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for Environment  
Food & Rural Affairs

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To local authorities in England listed in Annex A

1 March 2023

Dear colleagues,

**Section 31 (Local Government Act 2003) Grant Determination Letter for the  
Biodiversity Net Gain Grant 2022/23: Grant No. 31/6499**

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 is due to come into force in November 2023 after a transition period.

**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 the transition period.

The grant is intended to further support local planning authorities in their preparations for the introduction of mandatory BNG. 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 2022 to 31 March 2023.

- Total funding allocated for 2022/23 is a maximum of £10.55 million.

Further funding for the remainder of the transition period for the period 1 April 2023 – 31 October 2023 will be confirmed in due course but is expected to be a maximum of £6.16 million (provisional). This will be followed by further new burdens funding following commencement of the requirement in November 2023.

**The funding allocated for 2023/24 is provisional as it relates to a future financial year, but would only change in exceptional circumstances. Defra will confirm this early in the 2023/24 financial year. This funding will also be ring-fenced for the purposes of delivering mandatory biodiversity net gain from November 2023.**

The grant amount for each local authority includes:

- 1) One off set up and preparation costs – core tasks in the transition period including familiarisation with guidance and adjustment of existing processes and systems to accept net gain data from the metric/biodiversity gain information.
- 2) Preparation for BNG assessment - an amount per authority to prepare to assess biodiversity gain plans from November 2023. Higher or lower future demand is estimated using the number of planning applications over a 3-year historical average. Authorities are grouped. Defra will keep this allocation under review as evidence of BNG practice becomes available, and in line with the New Burdens Doctrine.

Local authorities have been placed in one of two bands based on element 2, with the amount per authority listed at Annex A.

Band	2022/23	2023/24 (provisional)
Band 1 (authorities with 500 or fewer applications that fall within the scope of BNG)	£26,807	£15,638
Band 2 (authorities with 501 or more applications that fall within the scope of BNG)	£43,467	£25,356

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

Purchase orders for 2022/23 will be distributed to local authorities once the grant conditions have been accepted. Local authorities will then need to invoice against their purchase order to claim their grant.

#### Enquiries

For all enquiries about BNG please contact  
[SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk](mailto:SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk)

Signed by authority of the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.



Rachel Fisher  
Deputy Director, Land Use

## **REVENUE grant determination (ring-fenced)**

### **Biodiversity Net Gain Grant GRANT DETERMINATION 2022/2023: No 31/6499**

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey 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 2022/2023 [No31/6499].

#### **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 make the preparations necessary to apply a minimum 10% increase in biodiversity to planning permissions (unless otherwise exempt) granted under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 from November 2023.

#### **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

Rachel Fisher, Deputy Director, Land Use, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rachel F.', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

1 March 2023

## ANNEX A

<b>Authorities to which grant is to be paid</b>	<b>Amount of grant to be paid</b>	
	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24 (Provisional)</b>
Bath and North East Somerset Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bristol Council	£43,467	£25,356
South Gloucestershire Council	£43,467	£25,356
North Somerset Council	£26,807	£15,638
Luton Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bedford UA	£26,807	£15,638
Central Bedfordshire UA	£43,467	£25,356
Bracknell Forest Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
West Berkshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Reading Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Slough Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wokingham District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Milton Keynes Council	£26,807	£15,638
Buckinghamshire County Council	£43,467	£25,356
Peterborough City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cambridgeshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cambridge City Council	£26,807	£15,638
East Cambridgeshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Fenland District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Cambridgeshire District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Huntingdonshire	£26,807	£15,638
Halton Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Warrington Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cheshire East UA	£43,467	£25,356
Cheshire West and Chester UA	£43,467	£25,356
Hartlepool Council	£26,807	£15,638
Middlesbrough Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cornwall County UA	£43,467	£25,356
Cumbria County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Allerdale Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Barrow-in-Furness District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Carlisle City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Copeland Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Eden District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Lakeland District Council	£26,807	£15,638

Derby City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Derbyshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Amber Valley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bolsover District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Chesterfield Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Derbyshire Dales District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Erewash Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
High Peak Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
North East Derbyshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Derbyshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Plymouth City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Torbay Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Devon County Council	£26,807	£15,638
East Devon District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Exeter City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Mid Devon District Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Devon District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Hams District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Teignbridge District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Torridge District Council	£26,807	£15,638
West Devon Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Dorset Council	£43,467	£25,356
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council	£43,467	£25,356
Darlington Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Durham County UA	£43,467	£25,356
Brighton and Hove Council	£43,467	£25,356
East Sussex County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Eastbourne Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hastings Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Lewes District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rother District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wealden District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Southend-on-Sea Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Thurrock Council	£26,807	£15,638
Essex County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Basildon District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Braintree District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Brentwood Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Castle Point Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Chelmsford Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Colchester Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Epping Forest District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Harlow District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Maldon District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rochford District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tendring District Council	£26,807	£15,638

Uttlesford District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Gloucestershire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cheltenham Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cotswold District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Forest of Dean District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Gloucester City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stroud District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tewkesbury Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Portsmouth City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Southampton City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hampshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
East Hampshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Eastleigh Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Fareham Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Gosport Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hart District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Havant Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
New Forest District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rushmoor Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Test Valley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Winchester City Council	£26,807	£15,638
County of Herefordshire District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Worcestershire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bromsgrove District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Redditch Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Worcester City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wychavon District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wyre Forest	£26,807	£15,638
Malvern Hills District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hertfordshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Broxbourne Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Dacorum Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
East Hertfordshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hertsmere Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Hertfordshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
St Albans District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stevenage Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Three Rivers District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Watford Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Welwyn Hatfield District Council	£26,807	£15,638
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	£43,467	£25,356
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	£26,807	£15,638
North East Lincolnshire Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Lincolnshire Council	£26,807	£15,638
Isle of Wight Council	£26,807	£15,638

Medway Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Kent County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Ashford Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Canterbury City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Dartford Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Dover District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Gravesham Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Maidstone Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Sevenoaks District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Folkestone and Hythe District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Swale Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Thanet District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Blackpool Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Lancashire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Burnley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Chorley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Fylde Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hyndburn Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Lancaster City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Pendle Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Preston city Council	£26,807	£15,638
Ribble Valley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rossendale Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Ribble Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
West Lancashire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wyre Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Leicester City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rutland County Council District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Leicestershire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Blaby District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Charnwood Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Harborough District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Melton Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
North West Leicestershire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Lincolnshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Boston Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
East Lindsey District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Lincoln City Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Kesteven District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Holland District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Kesteven District Council	£26,807	£15,638



West Lindsey District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Norfolk County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Breckland District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Broadland District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Great Yarmouth Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council	£43,467	£25,356
North Norfolk District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Norwich City Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Norfolk Council	£43,467	£25,356
City of York Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Yorkshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Craven District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Hambleton District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Richmondshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Scarborough Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Harrogate Borough Council	£43,467	£25,356
Ryedale District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Selby District Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Northamptonshire	£43,467	£25,356
West Northamptonshire	£43,467	£25,356
Northumberland County UA	£43,467	£25,356
Nottingham City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Nottinghamshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Ashfield District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bassetlaw District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Broxtowe Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Gedling Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Mansfield District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Newark and Sherwood District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rushcliffe Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Oxfordshire	£26,807	£15,638
Cherwell District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Oxford City Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Oxfordshire District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Vale of White Horse	£26,807	£15,638
West Oxfordshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Telford and Wrekin Council	£26,807	£15,638
Shropshire County UA	£43,467	£25,356
Somerset County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Mendip District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Sedgemoor District Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Somerset District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Somerset West and Taunton District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stoke-on-Trent City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Staffordshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Cannock Chase District Council	£26,807	£15,638

East Staffordshire Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Lichfield District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Newcastle-under-Lyme Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Staffordshire District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stafford Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tamworth Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Suffolk County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Babergh District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Ipswich Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Mid Suffolk District Council	£43,467	£25,356
East Suffolk District Council	£43,467	£25,356
West Suffolk District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Surrey County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Elmbridge Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Guildford Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Mole Valley District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Runnymede Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Spelthorne Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Surrey Heath Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tandridge District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Waverley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Woking Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Warwickshire County Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Warwickshire Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rugby Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stratford-on-Avon District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Warwick District Council	£26,807	£15,638
West Sussex County Council	£26,807	£15,638
Adur District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Arun District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Chichester District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Crawley Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Horsham District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Mid Sussex District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Worthing Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Swindon Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wiltshire County UA	£43,467	£25,356
Isles of Scilly Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Manchester City Council	£43,467	£25,356
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638

Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Salford Metropolitan District Council	£26,807	£15,638
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Liverpool City Council	£26,807	£15,638
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Sefton	£26,807	£15,638
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Sheffield City Council	£43,467	£25,356
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Newcastle upon Tyne Metropolitan District Council	£26,807	£15,638
North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
South Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Sunderland City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Birmingham City Council	£43,467	£25,356
Coventry City Council	£26,807	£15,638
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Wolverhampton Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council	£43,467	£25,356
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council	£26,807	£15,638
Kirklees Metropolitan Borough Council	£43,467	£25,356
Leeds City Council	£43,467	£25,356
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council	£26,807	£15,638
City of London	£26,807	£15,638
Camden London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Greenwich London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Hackney London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Hammersmith and Fulham London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Islington London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Kensington and Chelsea Royal Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Lambeth London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Lewisham London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Southwark London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Tower Hamlets London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Wandsworth London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Westminster City Council	£43,467	£25,356
Barking and Dagenham London Borough	£26,807	£15,638

Barnet London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Bexley London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Brent London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Bromley London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Croydon London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Ealing London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Enfield London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Haringey London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Harrow London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Havering London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Hillingdon London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Hounslow London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Kingston upon Thames Royal Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Merton London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Newham London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Redbridge London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames	£43,467	£25,356
Sutton London Borough	£26,807	£15,638
Waltham Forest London Borough	£43,467	£25,356
Greater London Authority	£26,807	£15,638
West Midlands Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
Greater Manchester Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
Sheffield City Region Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
North East Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
The West Yorkshire Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
West of England Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
Tees Valley Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638
North of Tyne Combined Authority	£26,807	£15,638

## Annex B

### GRANT CONDITIONS

1. The funding must only be used by the local authority between 1 April 2022 and 31 March 2023 to deliver measures that prepare for applying 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. An authority must confirm agreement to the condition by 30 March 2023 and provide evidence of spend incurred against the condition during this period to [SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk](mailto:SM-Defra.NetGain@defra.gov.uk) by 30 March 2023. A template for returns is attached at Annex C.

3. The Chief Executive and Chief Internal Auditor of each of the recipient authorities are required to sign and return to the team leader of the Biodiversity Net Gain Team of the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs a declaration, to be received no later than 30 March 2023, in the following terms:

*“To the best of our knowledge and belief, and having carried out appropriate investigations and checks, in our opinion, in all significant respects, the conditions attached to Biodiversity Net Gain Grant No 31/6499 have been complied with”.*

4. If an authority fails to comply with any of the conditions and requirements of paragraphs 1 and 2, the Secretary of State may-

- a. reduce, suspend or withhold grant; or
- b. by notification in writing to the authority, require the repayment of the whole or any part of the grant.

5. Any sum notified by the Secretary of State under paragraph 4(b) shall immediately become repayable to the Secretary of State.

6. Subject to paragraphs 4 and 5, if there are funds left over at the end of the financial year they may be carried over into the next financial year. Funds carried over should be accounted for in a Biodiversity Net Gain ring-fenced reserve. All the conditions that apply to the use of the grant will continue to apply to any funds carried over. However, where there are large underspends the department reserves the right to reduce allocations in future years.