



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Grant Funding for Rural Transformation Projects
Report to	Culture and Environment Scrutiny Panel
Date of Meeting	8 th October 2024
Cabinet Member	Cllr Chinelo Anyanwu, Cabinet Member for the Environment, Culture and Public Spaces
Executive Director / Director	Perry Scott Executive Director Environment and Communities
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Ward(s) affected	N/A
Classification	Part 1 Public
Reason for exemption	N/A

Purpose of Report

1. Members have requested an update that includes details on the management of grant funding in relation to established priorities. Specifically, they are seeking clarification on how the funding is allocated between actual projects and ongoing maintenance, as well as how these decisions are made and funded. This update should provide a comprehensive overview of the processes and criteria used to determine the distribution of funds and ensure alignment with organisational goals.
2. We will cover the details for the current grants that are approved across the Rural Estate, Woodland creation, Landscape Recovery Scheme, Beaver site extension and Eastern Gateway.

Main Considerations for the Panel

3. The historical narrative of the rural estate grant funding is one which has been inspired by the manifesto pledges of 2022.

Pledge 15 - Plant 1M Trees to Create a New Enfield Forest

Pledge 17 - Deliver 10 New Wetlands & Introduce Greater Biodiversity

Pledges 15 & 17 combined were strategically gifted to the watercourses team responsibility since their alignment was logical. Ian Russell and his team have carried out a number of projects which have multiple benefits for the people of Enfield Borough. Achieving so far; rural tree planting 134,000 have been planted by end of March 2024 and tree planting in urban parks has led to planting an additional 16,000 trees. As well as 5 out of the 10 wetlands already completed with further SuDs installations being completed.

Woodland Creation

4. The costs of creating woodland are largely covered by the Forestry Commission's England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO) grant. The grant awarded is based on a cost model that is designed to cover 100% of the woodland creation costs, including an allowance for aftercare to the point where the woodland is sufficiently established that no specific further management is necessary – this is typically considered to be 10 years.
5. The table below describes the Forestry Commission funding awarded for previous phases of the Enfield Chase Woodland Creation project and expected grant award for the next phase, which is planned to be delivered at Rectory Farm, in the Turkey Brook catchment, in the winter of 2024/25.

Year	Area of Woodland	Total Capital	Total Revenue	Total	Capital £/ha	Revenue £/ha/yr
2020/21	25.8	219,501.98	25,760.00	245,261.98	8,507.83	199.69
2021/22	32.8	341,153.91	98,520.00	439,673.91	10,401.03	300.37
2022/23	19.0	176,777.26	66,500.00	243,277.26	9,304.07	350.00
2024/25	18.4	228,568.45	110,100.00	338,668.45	12,422.20	398.91
Average					10,062.52	312.24

Table 4 – Forestry Commission funding for past and planned phases of the Enfield Chase Woodland Creation project

Eastern Gateway

6. This project has added £1.6m to the capital programme for the creation of a new woodland, installation and improvement of footpaths and signage, and installation of natural flood management measures in the Enfield Chase area of the Borough. This expenditure will be fully funded from external grant (£1.1m), Section 106 (£0.1m) and CIL (£0.4m) monies.
7. There is an additional £30k of expenditure for the works already included within the capital programme which is funded through borrowing. This was included in the capital programme as approved by Council in Feb 2023, and is necessary to secure external grant.
8. £50k of expenditure for natural flood management measures will only process if additional grant monies are secured from external bodies.
9. In addition, the project has received £130k of grant for the maintenance of the woodland and pathways from EWCO, which will be spent over the next 10 years. This will form part of the revenue budget.

10. Revenue Budget Impact - There will be additional revenue expenditure of £13k a year for 10 years from 2025/26 for the maintenance of the new woodlands. This is fully funded from the England Woodland Creation Offer grant of £130k.
11. No other revenue impacts.
12. Capital Budget Impact - Approval of this report will result in an additional £1.6m added to the capital programme funded by a combination of external grant and S106 and CIL monies.
13. The table below sets out the addition to the capital programme for each financial year and how it is funded:

	2023/24	2024/25	Total
Capital Expenditure	287,000	1,313,000	1,600,000
<i>Funded by:</i>			
England Woodland Creation Offer (EWCO)	0	580,000	580,000
Green & Resilient Spaces Fund (GRSF)	162,000	308,000	470,000
S106	100,000	0	100,000
CIL	0	400,000	400,000
GLa Rewilding Fund	25,000	25,000	50,000
Total Funding	287,000	1,313,000	1,600,000

14. There is £50k of expenditure on the installation of natural flood management measures which will be subject to securing external grant. There are grant bodies inviting Enfield to apply to fund works of this nature, which is in progress.
15. A breakdown of the capital expenditure is set out in the table below:

	2023/24	2024/25	Total
50-hectare woodland creation	30,000	530,000	560,000
Access improvements 3.4km new/upgraded footpath	199,000	421,000	620,000
Fees & Contingency	29,000	231,000	260,000
Wayfinding and interpretation	34,000	106,000	140,000
Natural flood management measures	25,000	25,000	50,000
Grand Total	317,000	1,313,000	1,630,000

*£30k included in the capital programme for 2023/24 approved by Council in Feb-2023

16. Total cost of the works is £1.63m with £1.6m to be added to the capital programme as requested in this report. £30k is already included in the capital programme as approved by Council in Feb-23.

Beaver site extension

17. The estimated construction cost for the project is £70,000 – this includes a 10% allowance of £7,000 for officer recharge time (to cover fees for project management, design and site supervision), and a further 10% contingency allowance. The cost will be covered by external grants and developer contributions with the following breakdown:

- Rewild London – £50,000
- Section 106 developer contribution – £20,000

The combined external funding contribution is £70,000 and therefore a capital contribution from Enfield Council is not required.

18. On going maintenance is provided by Capel Manor College as this is a joint project.

Landscape Recovery Scheme

19. The Landscape Recovery scheme is one of 3 new Environmental Land Management schemes (ELMs) that are being introduced by the Government to replace existing subsidies for farming and land management. It will complement the Sustainable Farming Incentive, which will support action at farm level to make farming more sustainable, and Local Nature Recovery, which will support action at local level to make space for nature alongside food production.
20. The Landscape Recovery scheme is for landowners and managers who want to take a more radical and large-scale approach to producing environmental and climate goods on their land. The goal of this scheme is to enhance landscapes and support ecosystem recovery through long-term, large-scale, land use change and habitat restoration projects.
21. Enfield Chase has been selected as one 22 large-scale Landscape Recovery pilot projects being delivered across the country and the only London borough. Each pilot is focussed on one of two themes – recovering and restoring England’s threatened native species or restoring England’s streams and rivers. The Enfield Chase project is focussed on the water theme which considers opportunities for improving water quality, biodiversity and adapting to climate change. The project could involve measures such as restoring water bodies, rivers, and floodplains to a more natural state, reducing nutrient pollution, benefitting aquatic species, and improving flood mitigation and resilience to climate change.
22. As well as investigating opportunities for landscape recovery measures such as the reconnection of floodplains and restoration of rivers, wetlands, woodland and grassland habitats, the project will also consider long-term management arrangements including the potential for rewilding through the reintroduction of species that contribute to long-term landscape restoration (such as beavers and grazing cattle). People focussed measures such as improved access and other amenity features will also be evaluated as part of the overall plan.
23. A breakdown of how the Project Development Phase grant funding of £563k from DEFRA is provided in the table below.

Organisation	Amount	Description
Enfield Council	£155k	Project management and related costs
Thames21 (lead partner)	£185k	Collecting evidence and carrying out stakeholder engagement
Other project partners and consultants	£223k	Carrying out baseline surveys and feasibility work, carbon analysis and developing the finance model
Total	£563k	

DEFRA grant funding of £155k is used to fund revenue project management costs. This consists of £85k for 1 FTE PO2 post, to be recruited on a fixed 18-month contract basis, £50k contribution towards the costs of new Head of Rural Transformation (HOS2) post, and £20k for other spend (including legal costs).

Examples of other project partners and consultants are, Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust and The Rivers Trust.

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

24. The work being carried out has been strategically planned to suit a myriad of council objectives. Manifesto pledges 15 and 17 have been strong drivers for this work, as well as the Blue & Green Strategy and aligning to the Climate Action plan.

25. These projects provide opportunities to work in partnership with different teams within the Council, as well as different organisations such as Thames21, Wildlife Trusts, the Environment Agency and Natural England. These partnerships help in promoting Enfield widely to ensure that the Borough receives the maximum benefit from national, regional and sub-regional programmes which will enhance Enfield's reputation across London and beyond. As part of our actioned work, we have been building and fostering better relationships with stakeholders and tenants alike.

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Appendices

N/A

Background Papers

N/A