



EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Further to your information request FOI/EIR 21/22-121 please find your question and our response below.

Request:

I would like to request, under the terms of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the following information:

- When is the Local Planning Authority planning to introduce Biodiversity Net Gain as a mandatory requirement for all small development projects in the LPA's jurisdiction? Please provide a specific date and a short definition of what the LPA classes as a 'small development project'.
- If a specific date has not yet been decided, does your Local Planning Authority intend to introduce a requirement for planning applications to include localised Biodiversity Net Gain plans for small development project within the 24 months following the passing of the Environment Bill? (Please define 'Biodiversity Gain Plan' as any document that is analogous to the type of document specified in the Environment Bill).
- Is there any material that sets out what criteria a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to meet in order to be accepted by the authority for a small development project? If such material exists please can it be attached to your response. If such material does not exist, please provide a brief description of what criteria a Biodiversity Gain Plan needs to meet within your LPA. (Again, please define 'Biodiversity Gain Plan' as any document that is analogous to the type of document specified in the Environment Bill).
- Who is the official at your Local Planning Authority that is tasked with ensuring that Biodiversity Net Gain is implemented for the LPA?
- Does the LPA's approach to Net Gain require all 'Biodiversity Gain Plans' to be produced by an accredited ecologist?

Response:

The Council adopted the Natural Environment SPD on the 24th September 2020.

The SPD sets out East Cambridgeshire District Council's approach to natural environment to provide advice on policy requirements relating to it issues such as: 'net gain' in biodiversity through development proposals; protection and provision of trees; protection of existing nature sites, including technical advice in terms of discharging Habitat Regulation Assessments (HRA) obligations; and supporting the Council's position in relation to the recently adopted Local Nature Partnership vision to 'double land for nature' by 2050 across Cambridgeshire.

https://www.eastcambs.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Natural%20Env%20SPD%20-%20Adoption%20versionAC_0.pdf

The Council consults with the Wildlife Trust and Natural England as part of the planning process. The Planning Manager is Rebecca Saunt.

This concludes your request FOI/EIR 21/22-121

If information has been refused please treat this as a Refusal Notice for the purposes of the Act.

If you disagree with our decision or are otherwise unhappy with how we have dealt with your request in the first instance you may approach foi@eastcambs.gov.uk and request a review. A request for review must be made in no more than 40 working days from the date of this email.

Should you remain dissatisfied with the outcome you have a right under s50 of the Freedom of Information Act to appeal against the decision by contacting the Information Commissioner, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow SK9 5AF.