in any subsequent supporting correspondence is found to be significantly incorrect or incomplete in the opinion of the Secretary of State;
- c. it appears to the Secretary of State that other circumstances have arisen or events have occurred that are likely to significantly affect the authority's ability to achieve the activities set out in the Determination;

Appendix 2 / Annex C (i)

Confirmation of agreement to conditions: Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 31/6804 (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024).

Biodiversity Net Gain Grant: 1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024

On behalf of North Yorkshire Council I confirm acceptance of the conditions as set out in Annex B of Grant Determination No.31/6804, Biodiversity Net Gain Grant (1 April 2023 – 31 March 2024).

This completed Grant Acceptance must be sent from the email account of the person accepting the conditions on behalf of the local authority.

Name	Nic Harne
Email address	nic.harne@northyorks.gov.uk
Position	Corporate Director of Community Development
Date	29 th August 2023

Acceptance of grant conditions must be submitted to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by 31 August 2023.

Notes

1. It is a condition of the grant that local authorities must confirm agreement to the grant conditions to claim the grant, by completing this grant acceptance form and submitting it to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by 31 August 2023.
2. The person completing and returning the acceptance should have the necessary authority to do so. Defra is unable to advise who this should be as it is a decision for each local authority to make in line with their authority's internal processes.

Please provide a summary evidencing work carried out in 2023/24 to prepare for mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain in accordance with the grant conditions of Grant No.31/6804 (max. 500 words), and value of works completed. (See notes on page 2.)

For period (delete as applicable):

01/04/2023 to 31/08/2023 / 01/09/2023 to 31/03/2024

Evidence of spend against ring fenced Biodiversity Net Gain Grant Determination 2022/2023 No.31/6499

The authorities came together on 1st April 2023 into North Yorkshire Council. We have been working hard to spend the ring fenced funding. The authorities prior to 1st April 2023 agreed to use the funding to employ planning Ecologists to focus on the processing of planning applications in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain. In April 2023 job descriptions for an Ecologist and Assistant Ecologist post were drawn up and have been submitted for job evaluation to determine the grade (which in turn determines the financial cost over the contract period) and how long the authority could employ these posts for. Due to the large number of staff requiring job evaluation of their roles across the legacy eight authorities it has taken longer than normal to get these posts assessed. We now have these jobs graded and are in a position to recruit at the start of September, with the intention of having new officers in post in advance of Nov 23 mandatory BNG commencement. These posts will join our existing BNG Officer (who was funded from the March 22 round of BNG burdens funding).

Having just received news of the next round of funding, it is noted that the ring fenced funds from March 23 have to be spent before the August 23 grant can be accessed. This was not known in March 23 when the funds were put into ring fenced reserves and was only notified to the authority on 4th August 23, when this round of grant funding was offered.

New Ecologist role (job description can be provided) – Grade J/K – intention to recruit on a full time, fixed term contract for 3 years.

New Assistant Ecologist role (job description can be provided) – Grade H – intention to recruit on a full time, fixed term contract for 2 years.

These calculations take in account NYC pay policy in terms of annual increments, NI, pensions and an assumed national pay award.

Ecologist 1FTE for 3 years	= £152,720.77
Assistant Ecologist 1FTE for 2 years	= £ 78,426.96
<u>Total</u>	<u>= £229,147.72</u>

Amount of 31/6499 grant held in reserves = £231,116.00

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Total value of works evidenced in the reporting period:	£ 229,147.72
Summary completed by (name)	Julia Casterton
Summary completed by (email)	julia.casterton@northyorks.gov.uk
Date completed	18 th August 2023

The summary of work must be submitted to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by **15 September 2023 for spend between 1 April 2023 and 31 August 2023, and **15 March 2024** for spend between 1 September 2023 and 31 March 2024.**

Notes

1. It is a condition of the grant that local authorities must provide two separate updates of evidence of eligible spend incurred to date: (1) by 15/09/2023 (for the period 01/04/2023 to 31/08/2023); and (2) by 15/03/2024 (for the period 01/09/2023 to 31/03/2024). These updates should be made by completing this evidence template and submitting it to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk

Who should complete the form?

2. The person completing and returning the evidence should have the necessary authority to do so. Defra is unable to advise who this should be as it is a decision for each local authority to make in line with their authority's internal processes.

What detail of evidence is required?

3. We have asked for a summary of activity (max. 500 words), and total value of that activity. You should satisfy yourself that the activity and value of activity has been spent in line with the grant conditions. This value of activity can be any measures that prepare to implement mandatory biodiversity net gain, including staff time. If we require further information, we will follow up with the local authority as needed following submission.

What should be entered in the "Total value of works completed" box?

4. In the "Total value of works completed" box you should enter only the value of expenditure you are claiming under this grant (or under Biodiversity Net Gain Grant Determination 2022/2023 No.31/6499 where funds for that grant are held in a ring-fenced reserve). It should not be more than your local authority's total grant allocation and should reflect the evidence you have provided.

Initial equality impact assessment screening form			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
Directorate	Community Development		
Service area	Planning Services		
Proposal being screened	Approval to accept Defra grant to support work on mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) for North Yorkshire Council.		
Officer(s) carrying out screening	Julia Casterton, Principal Ecologist		
What are you proposing to do?	Accept £231,116 of revenue funding from Defra for BNG preparatory work		
Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?	Secure additional resource to support preparatory work on the BNG		
Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources? Please give details.	Acceptance of this grant will secure significant additional resource for NYC to undertake work on the BNG, a new statutory provision arising from the Environment Act 2021.		
Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYC's additional agreed characteristics			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics? Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important? Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to? 			
If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your Equality rep for advice if you are in any doubt.			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	No	Yes	
Age	X		
Disability	X		
Sex	X		
Race	X		
Sexual orientation	X		
Gender reassignment	X		
Religion or belief	X		
Pregnancy or maternity	X		
Marriage or civil partnership	X		
NYC additional characteristics			
People in rural areas	X		
People on a low income	X		
Carer (unpaid family or friend)	X		
Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.	No		

Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with protected characteristics? Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.	No			
Decision (Please tick one option)	EIA not relevant or proportionate:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Continue to full EIA:	
Reason for decision	This report is solely related to the acceptance of additional DEFRA funding. As a consequence, there are no impacts on people with protected characteristics.			
Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)	Trevor Watson, Assistant Director – Planning Services			
Date	18 th August 2023			

Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk

Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:

Planning Permission
Environmental Impact Assessment
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact climatechange@northyorks.gov.uk for advice.

Title of proposal	Mandatory Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) preparation – S31 grant funding
Brief description of proposal	Proposed acceptance by NYCC of additional S31 grant to support preparatory work on BNG covering North Yorkshire
Directorate	Community Development
Service area	Planning Services
Lead officer	Julia Casterton, Principal Ecologist
Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment	n/a
Date impact assessment started	07/08/3023

Options appraisal

Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

Implementation of mandatory BNG is a new statutory provision under the Environment Act 2021.

Defra provided £10,047 of funding to start work on BNG preparation in March 2022 – that offer was accepted by NYCC and the seven former borough and district Councils of NYs. A further allocation of £231,116 of revenue funding across the eight authorities was received from Defra in March 2023 to cover work undertaken in the financial year 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023. On 4th August 2023 Defra offered a further revenue grant to NYC of £231,116 to support the authority in work undertaken (and to be undertaken) between 1st April 2023 and 31st March 2024. Authorisation is now sought to accept this additional funding which will further support preparatory work on BNG in advance of the mandatory roll out in November 2023 and support implementation of BNG which is an ongoing requirement.

What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible.

The £231,116 of additional grant funding will be paid to NYC as a Section 31 revenue grant. Together with the initial grant funding of £10,047 paid in March 2022 and the collective £231,116 received in March 2023, this means the funding provided for preparatory and implementation work on BNG will total £472,279.

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise greenhouse gas emissions e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	Emissions from travel	X				
	Emissions from construction	X				
	Emissions from running of buildings	X				
	Other					
<p>Minimise waste: Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic</p>		X				
<p>Reduce water consumption</p>		X				
<p>Minimise pollution (including air, land, water, light and noise)</p>		X				

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes over and above business as usual • Evidence or measurement of effect • Figures for CO₂e • Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Ensure resilience to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers</p>	X			<p>In itself, preparing for BNG will not directly benefit climate resilience. However, improvements to nature recovery and biodiversity arising from implementation of mandatory BNG, will have beneficial effects both in terms of helping the natural environment adapt to unavoidable climate change impacts.</p>		
<p>Enhance conservation and wildlife</p>	X			<p>In itself, preparing for BNG will not directly benefit conservation and wildlife. However, implementation of mandatory BNG will have direct positive benefits as all eligible developments will be required to provide 10% net gain for biodiversity, which must be secured and managed for no less than 30 years.</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where relevant)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes over and above business as usual Evidence or measurement of effect Figures for CO₂e Links to relevant documents 	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of North Yorkshire's landscape</p>	X			<p>Implementing BNG will have positive effects in terms of enhancing and adding to the diversity of North Yorkshire's landscape.</p>		
<p>Other (please state below)</p>						

Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal? If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

Implementation of BNG will be undertaken to Defra standard. Defra are currently working to release the BNG metric, which will be used by all England Planning Authorities. Mandatory BNG will be enacted by changes to secondary legislation, which will be accompanied by a set of guidance. Defra and Natural England are working with the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) to produce this guidance. As BNG is mandatory, NYC will be working to this legislation and guidance.

Summary Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

Acceptance of this further funding to support preparatory and implementation work on BNG will not have any direct climate change impacts. However, if funding is accepted by NYC, that will provide significant additional revenue funding to support ongoing preparatory work that will help to ensure that mandatory BNG can be resourced adequately when it is rolled out in Nov 2023 and implemented on an ongoing basis.

Implementation of BNG will as noted above bring significant climate change benefits.

Sign off section

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

Name	Julia Casterton
Job title	Principal Ecologist
Service area	Growth, Planning and Trading Standards
Directorate	Community Development
Signature	<i>Julia Casterton</i>
Completion date	07/08/2023

Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): Trevor Watson, Assistant Director – Planning Services

Date: 18th August 2023