

Resource requirement estimates for implementing LNRSs

Background

With the roll-out of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) planned for April 2022, sufficient resources must be made available to local authorities in the forthcoming Spending Review to ensure that they are successfully delivered.¹

To address this, based on discussions with those in the pilots, we have modelled the funding requirements to deliver the LNRSs, which include both direct and indirect resources. Furthermore, for LNRSs to ultimately deliver recovery of nature, they will need to be live documents and so will require ongoing resources to ensure:

- Local planning pays due regard to LNRSs.
- Funding for the recovery of nature is prioritised to opportunity areas identified by LNRSs.
- Ongoing monitoring of delivery of measures and opportunities.
- Reporting back to the Secretary of State and updating LNRSs.

Much of this ongoing funding will be for local authority staffing. This additional resourcing will have multiple other benefits that will include a more timely handling of some key procedures, such as processing Ecological Impact Assessments for local planning decisions and, therefore, would ultimately be a cost saving.

Headlines

Estimate of **total upfront** cost of resources required to set up LNRSs: **£36,525,000**

This is broken down into²:

<i>Direct costs:</i>	£17,797,500	(£355,950 per LNRS)
<i>Indirect costs:</i>	£18,127,500	(£362,550 per LNRS)

These include:

<i>Local Authority costs:</i>	£8,145,000	(£162,900 per LNRS) ³
<i>Natural England costs:</i>	£4,500,000	(£90,000 per LNRS) ⁴

This is the equivalent of £185,375 direct costs, excluding central Defra and Natural England costs, over an 8 month period, which is about the length of time the pilots took.

Estimate of **annual ongoing** costs: **£16,443,095**

This is broken down into⁵:

<i>Direct costs:</i>	£6,516,667	(£130,333 per LNRS)
<i>Indirect costs:</i>	£9,526,429	(£190,529 per LNRS)

¹ <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-57720900>

² Excludes core Defra family costs (£600k)

³ Includes 1xFTE for Responsible Authority, 0.1xFTE for other local authorities, data and stakeholder engagement for each LNRS

⁴ Includes 1.2xFTE for each LNRS but excludes central costs for Natural England

⁵ Excludes core Defra family costs (£400k)

Components

Time, capital and consumables

Resources were split into two categories: *time* and, *capital and consumables*. *Time* is the full time equivalents (FTEs) for personnel time spent on the project. *Capital and consumables* are the costs involved in data (access, capital costs and collection) and expenses involved in stakeholder engagement.

Direct costs

These are costs that are required to directly resource the LNRS process. These include full-time leads from a local authority and Natural England, along with a full-time local records centre data manager. Some time is also included for a Local Nature Partnership manager, a Natural England ELM convenor, a local records centre manager and tier two councils. Core Defra and Defra family costs are included.

Capital and consumer costs include access to data, filling in data gaps and costs involved with extensive stakeholder engagement.

Indirect costs

These are the costs that are come from outside the core LNRS team and are required to ensure that the process is successful. These often involve individuals' time from eNGOs, the NFU and CLA, other members of the Defra family, AONBs, National Park Authorities and volunteers such as county recorders. A further significant component of indirect costs is data capital costs and collection of data.

Indirect costs are included to indicate the true cost of creating LNRSs and represent costs that are often overlooked. In this case, stakeholder time during the engagement process has not been included because it is difficult to assess over all stakeholders and is likely to be at least an order or magnitude larger than the direct costs.

Upfront

These are the estimated costs for rolling out and developing LNRSs throughout England.

Ongoing

These are the ongoing estimated costs that will be involved in administering, monitoring and reviewing LNRSs.

Major assumptions

- LNRSs have the same starting point of minimal previous spatial planning activity.
- There will be 50 LNRSs.
- Process for developing a LNRS will take on average 18 months.
- Full time equivalents were calculated using a £45k salary and £5k of employers costs (eg. county council grade 13 salary band).
- 214 second tier boroughs/councils were included requiring 2 days/month/LNRS. These were calculated across all the LNRSs and then divided by 50 to get an average cost per LNRS.
- 35 English AONBs with 75 local authority overlaps included at 2 days/month/LNRS. These were calculated across all the LNRSs and then divided by 50 to get an average cost per LNRS.
- 10 National Park Authorities with 22 local authority overlaps included at 2 days/month/LNRS. These were calculated across all the LNRSs and then divided by 50 to get an average cost per LNRS.
- Costs for data access, capital costs and collection were from: *Mapping the Species Data Pathway: Connecting species data flows in England*.⁶
- Pilots received @£145k and so central costs for Defra and Natural England were what was left over from the original £1m budget. Allowed double this for central costs for roll out.
- Report and update after 5 years. For ongoing costs, used a 5-year window and averaged to obtain an annual cost.

⁶ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mapping-the-species-data-pathway-connecting-species-data-flows-in-england>

Detailed breakdown of estimate – upfront costs

Upfront costs	direct/indirect	FTE	18 months	
Time				
<i>Each LNRS</i>				
Local Authority lead	d	1	£	75,000.00
Natural England Lead	d	1	£	75,000.00
LNP Manager	d	0.5	£	37,500.00
Natural England ELM Convenor	d	0.2	£	15,000.00
Records Centre - Data manager	d	1	£	57,000.00
Records Centre - Centre Manager	d	0.05	£	3,750.00
Expert consultation	d		£	4,800.00
Local Wildlife Trust	i	0.2	£	15,000.00
NFU	i	0.1	£	7,500.00
CLA	i	0.1	£	7,500.00
Local Enterprise Partnership	i	0.1	£	7,500.00
(County recorders etc. volunteer time)	i		£	22,500.00
Forestry Commission	i	0.1	£	7,500.00
Environment Agency	i	0.1	£	7,500.00
<i>Across LNRSs</i>				
Boroughs/District Councils	d	0.1	£	1,605,000.00
AONB	i	0.1	£	562,500.00
NPA	i	0.1	£	165,000.00
Total (direct) per LNRS - Time			£	300,150.00
Total (indirect) per LNRS - Time			£	89,550.00
Capital and consumables				
<i>Data (for all LNRSs)</i>				
Data access	d		£	500,000.00
Data - fill in gaps/verify	d		£	540,000.00
Data capital costs and collection	i		£	13,650,000.00
<i>Stakeholder engagement (per LNRS)</i>				
Facilitation	d		£	20,000.00
Expenses	d		£	5,000.00
Venue hire etc.	d		£	5,000.00
Comms and access to final product	d		£	5,000.00
Total (direct) per LNRS – Capital/consumable			£	55,800.00
Total (indirect) per LNRS -Capital/consum.			£	273,000.00
Defra & Natural England core costs	d		£	600,000.00
Grand total (direct) for all LNRSs	Upfront		£	17,797,500.00
Grand total (indirect) for all LNRSs	Upfront		£	18,127,500.00
Headline estimate	Upfront		£	36,525,000.00

Detailed breakdown of estimate – ongoing costs

Ongoing costs		FTE	Annual cost
<i>Each LNRS - day to day</i>			
Maintain website with maps	d	0.1	£ 5,000.00
Website hosting	d		£ 2,500.00
Access to data as required (developers etc.)	d	0.2	£ 10,000.00
Advise/oversee integration into planning etc.	d	0.5	£ 25,000.00
Resources for tier 2 authorities	d	0.1	£ 21,400.00
Coordinate/raise funding	d	0.2	£ 10,000.00
Natural England time	d	0.2	£ 10,000.00
Update data	i		£ 182,000.00
<i>Quinquennially (per LNRS)</i>			
Monitor and report every five years	d		£ 4,761.90
Update LNRS	d		£ 41,671.43
Update LNRS	i		£ 8,528.57
Defra & Natural England core costs	d		£ 400,000.00
Grand total (direct) per LNRS	Annually		£ 130,333.33
Grand total (indirect) per LNRS	Annually		£ 190,528.57
Grand total (direct) for all LNRSs	Annually		£ 6,916,666.67
Grand total (indirect) for all LNRSs	Annually		£ 9,526,428.57
Headline estimate	Annually		£ 16,443,095.24