

**Oldham Borough Council
Record of Decision**



1. **TITLE:** Biodiversity Net Gain preparation for supply sites
2. **SERVICE AREA:** Economy Directorate
3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To give background on work to prepare for Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) and seek approval to commission work to prepare for BNG supply sites.

4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Director of Economy
5. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED - That:

Prepare for BNG in advance - To commission Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) to undertake preparatory work to for supply sites for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This would enable the council to take a proactive role and bring on board the necessary expertise and experience to identify the best sites in the borough to spend the financial contributions secured through BNG and, in doing so, opportunities for enhancing nature recovery. Upfront resources will be needed for this work, to prepare for BNG in advance of development contributions towards BNG starting to be collected. However, additional burdens funding for BNG has been allocated to the council which can fund this upfront work.

6. **REASON FOR DECISION**

Option 1 - Prepare for BNG in advance - To commission Greater Manchester Environment Fund (GMEF) to undertake preparatory work to for supply sites for off-site Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This would enable the council to take a proactive role and bring on board the necessary expertise and experience to identify the best sites in the borough to spend the financial contributions secured through BNG and, in doing so, opportunities for enhancing nature recovery. Upfront resources will be needed for this work, to prepare for BNG in advance of development contributions towards BNG starting to be collected. However, additional burdens funding for BNG has been allocated to the council which can fund this upfront work.

Option 2 - Do the minimum - To not commission the work set out under option 1 and to undertake the work as and when the developer engages at a later stage. This option may be more costly on a reactive basis and may result on off-site BNG contributions going outside the borough if there are time delays.

Option 3 - Do nothing. Leave developers to find own off site BNG solutions. This would mean that off-site delivery is unlikely to be on the council's own land or within the district and could be anywhere across the country therefore nature recovery would not be maximised within Oldham. This would also mean officers are reacting to developments and off-site recovery needs which is more time consuming than a planned proactive approach.

7. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

options 2 and 3.

8. **INTERESTS AND NATURE OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

NONE

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** Detailed in the report

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Delegated Officer Decisions Non Key and Contract Value up to 100k - WITHOUT MAP.rtf