

Environmental Information Regulations – Response - 27738

Freedom of Information (FOI) Request-Adopted planning policies and information in relation to Biodiversity Net Gain in England

I would be obliged if the Council could provide me with the following information which relates directly to the application of Schedule 7A of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 (as amended) to planning applications in England.

1. Does the Council have an adopted development plan policy requiring planning applications to deliver a minimum of 10% BNG? Please provide details.

A – No.

2. Does the Council have an adopted development plan policy requiring planning applications to deliver more than the minimum 10% BNG and do these apply to all sites i.e. greenfield or brownfield? Please provide details.

A – No.

3. If no planning policies are currently adopted requiring a minimum of 10% BNG or more than 10% BNG, are local plans in preparation or published at Regulation 18 or Regulation 19 stage, which require these levels of BNG to be met?

A – Yes, information can be found on the below link about the County Council's preparation of a new minerals and waste plan <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/planning-waste-and-environment/suffolk-minerals-and-waste-plan/a-new-suffolk-minerals-and-waste-local-plan>

4. Does the Council provide specific pre-application advice on BNG to developers other than as part of the general pre-application advice service?

A – No

5. Has the Council developed its own Environment Bank to enable applicant's/developers to deliver BNG off-site where the need arise or does it provide a list of recommended sites that have been secured through section agreements or conservation covenants?

A – No

6. Does the Council keep information on the level of BNG which has been provided on-site and off-site since 12 February 2024? If 'Yes' can the amounts in area and linear units be provided?

A – These figures will be provided in our next Biodiversity Duty Report.

7. Has the Council published its Biodiversity Duty Report as required under the Environment Act 2021?

A – Yes [Meeting Documents - Committee Minutes](#)