



Report to: Biodiversity & Environmental Services, and Sustainable Economic Development

Decision Date: 06 February 2024

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Emma Oldham – Biodiversity & Environmental Services
Councillor Matthew Spoons – Sustainable Economic Development

Director Lead: Matt Lamb – Planning and Growth

Lead Officer: Nick Law – Biodiversity & Ecology Lead Officer. Ext. 5333

Report Summary	
Type of Report	Open report. Non Key
Report Title	Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) – Policy and Actions (Appendix B)
Purpose of Report	To inform of the need to amend Appendix B to provide clarity for users of the agreed strategic significance definitions, and present for approval the amendments considered necessary.
Recommendations	For the portfolio holders to approve the proposed amendments to Appendix B prior to publication.
Alternative Options Considered	To not amend the text
Reason for Recommendation	One of the reasons for the proposal to define ‘strategic significance’ categories for use in Newark and Sherwood district was to ensure consistency in the use of the categories in BNG calculations. These amendments are considered necessary to provide better clarity for implementation of the Cabinet decision for users of the Statutory Biodiversity Metric.
Decision Taken	To approve the amendment of Appendix B as per the recommendations.

1.0 Background

1.1 On 23 January 2024 Cabinet agreed to adopt and publish interim definitions to be used for 'strategic significance' within mandatory BNG calculations as set out in Section 2 and [Appendix B](#) of the [Biodiversity Net Gain-Policy and Actions](#) report.

1.2 Following this decision, whilst preparing for publication, it has become apparent to the Lead Officer that additional clarification as to how these definitions should be entered into the statutory biodiversity metric is needed to provide greater clarity and enable effective implementation of the proposals.

2.0 Proposal

2.1 It is proposed that Appendix B is amended as follows:

- Paragraph 2.3: deletion of existing text and replacement with text directing the reader to a new table.
- Paragraph 2.7: move to position after paragraph 2.5 and to become paragraph 2.6.
- Deletion of original paragraph 2.6 text and replace with text directing the reader to a new table, and this text to then form a new paragraph 2.7.
- Paragraph 2.9 - minor, non-material amendment to text and directing the reader to a new table.
- Original summary table heading amended to be Table 1: Summary
- Insertion of new Table 2: How Strategic Significance should be entered into the Statutory Biodiversity Metric. A table to provide clear guidance as to how the strategic significance definitions should be used when entering data into the metric, with two table footnotes providing additional explanations.

2.2 The only alternative option considered was to do nothing. This would invariably lead to inconsistency in the application of the agreed 'strategic significant' definitions within submitted BNG calculations. As avoiding such inconsistency was one of the reasons for the recommendation to define 'strategic significance' categories, the 'do nothing' option is considered unacceptable.

3.0 Implications

3.1 In writing this report and in putting forward recommendations officers have considered the following implications: Data Protection, Digital and Cyber Security, Equality and Diversity, Financial, Human Resources, Human Rights, Legal, Safeguarding and Sustainability, and where appropriate they have referred to these implications and added suitable expert comment where appropriate.

3.2 The proposed amendments are not considered to represent a material change to the decision that has been made by Cabinet, but to provide better clarity for those using the definitions when undertaking BNG calculations. Therefore, it is considered that there are no changes to the implications considered and set out in the [Cabinet Report](#).

4.0 Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

None.

