



## **ERDF Small Habitats Grants Decision Board**

Date: Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2018  
10:00 – 12:00

Venue: Civic Suite – Room 5 – Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council

Attendees: Liz Grove (LG)- SMBC  
Bali Dhugga (BD) –SMBC  
Lucy Bradley (LB)-SMBC  
Jennifer Blakeman (JB)– SMBC  
Matthew Lawrence (ML) – Environment Agency  
Justine Lloyd (JL)– Lichfield District Council  
Corrine O’Hare(CO’H) – Tamworth Borough Council  
James Dennison(JD) – Staffordshire Wildlife Trust  
Simon Needle (SN)– Birmingham City Council and Birmingham and  
Black Country Wildlife Trust  
Helen Hone (HH)– Warwickshire Wildlife Trust

1. LG explained the Terms of Reference for the Small Habitats Decision Board and the ERDF regulations. The funding is split into the 2 areas – ‘More Developed’ and ‘Transitional’ areas.
2. Declaration of interest forms were returned to the Council from all members of the Decision Board.
3. Liz Grove (LG) was elected as chair and James Dennison (JD) as deputy chair of the Decision Board
4. Conflicts of Interest for all applications were noted and declarations made as applications were assessed.
5. Evaluations –Expression of interests

Out of 15 Expression of Interests received, 11 were invited to full application. (Please see page 3 for details.) It should be noted that the value and the hectares of biodiversity improvements are expected to change as the applicants go through the full application process.

All the identified actions will be followed up by SMBC and full application forms will be sent out to successful applicants

6. After the evaluation of the expression of interest LG informed the board that the ERDF eligibility rules would apply to all applicants. SMBC could not fund grant recipients retrospectively. A report is going to cabinet on 11.10.18 to request that SMBC can pay smaller grant organisations before SMBC have claimed and received the funds from DCLG.

- A contract will be issued to successful grant recipients which will mirror the DCLG contract.
- The grant recipient would have to hold a seven year maintenance agreement after works have been completed.
- A 'suitably qualified ecologist' will be required to undertake ecological surveys prior to and after works have been completed so that improvements can be demonstrated and measured. This needs to be factored into project proposals.
- The end date for the Small Habitats grants is Dec 2020. Please note that this is the defrayal date. The actual work will need to be completed by October 2020.

#### **A.O.B**

The Decision board asked when grant recipients are likely to hear that they are successful so they can commence the projects. LG said that SMBC needed to look at the funding allocation split for the grants received between 'More developed areas' and 'Transitional' areas. This should be done by next week. The full applications will need to be returned by 17 December 2018.

On the 7 January at the next Board meeting the full applications will be presented to ensure a good strategic fit and value for money and ensure compliance with the Greater Birmingham and Solihull Local Enterprise Partnership ESIF Strategy.

The Environment Agency asked if there was likely to be another round of grant funding. This is most likely, however it depends on the eligibility of the first round of grant funding.

#### **Close of meeting**

#### **Date of next meeting**

**7 January 2019 – Solihull Council**

### Small Habitats Grants Programme - EOI's Received

	<b>Name of project</b>	<b>Organisation / Main Contact</b>	<b>Total Project Cost £</b>	<b>Amount Requested £</b>	<b>Hectares Improved</b>
<b>1</b>	Lowland Heathland Restoration	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - James Dennison	60,000	24,000	110
<b>2</b>	Tucklesholme Quarry, East Staffs	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - James Dennison	50,000	20,000	10
<b>3</b>	Amington Community Woodland Project	Tamworth Borough Council - Corinne O'Hare	600,000	240,000	8
<b>4</b>	Yoxhall Riverside Regeneration	Yoxhall Parish Council - Diana Muir	32,000	19,200	0.81
<b>5</b>	Arrow Valley Project	Redditch Borough Council - Thomas Curwell	500,000	200,000	4.5
<b>6</b>	Stepping in to Nature	Hednesford in Partnership - Councillor Paul Woodhead	95000	38,000	2
<b>7</b>	Deers Leep Woods	Birmingham & Black Country Wildlife	62500	37,500	4.3
<b>8</b>	Cumpwood Weir	Staffordshire Wildlife Trust - Ian Wykes	50000	20,000	0.25
<b>9</b>	Burton Washlands	East Staffordshire Borough Council - Micheal Hovers	60000	36,000	8.5
<b>10</b>	River Blythe	Warwickshire Wildlife Trust - Gina Rowe	63833	38,300	6.35
<b>11</b>	The Cole Valley	Birmingham City Council - Hussein Kudah	225,000	135,000	13
			<b>1,798,333</b>	<b>808,000</b>	<b>167.71</b>