



**DEREK RICHARDSON**

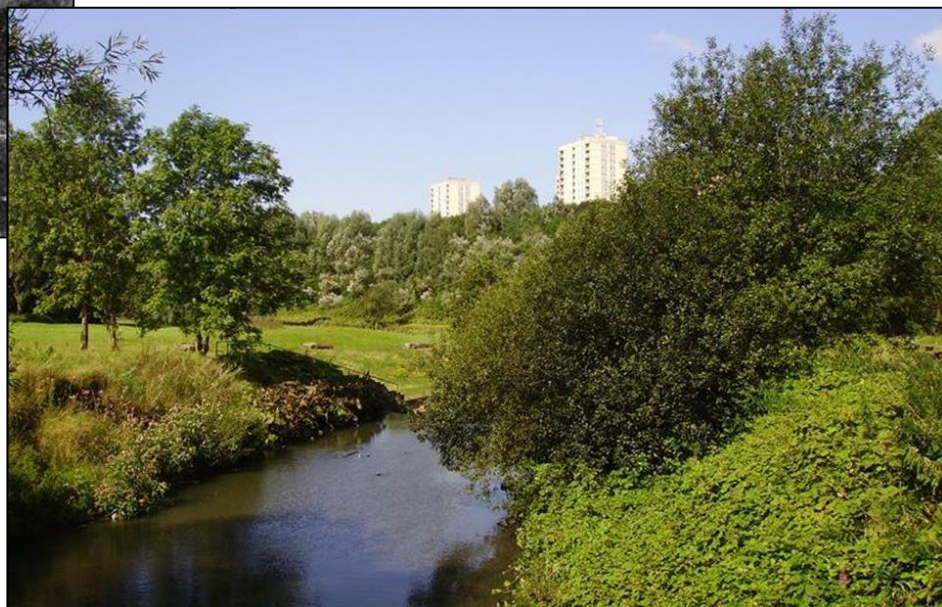
**GREATER MANCHESTER  
ECOLOGY UNIT**

**CROSS BOUNDARY  
WORKING TO DEVELOP A  
SHARED NET GAIN  
STRATEGY**



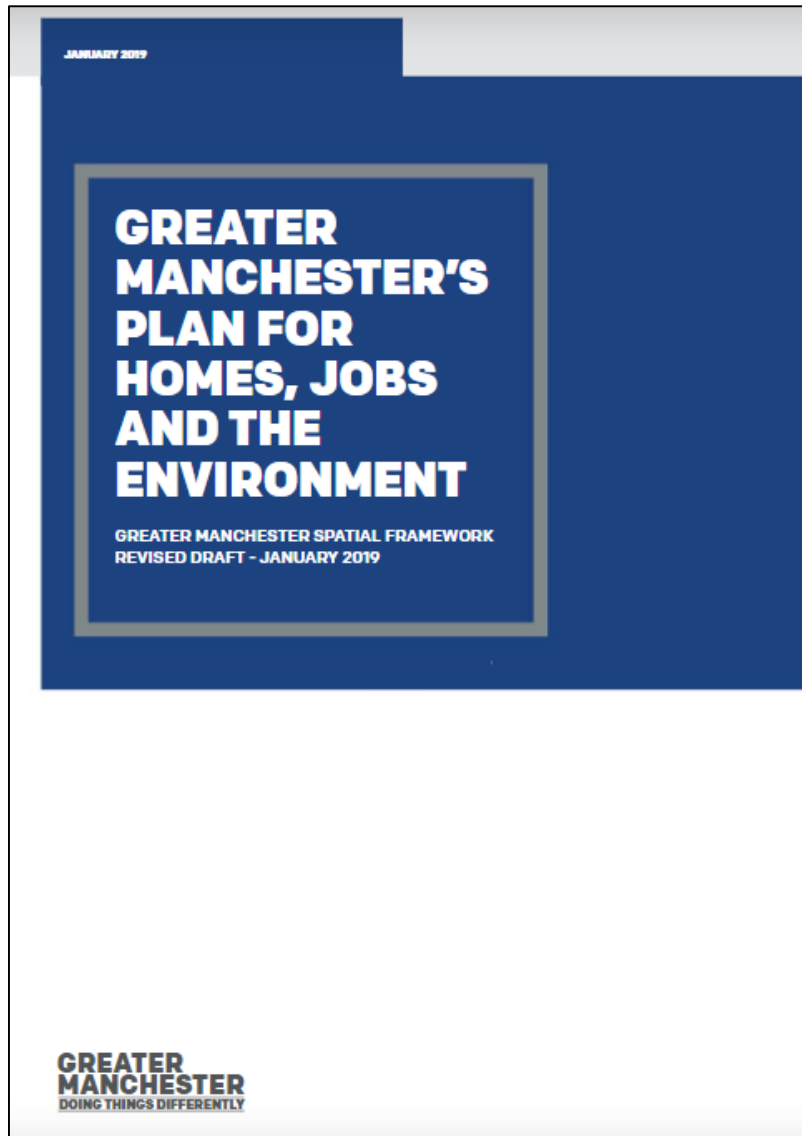






# **The Current Drivers to Develop a Cross-Boundary Net Gain Strategy**





## Policy GM-G 10

### Seeks A Net Enhancement of Biodiversity by -

- Increasing the quality, quantity, extent and diversity of habitats, particularly priority habitats;
- Improving connections between habitats, to protect and enhance the provision of corridors, ecological networks (including Nature Recovery Networks) and stepping stones that enable the movement of species, especially as the climate changes;



# URBANPIONEER

## STRATEGIC PLAN – GREATER MANCHESTER

JANUARY 2018



Environment  
Agency

GMCA

GREATER  
MANCHESTER  
COMBINED  
AUTHORITY





**Priority 3 of this Plan is -**

***“Achieving a net gain in biodiversity for new development”***



# **Greater Manchester Biodiversity Net Gain Task Group**

- **Task Group set up by NE and chaired by GMCA**
- **Began In January 2018**
- **Resourced by GMCA and Natural England**
- **Members of the group included –**
  - **Planners from the Districts**
  - **Natural England**
  - **Environment Agency**
  - **Wildlife Trusts**
  - **United Utilities**
  - **Reps from Redrow, Barratt, Peel Land and Property**
  - **Ecology Consultants**

## What did the Task Group Do?

- Tested a Net Gain approach with key stakeholders – biodiversity metric pilot projects with Redrow, Barratt, Peel and United Utilities – applied retrospectively
- A minimum % threshold for Greater Manchester
- Applied to all development or just some types of development?
- When and how to use the Metric?
- Which Metric to use?
- Roles and Responsibilities – **cross-boundary groups?**
- **Mechanisms for pooling and spending off-site contributions**
- **GM-wide Habitat Banks?**

- **Roles and Responsibilities – cross-boundary groups?**

**GM Natural Capital Group (LNP)**

- **Mechanisms for pooling and spending off-site contributions**

**GM Environment Fund**

- **GM-wide Habitat Banks?**

**Strategic Opportunity Areas as identified in the GMSF**

- Tested a Net Gain approach with key stakeholders – biodiversity metric pilot projects with Redrow, Barratt, Peel and United Utilities – applied retrospectively  
*Conclusion – very difficult to achieve Net Gain on-site without significantly affecting the viability of schemes. Off-site likely a preferred option in many cases*
- A minimum % threshold for Greater Manchester  
*5% - contradicted by later government advice*
- Applied to all development or just some types of development  
*Applied to all developments, but smaller developments should not have to use the metric*
- When and how to use the Metric  
*Still under consideration*
- Which Metric to use  
*Still under consideration*





GMCA

## BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Proposed Guidance for Greater Manchester



Credit – Martin Moss

70044949  
MAY 2019

PUBLIC



GMCA

## BIODIVERSITY NET GAIN

Proposals for a local planning authority  
implementation advice note



Recommendations for local planning authority advice, to be used with the  
Biodiversity Net Gain Proposed Guidance for Greater Manchester

Commissioned by Greater Manchester Combined Authority (GMCA) and funded by Resilient Greater Manchester.



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[www.wsp.com](http://www.wsp.com)

# GMEU ROLE



- Working with the CA and Districts to develop individual Local Plan Net Gain policies
- Developing the Biodiversity Metric 2.0 to be more GM-specific
- Applying the Metric to pilot cases, particularly GMSF strategic sites
- Improving the ecology evidence base to allow for easier Metric calculations
- Developing a list of 'off-the-shelf' solutions for achieving net gain on smaller and more urban sites
- Developing Green Infrastructure Networks and identifying Opportunity Sites and Areas



# GMEU ROLE



- Engaging with Land Owners and Land Managers to compile a list of off-set sites and areas and potential habitat banks across GM
- Encouraging developers and their agents to incorporate Net Gain into current developments (using the wording in the NPPF)



*Thank You*