

OFFICER DECISION RECORD

General guidance note: Please complete using Plain English, avoiding acronyms and use of jargon; this will be a published document so please be mindful of a public audience in completing this decision record.

Decision Title: Green Recovery Fund – investment Decisions			
Decision reference number: <i>(Democratic Services to add)</i>			
Decision date: 28 June 2023			
Background / reason for decision: The paper taken to CEOs was to provide clarity on budgets to them as well as asking for decisions and indicative allocations for budgets within the Green Recovery Fund.			
Options considered: N/A			
Decision: Support was given for the allocation of Nature Recovery funding for the 3 proposals described below			
Proposal	Detail	Approx cost	Ask of CEOs
1) West of England nature Partnership priority projects	We propose to focus on the most significant projects that will help us tackle nature's decline in the region by supporting the WENP priority projects. The partnership has a portfolio of critical projects, and we propose to allocate this funding to support their delivery.	£2.3 m	Support direction at this stage, prior to a business case being submitted
2) Regional Engagement on Environment	To support delivery of a region wide engagement exercise on Environment. Work currently underway with UA officers for a region wide conversation to help overall delivery of our regional climate and ecology strategy. This funding would be used to support the production and Promotion of communications, venue hire, advertising, surveys and consultancy support. This engagement exercise has been discussed with UA Environment Directors and Provisional supported. Further work now underway on codesign of approach UA officers and partners.	£150k	Support the idea of funding this from the GRF, prior to a more detailed UA/CA proposal being submitted

3) Staff Resources	Fund staff to work across the projects in the GRF to ensure quality delivery and better promotion and join up of both climate and nature benefits. Currently we don't have the capacity to push for quality delivery and join up of benefits between GRF investments. This would fund 2 posts that would support the West of England Nature Partnership, develop the bid(s) above and oversee GRF governance.	£150k	Part of a feasibility and development funding requested included as Appendix 4
Total		£2.6m	
<p>Consultation: Proposals were discussed separately with Officer groups across the Unitary Authorities.</p>			
<p>Officer making decision: Richard Ennis</p>			
<p>Position: Interim Acting Chief Executive, West of England Combined Authority</p>			
<p>Report / appendices / background documents:</p>			