



Department
for Environment
Food & Rural Affairs

Seacole Building
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

T: 03459 335577
helpline@defra.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/defra

8 April 2024

To all Local authorities listed in Annex A,

Dear colleagues,

**Section 31 (Local Government Act 2003) Grant Determination Letter for Biodiversity
Net Gain Grant 2024/25: Grant No. 31/7104**

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 came into force on 12 February 2024 for major developments (unless exempt) and on 2 April 2024 for small sites (unless exempt).

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 2024 to 31 March 2025.

- The funding allocated for the 2024/25 grant is a maximum of £10.55 million.

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

Band	2024/25
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

Note: grant allocations for 2024/25 for the four local authorities that were created on 1 April 2023 include the grant amounts that the authorities they replaced would have been allocated.

This grant is subject to conditions, which can be found at Annex B.

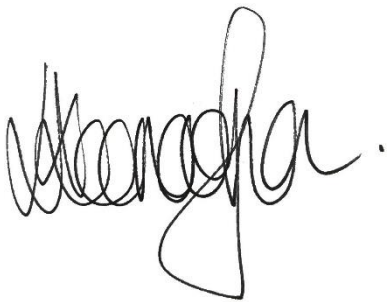
Payment of the grant will be made in arrears. Details of how to claim the grant will be provided on receipt of the grant acceptance.

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 Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for Nature),
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



Lisa Keenaghan
Deputy Director, Biodiversity net gain

Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

REVENUE grant determination (ring-fenced)

Biodiversity Net Gain Grant GRANT DETERMINATION 2024/2025: No. 31/7104

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (The Rt Hon Steve Barclay 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 2024/2025 [No.31/7104].

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.

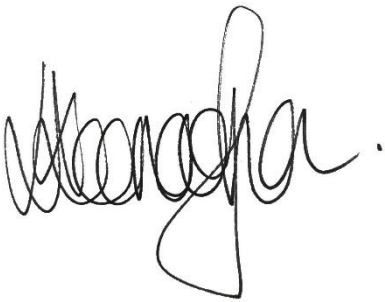
7) **Branding Manual** means the HM Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland 'Funded by UK Government branding manual' first published by the Cabinet Office in November 2022 and is available at:

<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

Lisa Keenaghan, Deputy Director, Biodiversity net gain, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Keenaghan', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

8 April 2024

Annex A – List of authorities

Local Authority	2024/25 BNG grant allocation for period 01/04/2024 to 31/03/2025
Adur District Council	£26,807
Amber Valley Borough Council	£26,807
Arun District Council	£26,807
Ashfield District Council	£26,807
Ashford Borough Council	£26,807
Babergh District Council	£26,807
Barking and Dagenham London Borough	£26,807
Barnet London Borough	£43,467
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Basildon District Council	£26,807
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	£26,807
Bassetlaw District Council	£26,807
Bath and North East Somerset Council	£26,807
Bedford UA	£26,807
Bexley London Borough	£26,807
Birmingham City Council	£43,467
Blaby District Council	£26,807
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	£26,807
Blackpool Borough Council	£26,807
Bolsover District Council	£26,807
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Boston Borough Council	£26,807
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£43,467
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	£26,807
Braintree District Council	£26,807
Breckland District Council	£43,467
Brent London Borough	£43,467
Brentwood Borough Council	£26,807
Brighton and Hove Council	£43,467
Bristol Council	£43,467
Broadland District Council	£26,807
Bromley London Borough	£43,467
Bromsgrove District Council	£26,807
Broxbourne Borough Council	£26,807
Broxtowe Borough Council	£26,807
Buckinghamshire Council	£43,467
Burnley Borough Council	£26,807

Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Cambridge City Council	£26,807
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	£26,807
Cambridgeshire County Council	£26,807
Camden London Borough	£43,467
Cannock Chase District Council	£26,807
Canterbury City Council	£26,807
Castle Point Borough Council	£26,807
Central Bedfordshire UA	£43,467
Charnwood Borough Council	£26,807
Chelmsford Borough Council	£26,807
Cheltenham Borough Council	£26,807
Cherwell District Council	£26,807
Cheshire East UA	£43,467
Cheshire West and Chester UA	£43,467
Chesterfield Borough Council	£26,807
Chichester District Council	£26,807
Chorley Borough Council	£26,807
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	£43,467
City of London	£26,807
City of York Council	£26,807
Colchester Borough Council	£26,807
Cornwall County UA	£43,467
Cotswold District Council	£26,807
Coventry City Council	£26,807
Crawley Borough Council	£26,807
Croydon London Borough	£43,467
Cumberland Council ¹	£93,825
Dacorum Borough Council	£26,807
Darlington Borough Council	£26,807
Dartford Borough Council	£26,807
Derby City Council	£26,807
Derbyshire County Council	£26,807
Derbyshire Dales District Council	£26,807
Devon County Council	£26,807
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Dorset Council	£43,467
Dover District Council	£26,807
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Durham County UA	£43,467
Ealing London Borough	£43,467
East Cambridgeshire District Council	£26,807
East Devon District Council	£43,467

East Hampshire District Council	£26,807
East Hertfordshire District Council	£26,807
East Lindsey District Council	£43,467
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	£43,467
East Staffordshire Borough Council	£26,807
East Suffolk District Council	£43,467
East Sussex County Council	£26,807
Eastbourne Borough Council	£26,807
Eastleigh Borough Council	£26,807
Elmbridge Borough Council	£26,807
Enfield London Borough	£43,467
Epping Forest District Council	£26,807
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	£26,807
Erewash Borough Council	£26,807
Essex County Council	£26,807
Exeter City Council	£26,807
Fareham Borough Council	£26,807
Fenland District Council	£26,807
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	£26,807
Forest of Dean District Council	£26,807
Fylde Borough Council	£26,807
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Gedling Borough Council	£26,807
Gloucester City Council	£26,807
Gloucestershire County Council	£26,807
Gosport Borough Council	£26,807
Gravesham Borough Council	£26,807
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	£26,807
Greater London Authority	£26,807
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	£26,807
Greenwich London Borough	£26,807
Guildford Borough Council	£26,807
Hackney London Borough	£43,467
Halton Borough Council	£26,807
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough	£26,807
Hampshire County Council	£26,807
Harborough District Council	£26,807
Haringey London Borough	£26,807
Harlow District Council	£26,807
Harrow London Borough	£26,807
Hart District Council	£26,807
Hartlepool Council	£26,807
Hastings Borough Council	£26,807
Havant Borough Council	£26,807

Havering London Borough	£26,807
Herefordshire Council	£43,467
Hertfordshire County Council	£26,807
Hertsmere Borough Council	£26,807
High Peak Borough Council	£26,807
Hillingdon London Borough	£43,467
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	£26,807
Horsham District Council	£26,807
Hounslow London Borough	£43,467
Hull City Council	£26,807
Huntingdonshire	£26,807
Hyndburn Borough Council	£26,807
Ipswich Borough Council	£26,807
Isle of Wight Council	£26,807
Isles of Scilly Council	£26,807
Islington London Borough	£43,467
Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough	£43,467
Kent County Council	£26,807
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	£43,467
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough	£26,807
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	£43,467
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Lambeth London Borough	£43,467
Lancashire County Council	£26,807
Lancaster City Council	£26,807
Leeds City Council	£43,467
Leicester City Council	£26,807
Leicestershire County Council	£26,807
Lewes District Council	£26,807
Lewisham London Borough	£43,467
Lichfield District Council	£26,807
Lincoln City Council	£26,807
Lincolnshire County Council	£26,807
Liverpool City Council	£26,807
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	£26,807
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	£43,467
Luton Borough Council	£26,807
Maidstone Borough Council	£26,807
Maldon District Council	£26,807
Malvern Hills District Council	£26,807
Manchester City Council	£43,467
Mansfield District Council	£26,807
Medway Borough Council	£26,807
Melton Borough Council	£26,807

Merton London Borough	£26,807
Mid Devon District Council	£26,807
Mid Suffolk District Council	£43,467
Mid Sussex District Council	£26,807
Middlesbrough Borough	£26,807
Milton Keynes Council	£26,807
Mole Valley District Council	£26,807
New Forest District Council	£26,807
Newark and Sherwood District Council	£26,807
Newcastle City Council	£26,807
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	£26,807
Newham London Borough	£26,807
Norfolk County Council	£26,807
North Devon District Council	£26,807
North East Combined Authority	£26,807
North East Derbyshire District Council	£26,807
North East Lincolnshire Council	£26,807
North Hertfordshire District Council	£26,807
North Kesteven District Council	£26,807
North Lincolnshire Council	£26,807
North Norfolk District Council	£26,807
North Northamptonshire	£43,467
North of Tyne Combined Authority	£26,807
North Somerset Council	£26,807
North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
North Warwickshire Borough Council	£26,807
North West Leicestershire District Council	£26,807
North Yorkshire Council ¹	£231,116
Northumberland County UA	£43,467
Norwich City Council	£26,807
Nottingham City Council	£26,807
Nottinghamshire County Council	£26,807
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	£26,807
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	£26,807
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Oxford City Council	£26,807
Oxfordshire	£26,807
Pendle Borough Council	£26,807
Peterborough City Council	£26,807
Plymouth City Council	£26,807
Portsmouth City Council	£26,807
Preston city Council	£26,807
Reading Borough Council	£26,807
Redbridge London Borough	£26,807

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	£26,807
Redditch Borough Council	£26,807
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	£26,807
Ribble Valley Borough Council	£26,807
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Rochford District Council	£26,807
Rossendale Borough Council	£26,807
Rother District Council	£26,807
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Rugby Borough Council	£26,807
Runnymede Borough Council	£26,807
Rushcliffe Borough Council	£26,807
Rushmoor Borough Council	£26,807
Rutland County Council District Council	£26,807
Salford Metropolitan District Council	£26,807
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Sefton	£26,807
Sevenoaks District Council	£26,807
Sheffield City Council	£43,467
Shropshire County UA	£43,467
Slough Borough Council	£26,807
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Somerset Council ¹	£150,695
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£43,467
South Derbyshire District Council	£26,807
South Gloucestershire Council	£43,467
South Hams District Council	£43,467
South Holland District Council	£26,807
South Kesteven District Council	£26,807
South Norfolk Council	£43,467
South Oxfordshire District Council	£43,467
South Ribble Borough Council	£26,807
South Staffordshire District Council	£26,807
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority	£26,807
Southampton City Council	£26,807
Southend on Sea City Council	£26,807
Southwark London Borough	£43,467
Spelthorne Borough Council	£26,807
St Albans District Council	£26,807
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Stafford Borough Council	£26,807
Staffordshire County Council	£26,807
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£26,807

Stevenage Borough Council	£26,807
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	£26,807
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	£26,807
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£43,467
Stroud District Council	£26,807
Suffolk County Council	£26,807
Sunderland City Council	£26,807
Surrey County Council	£26,807
Surrey Heath Borough Council	£26,807
Sutton London Borough	£26,807
Swale Borough Council	£26,807
Swindon Borough Council	£26,807
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Tamworth Borough Council	£26,807
Tandridge District Council	£26,807
Tees Valley Combined Authority	£26,807
Teignbridge District Council	£26,807
Telford and Wrekin Council	£26,807
Tendring District Council	£26,807
Test Valley Borough Council	£26,807
Tewkesbury Borough Council	£26,807
Thanet District Council	£26,807
The West Yorkshire Combined Authority	£26,807
Three Rivers District Council	£26,807
Thurrock Council	£26,807
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	£26,807
Torbay Borough Council	£26,807
Torridge District Council	£26,807
Tower Hamlets London Borough	£43,467
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	£26,807
Uttlesford District Council	£43,467
Vale of White Horse	£26,807
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	£26,807
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Waltham Forest London Borough	£43,467
Wandsworth London Borough	£43,467
Warrington Borough Council	£26,807
Warwick District Council	£26,807
Warwickshire County Council	£26,807
Watford Borough Council	£26,807
Waverley Borough Council	£26,807
Wealden District Council	£26,807

Welwyn Hatfield District Council	£26,807
West Berkshire District Council	£26,807
West Devon Borough Council	£26,807
West Lancashire District Council	£26,807
West Lindsey District Council	£26,807
West Midlands Combined Authority	£26,807
West Northamptonshire	£43,467
West of England Combined Authority	£26,807
West Oxfordshire District Council	£26,807
West Suffolk District Council	£26,807
West Sussex County Council	£26,807
Westminster City Council	£43,467
Westmorland and Furness Council ¹	£93,825
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Wiltshire County UA	£43,467
Winchester City Council	£26,807
Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council	£26,807
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Woking Borough Council	£26,807
Wokingham District Council	£26,807
Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807
Worcester City Council	£26,807
Worcestershire County Council	£26,807
Worthing Borough Council	£26,807
Wychavon District Council	£26,807
Wyre Borough Council	£26,807
Wyre Forest	£26,807

Table notes

¹Grant amounts for 2024/25 for the four local authorities that were created on 1 April 2023 include the grant amounts that the authorities they replaced would have been allocated.

Annex B

GRANT CONDITIONS

1. The funding must only be used by the local authority ("the authority") between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025 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. The Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 2024/25: Grant No. 31/7104 does not authorise spend of any funds from previous years' grants that are being held in a ring-fenced reserve.
3. An authority must confirm agreement to the grant conditions, by completing the grant acceptance form at Annex C, and sending it to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by 28 June 2024.
4. An authority must provide updates of evidence of spend incurred against the condition in paragraph 1 by completing the evidence form provided at Annex C and sending to SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk by:
 - 15 October 2024 for the period 1 April 2024 to 30 September 2024;
 - 15 March 2025 for the period 1 October 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Eligible expenditure

5. Eligible expenditure means payments made by the authority or any person acting on behalf of the authority, between 1 April 2024 and 31 March 2025, for the purposes as set out in paragraph 1. The work to which the spend relates must take place in the 2024/25 financial year.
6. 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
7. The authority must not deliberately incur liabilities for eligible expenditure before there is an operational need for it to do so.
8. 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.
9. 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

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

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

14. 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.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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

18. 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.
19. 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;