

Summary of responses to the CYC Funders' Questionnaire

Funder	Funding rate	Eligibility criteria	Eligible features	Ownership and control	CYC income	Maintenance	Carbon Offset	Timescales	CYC Key Risks
WRF Trees for Climate (via Cheshire West)	100% of costs (up to circa £15k-£20k p/ha cap)	Min 0.1 ha / Max 40% open space / Carbon / Biodiversity / Public access and engagement	Trees and protection / Surveys and planning / Access and interpretation / Signage / Open space / Infrastructure / Project delivery / Future management	CYC retains ownership and full control	Potential on-site income generation built into woodland design (TBC)	100% funded up to 15yrs	100% retained by CYC	Competitive bids. EoI submitted Nov 2020 - Decision pending. WRF can meet 2021/22 planting season	Funding / Delivery / Procurement / Income generation / Long term management
Forestry Commission – England Woodland Creation Offer	100% (£8,500 p/ha cap)	Min 1 ha / Native broadleaf / Public access	Trees and protection / Infrastructure like roads and tracks at 40% of quoted costs / Recreational access. ¹ Separate grant process (WCPG) for surveys and planning support	CYC retains ownership and full control	Potential on-site income generation built into woodland design (TBC)	100% funded for 10yrs	100% retained by CYC	Competitive bids following WCPG Stage 2 and woodland approval – Question mark re. meeting 2021/22 planting season	Funding / Delivery / Procurement / Income generation / Long term management
Forestry Commission Countryside Stewardship	80% if 20% open space included (£6,800 p/ha cap)	3 ha / Min 80% native broadleaf / Max 20% open space / Biodiversity / Water	Trees and protection up to unit cost cap. Separate grant process (WCPG) for surveys and planning	CYC retains ownership and full control	Potential on-site income generation built into woodland design (TBC)	None for LAs	100% retained by CYC	Competitive bids following WCPG Stage 2 and woodland approval Question mark re. meeting 2021/22 planting season	Funding / Delivery / Procurement / Income generation / Short and long term management
Forestry England – Woodland Partnership Offer	100%	Min 50 ha / Min 70% native broadleaf / Carbon / Biodiversity / Public access ²	Trees and protection / Surveys and protection / Access and signage / Infrastructure Wood meadow / Open space / Wet woodland	Leased to FE for 60 - 120yrs (negotiable)	Annual FE grant paid to CYC between £200-£400 per/ha (negotiable)	Duration of lease (min 60yrs)	Negotiable up to 100% retained by CYC	Competitive bidding. EoI submitted 01.06.21 Decision pending. 'Can meet 2021/22 planting season'	Majority of risks transferred to FE

¹ There are additional contributions available for projects that deliver Nature recovery / Water quality / Flood risk / Riparian buffers / Close to settlements

² Forestry England indicate they are 'open to discussion with partners about inclusion of additional features and would be expected to be involved in ongoing community engagement and volunteering opportunities'

NB. The questionnaire was sent to Woodland Trust alongside other funders, but the Trust had not responded by the deadline so they could not be considered within this report. After speaking with industry experts, it appears Woodland Trust has yet to finalise the details of their capital grant programme and this may explain why no response was received.

CYC officers also held informal discussions with a private sector forestry consultant offering to take direct responsibility for woodland design, creation and ongoing management in return for a long term lease on the land for which CYC would receive annual rental income. The offer involved the consultant applying for one of the capital grant funding opportunities listed in this assessment on behalf of the landowner and for that reason the offer has not been included in this assessment. The offer is similar in nature to the Forestry England WCO, though with potentially higher annual rental payments (negotiable) to CYC.

Green Recovery Challenge Fund: An opportunity arose in September 2020 to apply for funding from the Government's Green Recovery Challenge Fund up to a total value of £250,000 and, as previously advised, a funding application was submitted by the deadline 2 October 2020. CYC was informed by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) on 3 November 2020 that this application had been unsuccessful.

A further application was made during Round 2 of the fund earlier this year, though this too was unsuccessful. Whilst the HLF don't provide formal feedback, an informal conversation with them suggested they felt the YCW project was better suited to other, more dedicated woodland creation funding streams.