

FOI REF:	14754
RESPONSE SENT:	08/10/2024

Request:

Please find below some questions about how the council is implementing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG):

1. Please can you indicate what, if any, software the council has obtained specifically to help with implementing the following aspects of BNG?
 - a. Validation of applications, including checking that the correct version of the Biodiversity Metric has been submitted.
 - b. Determination of applications subject to BNG, including assessment of ecological considerations.
 - c. Determining if the biodiversity gain objective (biodiversity gain condition) is met.
 - d. Monitoring of planning obligations set out under S106 agreements or Conservation Covenants, analogous to other planning obligations.
 - e. Ecological monitoring of BNG habitats, a new statutory duty required by legislation, including ensuring that individual habitats on a given site are progressing in line with expectations set out in the Habitat Management and Monitoring Plan.
 - f. Statutory reporting of BNG habitat progress under the NERC Act Biodiversity Duty.
2. Is the council generating income, or planning to generate income, by charging BNG monitoring fees? If so, how are you calculating this fee?
3. Please answer the questions below to indicate if the council has made use of the government's new burdens funding for BNG in the financial year 23/24:
 - a. How much of the funding was spent by the council in this year?
 - b. What was the funding spent on?
4. Please answer the questions below to indicate if the council has made use of the government's new burdens funding for BNG in the financial year 24/25:
 - a. How much of the funding was spent by the council in this year?
 - b. What was the funding spent on?



Response

1) None

2) Yes, the council is planning to generate income by charging BNG monitoring fees. At present the council has not agreed how this fee will be calculated and is looking at this on a case-by-case basis.

3) a) None

b) N/A

4) a) None

b) N/A

