

## Appendix C. Background information

### GMCA BNG Responsible Body Service

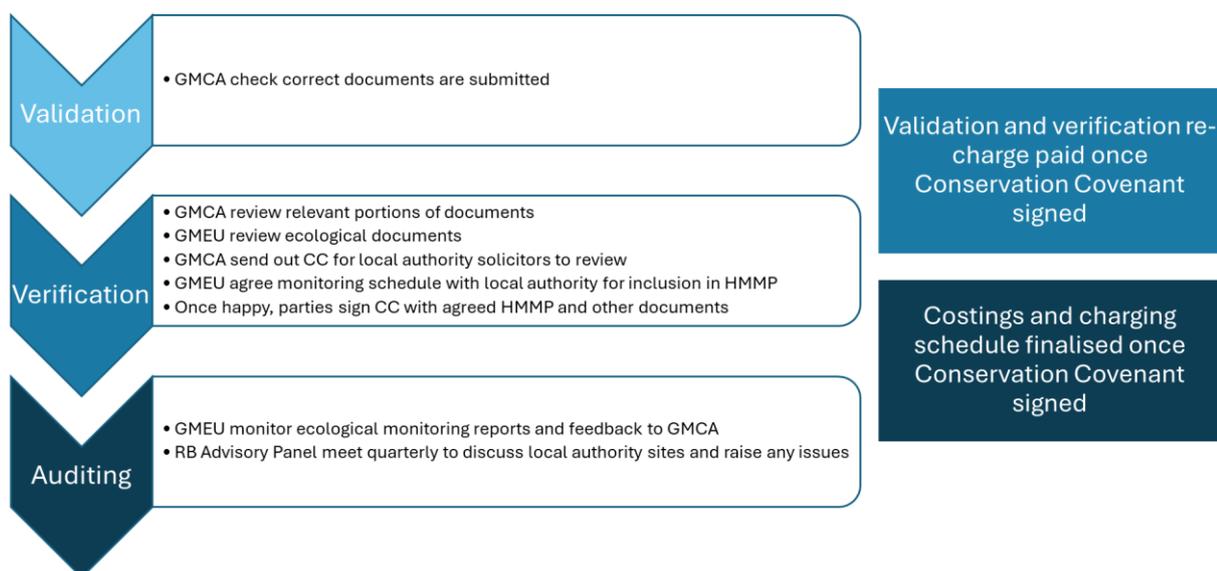
Given the lack of Responsible Body options for local authorities in Greater Manchester, in 2024 districts requested that GMCA apply to Defra to become a Responsible Body. The application was approved in December 2024 and provides GMCA with the legal authority to enter into Conservation Covenants, including with local authorities to enable them to secure their habitat banks for off-site BNG.

A sufficient cohort of local authorities have now progressed their habitat banks and level of commitment to a point whereby GMCA can make a decision on commissioning its Responsible Body Service, as follows:

- 7 local authorities (Bolton, Bury, Oldham, Salford, Stockport, Tameside and Wigan), have confirmed that they are interested in signing up to the Responsible Body Service subject to costs and other local authorities signing up.
- Of the 7 local authorities that have confirmed, there is an identified pipeline of habitat banks (approx. 33) they are looking to bring forward over the next 3-5 years.

The subsequent design of the Responsible Body Service has been developed and was approved by the GMCA on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2025<sup>1</sup>. The diagram below summarises the service structure and the papers recommended that the Responsible Body Service is commissioned by GMCA.

Following this, Local authorities will need to approve entering into a MoU with GMCA to provide the service with them. This will then allow authorities to begin signing Conservation Covenants to cover the 30-year management of BNG receptor sites and legally register them with Defra.



<sup>1</sup> GMCA Agenda Item 10A <https://democracy.greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk/documents/s41394/10A%20Off-Site%20BNG%20Responsible%20Body%20Service%20-%20Final.pdf>

## Responsible Body process overview

