



Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain for Greater Manchester.

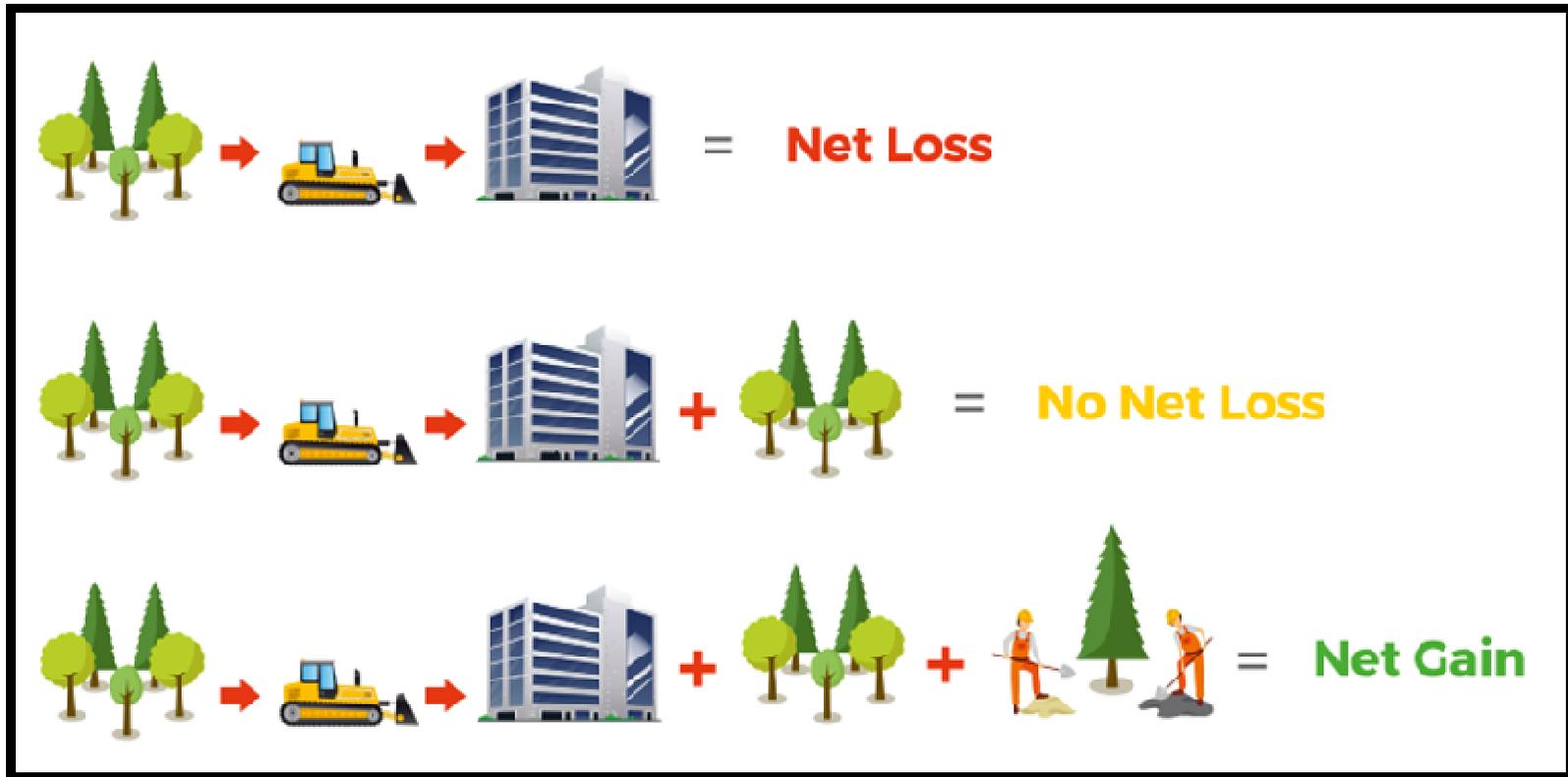
An overview and update from the Greater Manchester Natural Capital Group to the Planning and Housing Commission

12th September 2019



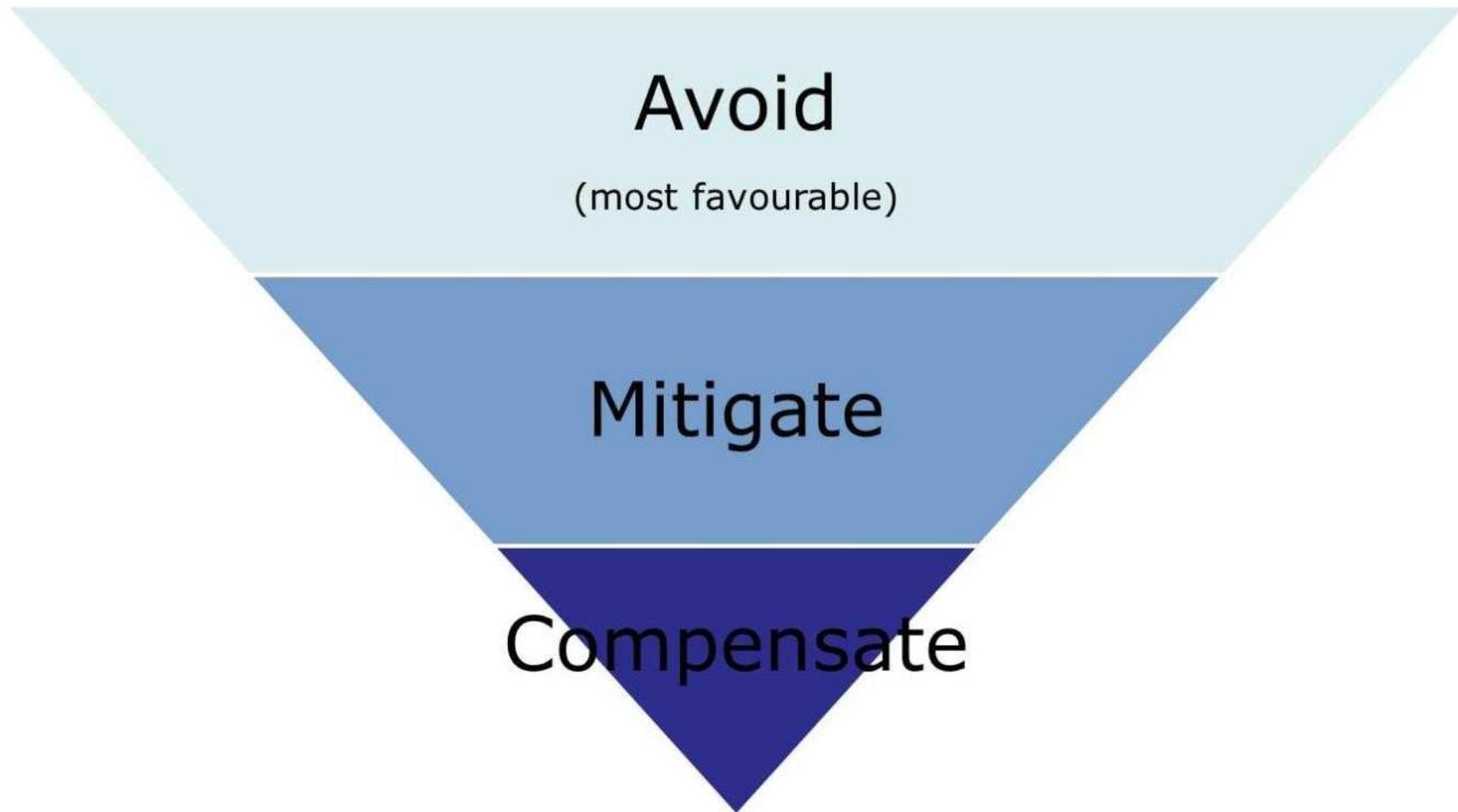
- What is Biodiversity Net Gain?
- National Policy context: Moving towards Mandatory Net Gain
- Existing Examples
- Local Policy context: A Greater Manchester Approach
- Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain for Greater Manchester
 - Net Gain Task Group and Roadmap
 - Tools and Training
 - Habitat Banking and Spatial Prioritisation
- Conclusions
- Next Steps

What is Biodiversity Net Gain?



Biodiversity net gain is when a development leaves biodiversity in a better state than which it was found

The Mitigation Hierarchy





Planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment by ... minimizing impacts on and providing net gains for biodiversity

(National Planning Policy Framework (2019))

- 25 Year Environment Plan (2019) and consultation on Mandatory Net Gain (2019)
- Environment Bill (2019/2020?)



- Mandatory on all development types
- 10% Biodiversity Net Gain
- Defra Metric should be used to measure biodiversity
- Mitigation hierarchy should be followed
- Support for a 'spatial hierarchy' to incentivise on site and local compensation where appropriate.
- Local Nature Recovery Strategies should inform off-site compensation



- Working with influential partners such as Natural England and the Wildlife Trust – e.g. Dorset
- Putting in place an in house team of self financing staff – e.g. Warwickshire
- Focussing on local flagship species – e.g. South Devon (a collaboration of LPAs)
- Embedding in planning policy with a Biodiversity Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – e.g. Litchfield



- Greater Manchester; the Urban Pioneer
- Greater Manchester Strategy 'Our People our Place'
- 5 Year Environment Plan
- Greater Manchester Spatial Framework
- Greater Manchester Infrastructure Programme
- Local Authority Plans
- Natural Capital Accounts and Investment Plan
- Nature Recovery Network

What benefits will Biodiversity Net Gain bring?



- Supporting local biodiversity gains (increasing quality of developments and local greenspaces)
- Generating new investment into local and regional strategically important biodiversity sites through Habitat Banking and bespoke offsetting projects
- Joining up environmental and non-environmental funding models to support a sustainable city region and deliver the Mayor's Zero Carbon Target.
 - GM Environment Fund
 - Carbon Banking/Offsetting/Sustainable Drainage/Local parks funding models
 - Pond Creation for Great Crested Newts to support District Level Licensing
 - New Environmental Land Management Scheme
 - Supporting farm-scale natural capital plans
 - Major Infrastructure Projects (HS2, Green Corridor)
 - External funding bids



Delivering Biodiversity Net Gain for Greater Manchester: The Net Gain Task Group

Overview and Progress Update

The Net Gain Task Group and Roadmap



The Task Group

- Established by and reports to Natural Capital Group, working closely with Planning Officers Group
- Membership includes: major developers and housebuilders, local planning authorities, NGOs and Government agencies.
- Chaired by the Combined Authority
- Facilitated by Natural England

The Roadmap sets out how partners and stakeholders will work together to embed biodiversity net gain. This includes:

- Developing practical guidance and testing on pilot sites (informing how and when Biodiversity Net Gain will be adopted at a Greater Manchester level)
- Integrating Biodiversity Net Gain with wider policy and strategies in Greater Manchester
- Setting out an approach to support off-site delivery (Habitat Banking and Offsetting)
- Providing training for planners, developers and consultants
- Developing a funding model to support delivery in Greater Manchester



Tools

- Adopt the Defra Metric for measuring Biodiversity Net Gain where this is required
- Testing the Metric in Greater Manchester and influencing version 2.0
- Developing tools to support practical decision-making at a local and City Region level

Training

- Regular attendance and updates to Planning Officers Group
- Overview presentations and awareness-raising activities with Planning Officers
- More is needed and will be delivered

Habitat Banking and Spatial Prioritisation – Many questions and options to work through and agree



- Habitat Banks will support Biodiversity Net Gain and contribute to wider Greater Manchester objectives to support the people of Greater Manchester (Where should they be? And Who should be responsible for oversight and monitoring)
- Identifying and Assessing Options for Habitat Banking (how will they be delivered and maintained?)
- Analysing need (how many will be needed?)
- Outlining the role of Habitat Banks in supporting planning decisions (when will they be needed?)
- All underpinned but a strong relationship with Local Planning Authorities and existing processes



- Collaboration works and is helping us to determine the right scale for delivery
- A road map helps us know the direction of travels with lots of choices along the way.
- Clear consistent policy at a Greater Manchester and local level is vital
- Biodiversity net gain will bring in funding but it needs kick starting
- There is a funding and resource demand to set up the mechanisms required, review assessments and oversee delivery
- Managing offsetting requirements across Greater Manchester and local planning authority boundaries is one of the most difficult things to sort out

Next Steps



- Understand likely demand / need and how we deliver across Greater Manchester including supporting forerunners
- Establish the mechanism to coordinate and manage delivery of biodiversity net gain that is fully supported by Local Planning Authorities
- Engaging with all 10 districts and more Greater Manchester developers to embed the principles and approach at a local level
- Report back to the next PHC on recommendation for a preferred approach.
- Continued engagement with Defra to inform National Net Gain Policy and delivery