

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I066883
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1. **TITLE:** Biodiversity Enhancement Project across Bracknell Forest Borough

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Environment, Culture & Communities

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To seek approval for the allocation of S106 funding (£34,530) to support biodiversity enhancements at Bracknell Forest Council managed sites (parks, open spaces and Roadside Nature Reserves) across the borough.

To confirm which financial contributions secured from developers under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 will be applied to the project.

To confirm that the improvements will be implemented by Bracknell Forest Council, Parks and Countryside service, if approved.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services and Public Protection

6. **DECISION:**

That £34,530 of S106 contributions (as summarised in ANNEX 1) be allocated to fund works to enhance biodiversity value at Bracknell Forest Council sites.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

Provision of and access to public open space is recognised as being a key contributor to well-being and quality of life. This includes being central to:

- Character of the built environment
- Social functions; especially health, recreation and play, social inclusion, and community development
- Environmental quality
- Economic vitality
- Sustainability

The proposed biodiversity project supports specific Strategic Themes identified in The Council Plan 2015 – 2019 including providing ‘A clean, green, growing and sustainable place.’

Key measures of success are identified for each strategic theme and the proposed enhancement of the quality and capacity of a parks and open spaces site will act directly to ensure:

- Resident satisfaction levels with parks and open spaces is maintained
- Development plans provide sufficient open space

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not carrying out a project in these areas could lead to funds being returned to the developers.

Not enhancing biodiversity in the borough could lead to a failure to meet the following:

- Maintaining resident satisfaction levels with parks and open spaces and providing sufficient open space as part of development plans. (Key measures of success in the Council Plan).
- Monitoring and enhancing quality standards at sites, protecting and enhancing biodiversity and contributing to climate change mitigation. (Key objectives / core priorities in the Bracknell Forest Parks and Open Spaces Strategy).
- Delivering key priorities in the Bracknell Forest BAP.
- 'Protect and enhance the quantity and quality of natural resources including water, air quality and the natural environment.' (Objective 5. Of the Local Transport Plan 3).

Not funding large scale improvements to the Borough's biodiversity through s106 funding would transfer a financial pressure to the boroughs own capital and revenue funding streams.

The s106 funding will help mitigate the impact of development and will be used in the 'carrying out or assisting in the carrying out of nature/landscaping conservation projects'. All sites identified for biodiversity enhancements are within distance constraints as set out in the s106 agreement for the developments.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** Priorities have been identified in discussion through consultative mechanisms such as the Local Countryside Access Forum and Parish Parks and Public Realm Forum, and consultation prior to publications of the Parks & Open Spaces Strategy in 2012

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Director of Corporate Services

11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None.

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
28 February 2017	7 March 2017