



REQUEST 17461

How does the local authority access ecological expertise? Is it through:

- a. in-house ecological staff within the local authority,
- b. through a Service Level Agreement/shared resource with another local authority,
- c. through a Service Level Agreement with another body e.g. Wildlife Trust,
- d. through other external expertise e.g. consultants,
- e. no access to ecological expertise?

If it is a mixture of the above, could you please specify what the arrangements are.

I am specifically looking for how the authority accesses staff/resources for implementing, delivering, monitoring and reporting on biodiversity net gain and other natural environment functions.

RESPONSE

- a. Through the Greater Manchester Ecology Unit (GMEU), which is operated through Tameside Council, and through a Biodiversity Officer based within the Corporate Land Management Team.
- b. Yes, GMEU as above, which Greater Manchester Councils (and possibly beyond) utilise for ecological expertise.
- c. Through a Service Contract with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust – Wigan reserve staff.
- d. Independent external consultants are used for the design and implementation of major projects.
- e. Not applicable, see above.