



## Project Overview

Project Title	<b>Local Nature Recovery Strategy</b>
Main Funding Programme	Local Nature Recovery Strategy seed funding 22-23 and grant 23-25, Biodiversity Net Gain grants 22-23 and 23-25, WYCA PEP consultancy budget
Current Forecast Project cost	£459,376
Funding Applied for from the Combined Authority	£459,376

## Scheme Description

The 2021 Environment Act mandated 48 spatial Local Nature Recovery Strategies. The CA is the responsible authority for the first Local Nature Recovery Strategy for West Yorkshire. This will identify opportunities for nature's recovery, specifically for boosting biodiversity and, where appropriate, wider environmental benefits (e.g. flood mitigation) and co-benefits (e.g. health). Local Nature Recovery Strategies will be re-published every 3-10 years.

The scheme will develop the West Yorkshire Nature Recovery Strategy, comprising a statement of Biodiversity Priorities and a Habitat Map by mid-2025 to enable better understanding of the data to support species and habitat workstreams.

## Business Case Summary

### Strategic Case

The 2021 Environment Act enacted a commitment to a Nature Recovery Network made in the government's 2018 25-year Environment Plan to restore and enhance nature across England. Local Nature Recovery Strategies are a key part of that.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy provides the policy framework to direct change to achieve ecological enhancements across the region. It complements the West Yorkshire Plan and Climate and Environment Plan and proposes measures for habitat restoration, particularly where these could also deliver wider environmental benefits, such as flood resilience. It supports and builds on Combined Authority's Blue-Green Infrastructure Strategy which includes measures

such as new woodland areas and peat restoration among its delivery aims and the West Yorkshire Low Emission Strategy, which includes priorities relating to air quality. Further alignment with policies and strategies and the Mayoral pledges has been set out in the business case.

The Local Nature Recovery Strategy primarily focuses on the Mayoral priorities and pledges for 'Tackle the Climate Emergency and Protect our Environment' and 'Support Local Businesses and Be a Champion for Our Regional Economy'.

### Economic Case

Options for delivery were assessed as part of the business case submission leading to the selection of the preferred option. Due to the nature of the scheme, a benefit cost ratio has not been calculated and value for money is achieved through the strategic value of the scheme.

### Commercial Case

Procurement for work packages is ongoing and expected to be completed by mid-2024 to enable delivery of the scheme. Procurement is being undertaken in line with the Combined Authority's processes and procedures.

### Financial Case

The WY-Local Nature Recovery Strategy scheme has a total of £459,376.

Of this, Local Nature Recovery Strategy grants comprise £345,715 and Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG) grants comprise £63,661. The Combined Authority has contributed a further £50,000 from its internal consultancy budget.

### Management Case

This scheme will be managed by the Combined Authority. A Steering Group comprising representatives from Supporting Authorities and key partnerships, including Rivers Trust, Environment Agency, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, White Rose Forest, Natural England and others from the West Yorkshire districts, meets every three weeks to oversee the work of the small internal project team and sub-groups.