

**Applicant – by email only**  
[biodiversity@belfastcity.gov.uk](mailto:biodiversity@belfastcity.gov.uk)

Our Ref: NRCF 2025/22

Direct Tel: 02890 569610

09/09/2025

Dear Orla

**Letter of Offer: Belfast is Making Space for Nature - Nature Recovery Network**

Following your application to the Environment Fund I am pleased to inform you that the Department is offering the level of grant outlined below, subject to the Terms and Conditions that are attached to this letter of offer in Appendix 4 and the Additional Terms and Conditions below.

This is to deliver Option 2 within your application and, where appropriate with the amendments outlined below. The Outcomes and Targets to be delivered, monitored and reported on are listed in Appendix 2, alongside the Risk Register that must be maintained and reported on with each grant claim.

**Offer:**

**1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026: Up to £103,500 at up to 61% of eligible costs.**

**Future years**

**1 April 2026 – 31 March 2027: Up to £140,000 at up to 78% of eligible costs.**

**1 April 2027 – 31 March 2028: Up to £135,000 at up to 78% of eligible costs.**

**Client Officer:**

The DAERA Client Officer allocated for this project is Maeve Foley; Tel 02890 569234; e-mail [Maeve.foley@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:Maeve.foley@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Additional Project Specific Terms and Conditions:**

1. GIS files showing exact chosen areas must be shared with client officer when management plans are developed, and sites and actions are determined.
2. Conservation Management Plans should be developed in reference to any Agri-environment schemes or any other funding projects to avoid duplication. As the project progresses and stepping stone/wildlife corridor/landscape scale sites are

chosen and actions determined, BCC must consult with Countryside Management Unit to ensure no duplication of funding for works.

3. When sites are chosen and actions are determined, appropriate permissions such as consent/assent must be in place prior to works commencing, and an up-to-date HRA must be undertaken if there is potential for an impact on designated European sites such as SPAs/SACs or Ramsar sites. Any other relevant licences and approvals must be sought if required throughout the project, and client officer informed.
4. Specialist machinery purchased must be actively made available for lending out to other organisations including but not limited to other councils, LVRP, BHP, NT and DfI Roads.
5. If Nature Towns and Cities bid is successful, throughout the process, BCC must ensure that there is no duplication and inform client officer of activities undertaken.
6. Transects/surveys undertaken by staff/volunteers under this project must be submitted to the relevant National survey, e.g. Bumblebee Monitoring Scheme – this will contribute to landscape scale delivery.
7. The Applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with statutory approvals in advance of the conduct of any activities that may affect designated sites. In awarding this grant DAERA is not inferring that “as an owner/occupier<sup>1</sup> of the protected site(s) named in the EF Application Form, or as a public body, you may carry out, cause or permit to be carried out, the operation(s) specified in the manner prescribed” and outlined in your grant application and supplementary information. This Letter of Offer is not therefore a Consent/Assent, under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 as amended, for any of the operations proposed in your project.

Where you do not have current Consent/Assent in place for the proposed project, and intend to carry out operations within or near ASSIs, you must gain this via your Environment Fund (EF) Client Officer in writing prior to carrying out any operations. You must fill in the appropriate form in Appendix 4.

Competent Authorities (Government, Councils and Statutory Undertakers) intending to carry out projects within or near ASSIs must have the Assent of DAERA in order to proceed, and for European sites are required to carry out their own Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) prior to applying for Assent from their EF Client Officer.

If you propose to amend, or carry out additional operations, or where the period identified in the proposal for the operation to take place has expired, you must provide sufficient information to enable the environmental assessment to be carried out to consider whether the operation(s) can be granted Consent/Assent.

Where any operations also require permission from a local planning or other regulatory authority, separate to a permission under the Environment Order (Northern Ireland) 2002 as amended, you must ensure these permissions are also obtained before any operations take place.

<sup>1</sup> You must have written permission of the owner.

**Acceptance of Offer:**

If you are accepting this offer you must confirm this using the attached Grant Acceptance Form by **07/10/2025**. This must be signed by 2 authorised representatives.

Yours sincerely



**Liz Loughran**  
Director, Natural Environment Division  
DAERA

Copy: Maeve Foley, DAERA Client Officer  
[efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:efgrants@daera-ni.gov.uk)