

DD2612 Appendix 1

ERDF PA6 Derby and Nottingham Metro Biodiversity Project Bid

What is the project? (100 words)

- What is it going to do?
- What will it achieve?

The project will improve urban open spaces within and on the fringes of the two cities. Part of a longer-term programme to open up, restore and connect green/blue spaces across Derby and Nottingham, it will enrich biodiversity by habitats including Local Biodiversity Action Plan sites. This will support greater diversity and abundance of species, as well as facilitating access for people to be more connected to nature, making the two major urban centres of D2N2 more attractive places for businesses to locate and people to live and work. Total spend will be £7,822,530 and the total area restored 99.5 hectares.

How will the project be delivered, to and by whom?

Briefly explain:

- The specific activities that will be undertaken as part of the project
- Who are the target beneficiaries?
- Where the project activity will take place

The project will enhance blue green infrastructure across the principal urban areas of D2N2 (Derby and Nottingham Environs), and deliver biodiversity improvements along the strategic river corridors and environs. This includes the River Trent and the River Leen, coupled with the Day Brook in and around Nottingham and the Cuttle Brook, Eggington Brook, Burley Brook, and Markeaton Brook in Derby. Work will involve wetland creation, wet grassland creation, woodland planting, river restoration, removing culverts, creating rain gardens, and new urban pathways. The improvements will benefit biodiversity, flood management, recreation and amenity value and climate change mitigation. Each partner will ensure outcomes are achieved through a project management approach with a named person being responsible for ensuring that an appropriate updated management plan is in place, that all the benefits are captured and recorded and that appropriate evidence is in place to show the progress of the work over time and how the calculations of such were carried out

Phased project: Phase one

The schemes chosen for this project are part of a bigger long-term plan to restore as much of the river catchment area to a natural state as possible, creating new environments for biodiversity to thrive, creating up stream pooling areas to help reduce flooding, improve recreation areas near watercourses, make land more accessible for visitors, and build more green pathways linking areas across the urban area.

There are a number of pieces in this jigsaw which when linked together will achieve this aim. Many have not been brought forward in this bid, mainly because they were not ready

to be included (plans not finalised, land owners not ready to go, some areas listed under rural stewardship arrangements, schemes underway with other funding, and a lack of match funding). The ones chosen have plans in place, match funding secured, land ownership issues resolved and can be delivered in the window for the project. As such they form phase one of the project.

Future phases will include other schemes across the network and may include further new work in some of the larger areas included in Phase one (e.g. Skylarks, Markeaton Park, Colwick Lakes). They will also aim to bring in other partners from other local authorities across a wider part of D2N2 and private sector landowners, none of which were sufficiently ready to be included in this bid.

The target beneficiaries are citizens, businesses and employees of the two cities and their wider urban areas.

In Nottingham, activities will focus on the parts of the River Trent, River Leen and Daybrook corridors, and opening space to the South of the Trent and along a green way, all improving open space and creating areas for biodiversity. These will help deliver the aims of the Trent River Park Action Plan, first developed in 2008 as a long term strategy for the river's catchment area.

Derby City Council Schemes

These target changing urban spaces into open green habitat. The improvements will open up brooks removing culverts and creating new space for biodiversity, and create new rain gardens alongside a main road into the city. The work will be carried out by or by specialist procured contractors

Burley Brook

This will deculvert part of the brook and create a new wetland. This will lead to a new amenity for the local people in the Normanton area of Derby (an area of multiple disadvantage), create space for biodiversity, and help reduce the impact of flooding across a wider area (thus contributing to economic outputs saving the financial impact of flooding). The work will be carried out by specialist contractors procured for the job. The total is 0.2 Ha for habitat creation impacting upon 65Ha of catchment area where water quality will be improved.

Cuttle Brook

The Cuttle Brook runs through Normanton which is an area of multiple deprivation. This scheme in line with the River Trent catchment flood management plan advocating returning watercourses to their natural state will deculvert the brook create a new wetland area which will boost biodiversity . The total work will regenerate 0.4 Ha of land creating a new amenity for the local people based in the Claxton St recreation ground, increasing the general amenity of the area. The work will be carried out by specialist contractors procured for the task.

Duffield Road Rain Gardens

Duffield Rd is a major artery into Derby. The scheme will bring build green space along the road creating a number of rain gardens with trees and ponds along its route. These will gather runoff and use nature to remove contaminants from the water. Thus biodiversity will increase, water will be less polluted and run off will be disposed of in a move to increase biodiversity In total the area brought back into use will be 1Ha. Work will

be delivered by a specialist contractor procured for the job

Eggington Brook

The works will deculvert an area of the brook, creating a new wetland area which will have wildlife benefits, improve a green corridor and create a BAP priority habitat. A 5 Ha area will see water quality improved and flood risk reduced. A specialist contractor procured to deliver the work will be used.

Markeaton Brook

The work in Markeaton Brook will see an improvement in the brook, desilting it laying new beds, improving the banks. This will improve the quality of the water, for existing species to thrive and new ones to emerge. It will support maintenance of the banks (especially on one area where cows come to drink reducing further erosion) and reduce flooding risks. This will overall improve the amenity of the area (part of a large urban park making it more attractive to visit).

Nottingham City Council Schemes

These target the citizens and visitors to Nottingham. The improvements will open up spaces for nature but as many are by urban waterways will facilitate car free pathways for people to enjoy in getting from A-B, making them accessible to all including people with mobility issues. Three of the four schemes go through areas of high density housing and multiple deprivation. The work will increase variety for users making them more attractive to all.

The work will be carried out by either Nottingham City Council's internal Direct Labour Organisation or by specialist deliverers procured specifically for the scheme.

Colwick Park

Colwick Park is on the Eastern fringe of Nottingham where it meets Gedling Borough council. It faces onto the River Trent. It is an area of lakes and woodland of 96 hectares in total. The work will concentrate on some of the woodland area, bankside and pathway improvements. Invasive species will be removed and native ones planted, wildflower meadows will be put in place, the banks will be made more Otter friendly and bat boxes will be installed. The scheme will improve the green infrastructure for both nature and people. The economic impact will be in attracting more visitors to the park area, and making the wider area more desirable to live in. The total area improved will be 9 Ha. The work will be done by procuring specialist contractors.

River Leen

Along the River Leen, opportunities identified in the Nottingham City Council's River Leen Biodiversity and Access Statement and the Environment Agency's Love Your Leen scheme will be implemented in the Bobbers Mill and Radford area. This will involve restoring the watercourse and floodplain by making space for water through the provision of wetlands, wet woodland and restored river channels. The Bulwell to City Centre urban pathway will be integrated into the improved open space corridor, providing an improved sustainable route. The scheme links to the regeneration of the Bobbers Mill and Cussons sites, both identified in the Local Plan, and the proposed flood alleviation scheme along this reach of the River Leen. Regeneration provides opportunities for developer contributions. The flood alleviation scheme has secured match funding from Defra and this Urban Watercourse Enhancement scheme will complement the proposed flood

defence works and deliver further environmental enhancement. The total area improved will be 21.5 Ha. The work to be done will be by in house teams or specially procured contractors

Daybrook

The Daybrook corridor spans the border of Nottingham City and Gedling Borough. The brook flows through artificial channels along the majority of its route, though some pockets of enhancement have been delivered at the Thackeray's Lane Park and the Valley Road Water Meadows. The scheme will build on the pockets of improvements to deliver a connected blue-green infrastructure corridor. Specific areas of improvement include the restoration of the channel and wetland creation in Valley Road Park in the vicinity of Nottingham City Hospital, daylighting culverted sections of watercourse in the Arnold area and biodiversity improvements to the Vernon Park. The scheme will seek to provide an off-road route along the Nottingham Ring Road through the Valley Road network of parks. The scheme links to the regeneration of the Vernon Road regeneration area, identified in the Local Plan, where the development will transform a length of artificial channel to a more natural state. The Environment Agency is planning a flood alleviation scheme (FAS) for the Daybrook and the scheme will complement the FAS by making space for water and delivering enhanced blue green infrastructure. The total area will be 6 Ha. The work will be done by either in house teams or by specialist contractors.

Tottle Brook, Highfields

The Tottle Brook is a tributary of the River Trent that flows through Wollaton and Dunkirk in Nottingham. The Main River reach through Highfields Park presents opportunities for enhanced blue green infrastructure, through the provision of natural flood management, restoration of historic features including the 'paddling pool' and riparian / biodiversity improvements. Storing additional water along the brook will provide improved protection to commercial properties downstream and improve the WFD status of the Brook. Works would be undertaken as Phase 2 of wider improvements to Highfields Park currently underway. The funding strategy includes LL and ESIF. The total area improved will be .7 Ha

Nottinghamshire County Council Schemes

From a number of possible schemes Nottinghamshire County Council has selected two schemes to go into this bid. Both have match funding in place or near to approval and are ready to go. One complements the work being done by Nottingham City Council and mirrors that of derby City council in that it will improve areas in the upper reach of the River Leen, mainly around the Hucknall area. This will restore areas to a more natural state, create ponds and wetlands thus improving the amenity of areas, increasing biodiversity and helping support flood risk reduction. The second will create a greenway along a disused railway line from Holme Pierrepont national water Sports Centre to Cotgrave Country Park. This will in effect link Radcliffe on Trent and Cotgrave through an off road path instead of having to walk on busy local roads as at present.

Cotgrave Greenway

This is a 4.2 Ha piece of land along an old railway line that will link the riverside amenities at Holme Pierrepont and the Village of Radcliffe on Trent with Cotgrave Country Park and the village of Cotgrave. The link will be from the country park and Grantham Canal corridor local wildlife sites to the South with the green infrastructure assets and designated bio-divers sites along the Trent Corridor to the North including Holme House

Grassland local wildlife site and Holme Pierrepont local wildlife site via Holme Lane. This will improve the corridor for a range of species (Green Hairstreak and Dingy Skipper butterflies, common lizard and Grass snakes, bats, Bullfinch, Song Thrush, Green Woodpecker and Turtle Dove whilst at the same time providing a traffic free route for people to walk along and improve visitors to both villages. Work will be by specialist procured contractors.

Upper Leen

This scheme will see 18.5Ha of land in four sites near Hucknall in the upper Leen catchment area brought into a more natural state. By creating new ponds, wetland and damp meadowland through earthworks, and improving public access through new and improved paths biodiversity will thrive and public amenity will flourish. Housing in development and downstream of the areas will be improved as this will act as an upper river catchment area when there is potential flooding. The work will be carried out by specialist contractors procured for the purpose.

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust schemes

Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT) owns and/or manages a range of sites across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire . They are a charity and are seen as the local experts in wildlife enhancements through management of green and blue infrastructure. They ring two schemes to this project. One makes a start on improving the biodiversity of Skylarks (near Holme Pierrepont) and one improving the Trent river banks facing each other at Clifton Grove/Beeston.

Skylarks

Skylarks is an area of lake, scrub, wood, wetland and meadow just in land from Holme Pierrepont National Water Sports Centre. The scheme will see the existing area owned by the NWT expand by 11Ha with the purchase of such by NWT. There is a plan to improve the biodiversity of the total area with priority actions being pencilled in for this funding round. The work (carried out by the NWT) will see a general improvement of the nature reserve for both wildlife and people with new amenities for both. Costs include land purchase and development

Clifton Nature Reserve/Beeston Sidings Nature Reserve

Both these nature reserves (total 21Ha) face each other across the River Trent. The scheme will carry out general site improvements to both areas opening up space for a greater diversity to flourish and improving paths to make them more accessible to people this improving the amenity for all to use. Work will be done by the NWT workforce.

Strategic Fit

Why is the project considered the best solution to the needs/opportunities set out in the Call Specification?

- Please explain how the proposal fits the Call criteria
- Explain why the proposal should be viewed as the best option (solution)

D2N2's natural environment plays a key role in the economy and attracts business, visitors and people to live and work in the area, and provides a number of economic opportunities such as the growth of the visitor economy, and green economy. The improvements to a number of specific key sites described in this application are part of a strategy designed to deliver amenities, particularly at an urban level, that will make the Nottingham/Derby metro area more attractive for people to live and work in and visit.

The project fits the Call criteria in that it represents a significant investment in blue and green infrastructure to increase the provision of water, woodland and grass habitats delivering a number of socio-economic benefits including flood alleviation and management, pollution management and climate change adaption and mitigation. The project adopts the ethos of Defra's Making spaces for Water and Catchment Based Approach strategies by reconnecting the floodplain and restoring water courses.

As such the project links in with the following national strategies:

Microeconomic Evidence for the Benefits of Investment in the Environment 2 (MEBIE2)
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/6692039286587392>

DEFRA - Green Infrastructure's contribution to economic growth: a review
<http://sciencesearch.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=One&Completed=0&ProjectID=19056>

BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY 2020
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/69446/pb13583-biodiversity-strategy-2020-111111.pdf

NATIONAL POLICY FRAMEWORK
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/6077/2116950.pdf

NATURAL ENGLAND'S GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GUIDE
<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/35033>

NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WHITE PAPER
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/228842/8082.pdf

The project is also a strong fit with the D2N2 Core Delivery Principles:

Impact and Scale: The lead applicant, Nottingham City Council, has developed the project as a collaborative approach with other local authorities and environmental organisations. Partners in the bid include Derby City Council, Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.

Delivery Readiness: The sites in the bid have been identified as priorities and are ready to bring forward. Match funding is available from all partners.

Added Value: ESIF funding will enable significant improvement of these sites when aligned with the available match funding.

Local Value: The lead partner and other local authorities have consulted widely to identify the key sites. The project is also based on an existing biodiversity strategy (6Cs Green Infrastructure Strategy – 2010) which developed a strategic approach to provision of Green Infrastructure as an environmental life support system for healthy communities and ecosystems. This covered the three city area of Derby, Nottingham and Leicester and their respective shires (Leicestershire subsequently became part of a separate LEP area). The selection of sites has also been influenced by the following local strategies:

6CS - GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGY - 2010

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20110606111319/http://emgin.co.uk/default.asp?pageid=184>

GI EAST MIDLANDS PUBLIC BENEFIT MAPPING

http://www.greeninfrastructurenw.co.uk/resources/GI_for_EM_-_a_PB_Mapping_project.pdf

NCC'S BIODIVERSITY CHECKLIST

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/events-markets-parks-and-museums/parks-and-open-spaces/biodiversity/>

RIVER LEEN

<http://gossweb.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/bigdownloads/riverleen.pdf>

TRENT RIVER

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/289105/River_Trent_Catchment_Management_Plan.pdf

TRENT RIVER PARK

<https://nottinghaminsight.org.uk/f/63684/Library/Council-Government-and-Democracy/Planning/>

DERBY CITY LOCAL PLAN – PART 1. CORE STRATEGY: PRE-SUBMISSION

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/policiesandguidance/planning/CD001%20Local%20Plan%20Part%201%20Core%20Strategy%20Pre-Submission%20-%20August%202015.pdf>

Quality, Performance and Efficiency: The project will be carried out by local authority departments with extensive knowledge of biodiversity and environmental work.

Strategic Partnerships and Co-ordination of Market Engagement: The project has emerged from a number of strategic partnerships including the 6Cs and the Lowland Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Local Nature Partnership.

Flexibility and Responsiveness: The partners contributing to the bid include three local authorities who are all involved in the D2N2 LEP and are aware of the need to be responsive to the development and delivery of the D2N2 Local Economic Strategy

This project is the best solution to the needs and opportunities set out in the call specification as it has adopted a strategic and integrated approach of identifying a group of complementary schemes across the Nottingham and Derby urban areas which can, through the investment in both blue and green infrastructure, significantly increase natural capital and support sustainable economic growth. It provides a sustainable and multiple benefit solution to issues of under-utilised public open space and flooding.

1. It has excellent strategic fit with national, regional and local studies and plans.
2. It will significantly contribute to D2N2's output target of 148 Ha. The project will provide 80% of the target for 70% of the available funding for PA6 overall giving excellent value for money.
3. It has a focus of city areas and urban fringes where there is greatest capacity to reap the social and economic benefits due to population density and the proximity of sustainable transport routes.
4. It is Phase 1 of a potential programme which could lead to further opportunities to join up the areas of blue and green infrastructure investment along the rivers.
5. It involves a number of partners working together with the opportunity to share best practice and combine resources to measure the economic benefits.
6. It has the support and involvement of key sector specialists such as the Environment Agency and the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust.
7. It will be managed by Nottingham City Council (with many years' experience in successfully managing ERDF projects) working in partnership with Derby City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council who have a similar successful track record.
8. It will provide impact, is of a significant and ambitious scale and has reach across a significant part of the D2N2 region.

Alternative delivery mechanisms which have been dismissed include:

- a) Individual sites working on their own and missing the benefits of working collaboratively.
- b) Projects focussing on sub-regions which wouldn't allow for the potential link up of the urban corridor between Derby city and Nottingham city (linked to the Metro strategy)

Explain how the project represents an appropriate means of delivering the relevant specific objectives and results of the relevant priorities set out in the Operational Programme?

The project is submitted under Investment Priority 6d – Protecting and restoring biodiversity and soil and promoting ecosystem services, including through Natura 2000, and green infrastructure (Specific Objective 6.1: Investments in Green and Blue infrastructure and actions that support the provision of ecosystem services on which businesses and communities depend to increase local natural capital and support

sustainable economic growth).

It will specifically support green and blue infrastructure improvements in the Derby and Nottingham area covered by the Metro Strategy currently being developed to coordinate activities undertaken in and around this largely urban area connected by the A52 corridor.

Several sites have been identified that can be rehabilitated and restored to enhance degraded ecosystems and improve biodiversity through improved water and soil quality, increased pollination activity, and improved public access and amenity.

The types of work carried out will include the restoration of heavily modified watercourses, improved riparian zones, grassland creation, woodland planting, wetland creation in former industrial areas, and improvement of water quality in urban watercourses. These will be delivered at local neighbourhood levels, improving accessible natural green spaces within local communities as well as some larger sites on the urban fringes.

Explain how the project is aligned to the local growth needs set out in the local ESIF strategy / strategies)?

The project will use £3,911,265 of ERDF which represents 70% of the D2N2 financial allocation for PA6. It will also deliver 117.8 Ha., representing 80% of the required D2N2 target for output indicator C23 (Surface area of habitats supported in order to attain a better conservation status).

It will help to deliver one of the main the objectives of PA6 which is to develop and implement interventions which both protect the environment and support economic growth, through:

- protection of the environment will be achieved through several local schemes in the Derby and Nottingham urban areas to improve the quality of both blue and green infrastructure, including watercourses and land accessible to the public. These are outlined in more detail in section 3.2 above; and
- supporting economic growth through the development of attractive and biodiverse environments. There is a growing need for open, biodiverse and accessible space in cities, and businesses recognise the value of this when they make investment decisions. The cost of undertaking green infrastructure generally has to be underwritten by the public sector as it is hard to make a direct commercial case for it. There are some ways of bringing in private support but this is usually through developer contributions such as Section 106. However, the investment in both green and blue infrastructure will also help to attract investment into urban areas, by creating a more attractive environment, thus supporting long-term and sustainable economic growth.

Please identify any organisations offering the same or similar activity. Explain how the proposed project adds value to and doesn't duplicate existing provision, and does not conflict with national policy?

We have developed this project in consultation with local authorities in the area, the Environment Agency the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust and the Local Nature Partnership in order to avoid duplication of provision and identify the most immediately deliverable important sites. The project is particularly aligned with the UK government strategy ***Biodiversity 2020: A strategy for England's wildlife and ecosystem services.***

The delivery partnership (mainly local authorities) consists of the landowners for each part of the project. All are responsible for the care, maintenance and development of the land.

There is no commercial market for this work and as such there is no-one doing similar work in the area. The project activities all go beyond existing works and minimum maintenance schedules focussed on improving biodiverse areas. The proposed schemes do not benefit from funding available for achieving biodiversity gain available for more rural areas.

Natural England's Green Infrastructure Guidance (2009) developed guidelines for planners and professionals on definitions of green infrastructure; the value of planning for green infrastructure; and how to deliver green infrastructure effectively. The project has been developed in line with this policy and will improve biodiversity and open up land for improving natural habitats and access for the public. This is implemented at a local level by local authorities and land management bodies.