

# Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee: Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF)

## Expression of Interest/Application Template

**Gloucestershire Economic Growth: Strategic Economic Development Fund (SEDF):** This fund is for the benefit of the whole of Gloucestershire, and utilising funds from the current Gloucestershire Local Authority Business Rates Pool. It facilitates collective work on the economic development agenda and reflects the commitment of the Pool participants to drive economic investment which also links to the planning and infrastructure process. Eligibility criteria for the fund has been established and agreed by all participants, against which bids for funding are assessed.

Access to the Fund is for the principle stakeholders only – the Local Authorities and Local Economic Partnership, and any project or funding request will need to have a clearly identified sponsoring lead organisation/contact. Expression of Interest submissions should be completed and submitted for consideration by the Gloucestershire Economic Growth Joint Committee Senior Officer Support Group, at a relevant meeting. They will assess its potential against the criteria and whether a good strategic fit. This mirrors the same approach adopted for the consideration of new projects for the Gloucestershire Capital Investment Pipeline (CIP).

The award of funds must be agreed unanimously by each of the members of the Pool, as part of the Business Rates Pool standing item at the Gloucestershire Economic Joint Committee meetings.

<b>Project Name:</b>	
Natural Capital Baseline Map & Investment Portfolio	
<b>Investment theme:</b> <i>Tick the primary theme that best fits your project. If applicable, also tick a sub theme. If 'other' state and explain.)</i>	
<b>Primary Investment theme:</b> Business Environment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Infrastructure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Place Shaping <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Skills and Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> - Environment	
<b>Sub investment theme:</b> Digital <input type="checkbox"/> Education <input type="checkbox"/> Employment <input type="checkbox"/> Energy <input type="checkbox"/> Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Regeneration <input type="checkbox"/> Transport <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Promoter Details:</b>	
Promoter Organisation	Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership
Promoter Address	
Primary Contact (name & job title)	Matt Whitney – Partnership Manager

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Email Address	matt@gloucestershirenature.org.uk
Contact Telephone Number	07999 079 221
<b>Project Summary (Max 250 words)</b> <i>(Describe your project idea clearly and succinctly, including what the investment would buy, and why it would lead to economic growth for Gloucestershire. Include the potential timeframe, and any significant drivers or constraints related to the scheduling of the investment.</i>	
<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The GLNP have already created a Nature Recovery Network map, soon to be a statutory requirement of Local Authorities, which spatially illustrates landscape-scale priority habitats for biodiversity and the ecological networks needed to connect them.</p> <p><u>Project Outline</u></p> <p>With SEDF funding GLNP will add data on ‘ecosystem services’ and economic data, creating a Natural Capital Baseline Map which will spatially represent the availability, quality and quantity of ‘natural capital’ assets and the services derived from them (see ‘Strategic Fit’ for definition of terms). This will spatially identify the environmental constraints and opportunities in relation to growth, leading to identification of optimal investment opportunities for economic growth.</p> <p>This map will act as a robust, integrated evidence base for planners, enabling better, quicker decision making about proposed developments and strategic allocations.</p> <p><u>Benefits for Growth</u></p> <p>The shared environmental baseline is the missing link that is needed to deliver the environmental duties and aspirations of Local Plans and the Local Industrial Strategy. It will support quicker and better delivery of strategic housing and employment allocations, resulting in reduced costs and increased productivity of the workforce. The map will also highlight where investment in natural capital solutions will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- protect/increase resilience of existing economic activity to climate change;</li> <li>- remove constraints on previously unfeasible infrastructure projects.</li> </ul> <p>It will also provide evidence to support all economic growth decisions.</p> <p><u>Drivers &amp; Constraints to scheduling</u></p> <p>Local Planning documents commit to delivering 58,000 new homes by 2031 – the Natural Capital Map will help ensure they are delivered on time and in the most efficient and appropriate locations for economic growth and environmental sustainability.</p> <p>Further statutory obligations that urge expediency in releasing funds are detailed in the following</p>	

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sections of this report.

**Summary of benefits/outcomes that will be delivered (Max 250 words)** *(Expanding on your summary, provide information on the tangible benefits or outcomes that would be delivered, leading to the growth of the Gloucestershire economy. These could address challenges or capitalise on opportunities, including those associated with improving productivity. List the expected benefits, estimated quantities and indicate the timescales).*

The Natural Capital Map will provide an easy-to-use, robust evidence base which will facilitate quicker and better decision-making by development managers, leading to improved outcomes for Gloucestershire's communities, economy and natural environment. The support this provides to the planning process will see quicker delivery of housing, business developments and infrastructure, and in more appropriate areas which will stimulate and maximise economic growth opportunities whilst preserving and enhancing the county's natural capital.

The associated Natural Capital Investment Portfolio will support a Natural Capital approach to growth, as detailed in the Local Industrial Strategy. It will support and build upon existing frameworks through which investment decisions about infrastructure, business development and housing can be made. It will support and enable the delivery of the Big Ideas proposed by Leadership Gloucestershire's Vision 2050. For instance, the map and investment portfolio will provide the evidence base and rationale for a Regional Park in the Severn Vale, which can deliver the multiple benefits of:

- Maintaining and enhancing natural environment to attract and retain talented young people as evidenced and described in the Local Industrial Strategy;
- increased economic activity from leisure and recreational activities;
- improved public health outcomes through access to nature, and associated productivity benefits;
- support decision makers to ensure that vital environmental resources required for growth are safeguarded and managed properly eg water storage for resilience against drought in a changed climate, flood risk mitigation etc;

#### Timescales

The consultants have already been selected through a competitive, open tendering process. Work would start in January 2020 and take approx. 5 months.

**Strategic Fit (Max 150 words)** *(Give the local, regional or national context for your project. Explain how it clearly aligns to the Strategic Economic Plan v2*  
<https://www.qfirstlep.com/downloads/2018/sep-2-update2018v3.pdf>  
*and complements the local District strategies and delivery plans*

Economic growth depends upon Natural Capital (UK Government's 6<sup>th</sup> State of Nature report). Natural Capital can be defined as the stocks of the world's assets; the societal benefits derived therefrom are 'ecosystem services', (eg clean air, flood-risk mitigation, carbon sequestration).

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The LEP have committed to a Natural Capital approach to investment and growth (in line with the UK government’s 25 Year Environment Plan), carbon neutrality and enhanced environmental criteria for developments. The Councils have committed to Carbon Neutral agendas, as well as a strategic approach to Green Infrastructure.

The NPPF requires protection of designated landscapes and habitats, identification of ecological networks, and a strategic approach to planning for Green Infrastructure.

Climate change will reduce availability of ground water and increase flood risk to homes and businesses. This has impacts for economic growth, through reduced productivity and agricultural outputs, damage to assets. Investing in Natural Capital increases our resilience to such threats and will keep Gloucestershire’s economy thriving.

<b>Flooding and coastal change risks to communities, businesses and infrastructure</b> (Ch3, Ch4, Ch5, Ch6)	<b>MORE ACTION NEEDED</b>			
<b>Risks to health, well-being and productivity from high temperatures</b> (Ch5, Ch6)				
<b>Risk of shortages in the public water supply, and for agriculture, energy generation and industry</b> (Ch3, Ch4, Ch5, Ch6)				
<b>Risks to natural capital, including terrestrial, coastal, marine and freshwater ecosystems, soils and biodiversity</b> (Ch3)				
<b>Risks to domestic and international food production and trade</b> (Ch3, Ch6, Ch7)				
<b>New and emerging pests and diseases, and invasive non-native species, affecting people, plants and animals</b> (Ch3, Ch5, Ch7)	<b>RESEARCH PRIORITY</b>			
<b>NOW</b> -----> <b>RISK MAGNITUDE</b> -----> <b>FUTURE</b> <table style="display: inline-table; vertical-align: middle;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #ffff00;">LOW</td> <td style="background-color: #ffcc00;">MEDIUM</td> <td style="background-color: #ff0000;">HIGH</td> </tr> </table>		LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH		

*Top 6 inter-related climate change risks for the UK (BEIS, Climate Change Risk Assessment, 2017)*

**Evidence of need or demand (Max 150 words)** *(give details of the evidence you can reference that supports your case that there is a need or demand for this project)*

The Environment Act (2019) requires of Local Authorities:

- development and maintenance of a Nature Recovery Network and associated Strategy.
- delivery of Biodiversity Net Gain on all new developments T

These will require a geographically strategic approach, which would be facilitated by this Natural Capital Map.

All 6 Districts and the County have declared Climate Emergencies. There is a strong and growing public and political expectation to deliver tangible actions that act upon this commitment. The achievement of Carbon Neutrality will no doubt require a strategic approach to planting trees, facilitated by this Natural Capital Map.

The JCS and Local Plans have committed to the building of 58,000 homes by 2031. This Natural Capital Map will facilitate better, quicker planning decisions and help ensure these homes are sustainable.

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The UK Government's Climate Change Risk Assessment (2017) shows climate change is having and will increasingly have significant negative impacts upon economic growth. Investment in Natural Capital will mitigate these impacts and make Gloucestershire resilient to the challenges ahead.

**Summary of the project costs and any sources of funding:** *(Estimated total capital cost of the project, and (if available) list the main elements of the budget. Provide details of any potential or secured source(s) of funding and the likely shortfall.)*

The total capital cost of this project is £65,000.

GLNP have secured £10,000 from the LEP and contributions of £5,000 each from Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership and the Environment Agency.

**Summary of the Revenue Investment(s) required** *(Explain how the project would be deliverable and sustainable by explaining the sources of revenue funding to support the likely cost needed to deliver the project following the capital investment)*

There are costs associated with the management, maintenance and governance of the tool. The funding will ensure the creation of a clear business plan. The costs would be met by a structured utilisation methodology and hierarchy of charging. As detailed above, certain users of this tool will require expert technical assistance in order to extract granular data for informing decisions. For instance, a tiered system of charging might be introduced, whereby farmers and landowners pay a certain amount for access to certain layers of data, developers pay a higher fee for accessing the site-specific data they need to support their applications. It is possible that the tool could be maintained and updated by the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records, as part of the Strategic Level Agreements they hold with Local Authorities.

**Project Status** *(select from one of the following, and provide brief explanation)*

Concept Stage *(very early stages, requires considerable development before it could be considered for funding)*

Outline Stage *(early stages, some detail clear but longer-term aspiration which will need further development)*

Developed Stage *(clear project plan, deliverable,*

The project has been clearly conceptualised, designed and planned. A consultant has been

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<i>but seeking funds)</i>	selected following competitive tendering and based upon a clear brief. Some funds have been secured and invested already.
Mobilising Stage ( <i>project moving close to delivery, which still has some challenges to overcome)</i>	
<b>Project Status: key milestones</b> ( <i>where applicable, provide brief notes on the current situation</i> )	
Promoter identified	Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership
Full Business case available	No, but this is to be informed by information held by, and related to, the Local Authorities.
Planning Status	N/A
Land Assembly (potential requirement for CPO)	N/A
Confirmed Funding Sources	LEP - £10,000
Design Detail Stage	N/A
Earliest Potential Start Date	2 Jan 2020

### Key challenges/risks associated with Project (*give brief indication of the main challenges or risks associated with the successful delivery of this project*)

Challenge / Risk	Potential Impact / mitigation
Data security	Data scrutiny and governance board established
Data robustness	As above

### Declaration by Applicant

I certify to the best of my knowledge the information submitted on this form is true and correct.

Signed (on behalf of Promoter)

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Date :-

Name and title:

<b>Sent to: (Name of organisation / person )</b>
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<b>Date submitted:</b>
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