ENTRUST

The Value of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

2024/2025

Landfill Communities Fund

Executive Summary

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) continues to deliver significant social and environmental value, despite economic pressures and reduced contributions. In 2024/2025, £30.97 million was spent across 794 completed projects, with an average project value rising to £39,009 reflecting increased delivery costs.

Spending Trends: 84% of funds supported public amenities (Object D), with community halls and sporting facilities receiving the most funding. Biodiversity projects (Object DA) accounted for 12%, and heritage buildings/places of worship (Object E) 4%. Spending remains geographically widespread, reaching both affluent and deprived communities.

Economic Impact: The LCF generated an estimated £64.1 million in total economic value—more than double its direct investment. Along with the funds directly from contributions, this also includes:

- £6.2 million in funding raised from other sources as a result of LCF awards.
- £15.7 million in long term asset value
- £10.7 million from job creation and retention.
- £615k in income derived as a result of LCF funded projects.

Social Impact: Volunteer engagement remained strong, with over 10,500 volunteer opportunities created. Public amenity footfall increased by nearly five million visits post-project.

Environmental Impact: Biodiversity efforts protected 1,965 species and planted nearly 12,000 trees. Solar panel installations rose to 61 projects, indicating a growing focus on green energy.

Geographical Reach: LCF projects averaged 2.7 miles from landfill sites, aligning with the fund's goals. While 131 local authorities received no funding this year, only 36 have been unfunded over the past three years, showing broad national coverage.

Despite economic challenges, the LCF remains a resilient and impactful fund, delivering high value to communities and the environment.

Introduction

The Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) is the name given to the scheme that allows landfill operators (LOs) to contribute funds to community and environmental projects in England and Northern Ireland and register the amount on their Landfill Tax Return. In return, HMRC give a tax credit to the LO to the value of 90% of the contribution, and communities that receive project funding often meet the 10% shortfall. These funds are managed and distributed by Environmental Bodies (EBs) who are regulated by Entrust, the HMRC appointed Regulator.

The aim of the fund, is to enhance the provision of amenities and protect the environment in the localities of landfill activity, giving back to the communities who are in the vicinity of the activity.

This document aims to:

- Report on the Value for Money of the scheme, identifying where funds are distributed and to what types of projects.
- Report on the success of the key objectives, providing statistics and an overview of the impact of the fund to local communities and the environment. For this purpose, we have included economic, social, and environmental benefits, as well as identifying geographical trends.

In short, this report seeks to answer the question, is the LCF valuable, and how much impact does it have in achieving its core aims?

The data used in this report comes from two key sources:

- The information provided by EBs on their registration forms, specifically the Project Completion Form,
- Government sources, such as the Census' of England and Northern Ireland, both carried out in 2021.

In using data, we have ensured that where possible, only UK Government sources are used, to strengthen any conclusions made. Where another source is used, we have clearly labelled this source for completeness.

Please note, that the data is derived from completed projects, for all years in which that project had been running. This will, therefore, not match the data taken from Annual Return reports, which look at all project spend within the financial year irrespective of whether it had completed.

In summary, while economic value does appear to be affected by the rise in prices and market volatility that other sectors are experiencing, social and environmental value remains high. These two areas, being the two key aims of the fund to give back to communities and the environment, show that the LCF is still delivering significant value on the primary mission and objectives.

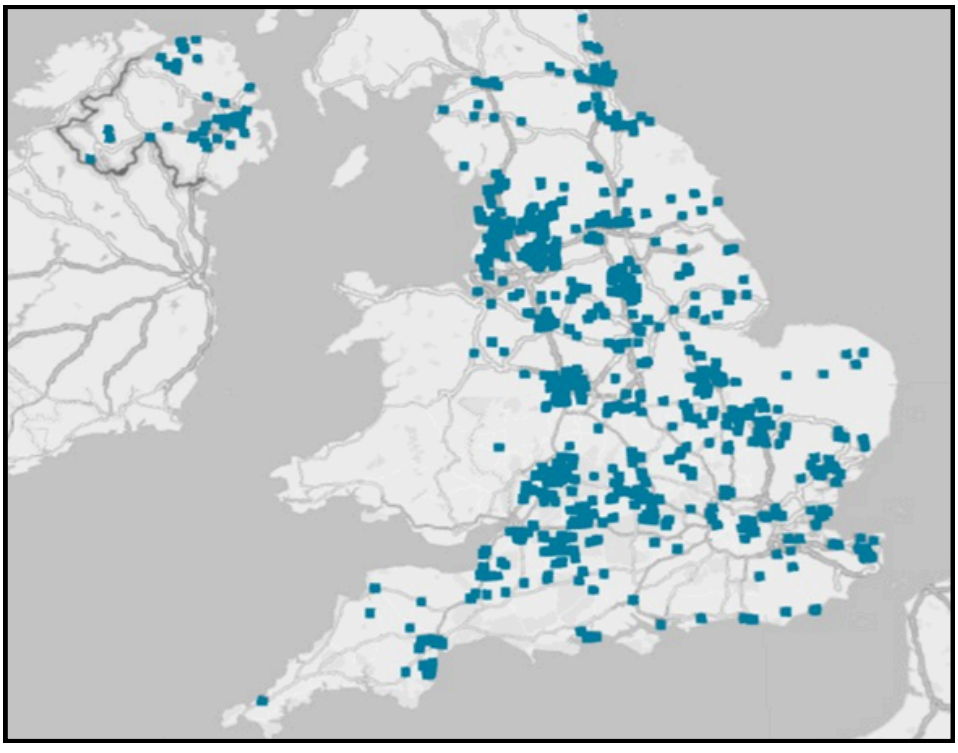
Overall Key Spending Trends

2.1 This section identifies some overall trends regarding project spending. As there are no regulations to limit the amount of funds that go to each object, this is organic, and shifts because of individual decisions by EBs, or community demand for a particular project type.

2.2 The first table shows the total amount spent on projects that completed during 2024/2025:

Year	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Project spending	£38,378,761	£32,932,905	£30,972,807
Number of projects	1,026	865	794
Average project amount	£37,406	£38,073	£39,009

This is also displayed visually on the map below, to show the disparate nature of LCF funds.



Location of all LCF projects completed in 2024/2025

As can be seen, project spending has fallen slightly, which is to be expected due to a fall in contributions, and will likely fall further in the coming years due to the expected trend in contribution amounts as landfill activity reduces. However, projects have not reduced coverage over eligible areas, spreading out to reach most areas of England and Northern Ireland; more can be read on this later in this report.

On the average project amount, this has risen, and shows a trend across three years to higher spending per project. This would be in line with higher basic costs of project delivery, for example, a rise in the cost of materials and labour.

2.3 The next table separates project spending into their objects, the five categories set out by the regulations which detail how LCF funds can be spent:

- Object A: The reclamation, remediation or restoration of land which cannot now be used because of an activity which used to take place on that land
- Object B: The prevention, reduction or mitigation of the effects of pollution which has been caused, or may be caused, by an activity which has now ceased
- Object D: The provision, maintenance or improvement of a public park or other public amenity
- Object DA: The conservation of a specific species in its natural habitat or a natural habitat
- Object E: The maintenance, repair or restoration of a building or structure which is a place of religious worship or a place of historic or architectural interest

	Projects	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025	%
Object A	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%
Object B	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0%
Object D	717	£31,695,953	£27,069,162	£25,932,913	84%
Object DA	36	£5,542,779	£4,872,224	£3,742,390	12%
Object E	41	£1,140,029	£991,520	£1,297,505	4%
Total	**794**	**£38,378,761**	**£32,932,905**	**£30,972,807**	**100%**

By comparing over a three-year period, we can determine that there have only been small shifts in the split of all project spending between Objects. A and B are not commonly used Objects as most project ideas within these categories tend to fall within other, less complex Objects. Public amenities received 84% of all project spending, with biodiversity projects making up 12%, and restoration of religious or historical buildings 4%.

2.3 Each Object is also split into several categories or types. for Object D, the following table outlines the most common and least common project categories by spending:

Category	Number of projects	Spend in 2023/2024	Spend in 2024/2025	% of spend in 2023/2024	% of spend in 2024/2025
Community Hall/Centre	230	£6,683,700	£7,757,654	24.6%	30%
Sporting Facilities	218	£7,622,138	£6,973,582	28%	26.9%
Public Playground	73	£3,944,065	£3,012,633	14.5%	11.6%
Other	51	£2,813,433	£1,928,073	10.4%	7.4%
Park	34	£1,832,807	£1,381,055	6.74%	5.3%
Church/Place of Worship	33	£1,599,967	£1,635,459	5.9%	6.3%
Nature Reserve	29	£890,961	£1,242,368	3.3%	4.8%
Bridleway/Public footpath	14	£316,702	£285,488	1.2%	1.1%
Museum	8	£307,935	£1,008,291	1.1%	3.9%
Activity Centre	7	£384,382	£260,271	1.4%	1%
Public Woodland	6	£93,230	£217,956	0.3%	0.8%
Village Green	5	£11,550	£53,613	0.04%	0.2%
Zoos and Public Farms	3	£137,079	£57,442	0.5%	0.2%
Library	3	£49,039	£56,028	0.2%	0.2%
Canal Works/Waterway	2	£300,000	£35,000	1.1%	0.1%
Cycle Path	1	£82,175	£28,000	0.3%	0.1%
Total	**717**	**£27,069,163**	**£25,932,913**	**100%**	**100%**

As with overall spending, the distribution of funds to the different types of projects has remained relatively similar with the expected variations. Community Halls/Centres became the highest funded category, moving above Sporting Facilities.

2.5 For Object DA, categories are split into different types of land. The table below indicates the funding split between these land types. However, we have changed the way we are reporting the amount spent. As multiple land types can be selected on one project, instead of adding the total spend of the project to all its selected land types, we have apportioned the total spend across the land types selected for that project. For example, for a project that has listed two land types, half of the total spend will be apportioned to each land type. Otherwise, the amounts are sometimes duplicated, and above the total spend in Object DA. While the previous method was not incorrect, and did indicate the percentage of spending on each type, the new method should better represent actual spending on the land type from 2024/2025 onwards:

Land Type	Number of projects with this land type	Spend in 2024/2025	% of Object spending in 2024/2025
Lowland Farmland	15	£1,548,989	41%
Woodland	10	£891,608	24%
Lakes and Ponds	11	£549,868	15%
Wetland	11	£420,818	11%
Coastal	2	£282,500	8%
Rivers	4	£25,475	1%
Urban and Brownfield	2	£13,312	0%
Upland	1	£6,667	0%
Marine	0	£0	0%
None	1	£3,154	0%
Total	**36**	**£3,739,236**	**100%**

2.6 Object DA projects shift regularly in terms of which land type is the most prevalent. There are no discernible trends from comparing data from previous years.

2.7 For Object E, there are only two types of projects: places of worship, which accounted for 53% and buildings of historical interest, which accounted for 47% of project spending.

As with Object D, there is little shift in activity from 2023/2024.

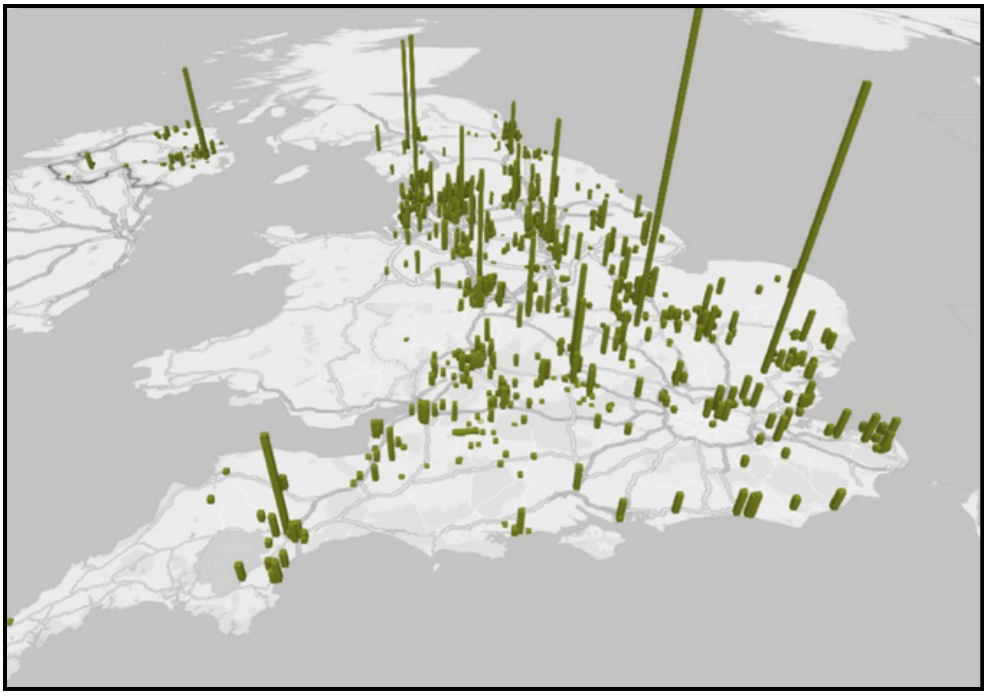
2.8 In summary, apart from all elements impacted by a reduction in contributions, there is no discernible trend of note in the Object of spending.

The LCF continues to cater to a large variety of project types and reaches communities in all eligible areas, including rural, urban, highly populated and disparate communities.

However, the next three sections look to break this down further and delve into the value of LCF funds to these communities.

Economic Value

3.1 This section looks at factors of LCF spending that provide added economic benefit to individuals, organisations, and the wider community. While there are many benefits, there are some that are measurable, that we can assess with an estimated figure of added economic value. By looking at this over a three-year period, we can also surmise the relative increase or decrease in calculated value over time.



Map of 2024/2025 spending, with higher bars representing higher project values

3.2 The first area is how impactful the LCF is in attracting funds from other sources. It is reported to us that often the LCF can act as 'first funder', where other funds are released due to match funding requirements of other funding streams. It is also effective in giving communities that all important top up of funds, allowing them to spend their charitable donations on more substantial projects.

To calculate the economic impact of funding from other sources, we have listed below the ratios, and have given a calculation of added value, based on how likely it is that the LCF funds have unlocked other funding streams and donations. This methodology is fully explained in Appendix A:

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total LCF Spending	£38,378,761	£32,932,905	£30,972,807
Total Spending incl. funds from other sources	£82,755,008	£56,814,415	£60,505,085
Total funding from other sources	£44,376,247	£23,881,510	£29,532,278
Ratio of LCF to Other Sources	46%	58%	51%
Additional economic value*	£12,654,923	£10,617,910	£6,152,580

**This is based on the likelihood of LCF funding being instrumental in the raising of funding from other sources*

The amount of funding raised from other sources has risen, from £57m to £61m. The 2022/2023 Total Other Sourced Funding figure of £82.8m is not typical, attributed to the lag from delayed spending of pandemic related project delays. It is not apparent from the initial figures why the additional economic value was not higher, being that funding from other sources has grown. However, there were a number of large projects where the LCF was not a primary funder, and as the calculation works on the likelihood of the LCF being a key contributor in raising those funds, this leads to a lower additional value calculation. On average, the ratio of LCF funds to Other Sourced Funds was also lower, down from 58% to 51%.

Assets and Resaleable Items

3.3 Assets are another source of value particularly prevalent in the LCF, as funding should be primarily on physical works. Therefore, several items are purchased that have longer term value and are used across many years rather than for a specific one-time purpose such as a campaign or disaster relief. Therefore, alongside the numbers and percentages of total funding, we have calculated an estimate of added longer term value for any spend on an asset. The full methodology can be found in Appendix B:

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total amount listed as an asset	*£15,365,339*	*£16,032,944*	£10,465,024
% of total spending	*40%*	*49%*	34%
Additional economic Value*	*£23,048,008*	*£24,049,416*	£15,697,536

**Based on assets retaining and returning longer term value – not like for like as reporting methodology has changed*

Total spending that was listed as an asset has fallen, however, this area received a significant guidance change before the start of the 2024/2025 financial year. Asset reporting was simplified to include only assets that could be resold rather than a much broader definition, meaning the data reported to us was expected to be lower than in previous years, and a lower percentage of total spend as the data confirms. This does mean that we are likely undervaluing the scheme in this financial year regarding assets; however, we do not collect the data that would enable us to give a like for like comparison due to the unnecessary administrative burden it would create.

The added value estimate, set out in Appendix C, looks to acknowledge the longer-term aspect of asset purchasing, by using the HMRC depreciation of asset calculation for a three-year period. As this is based on resale value, the calculation method is likely more accurate with the updated method of collecting data only on resalable items. There may be assets with significantly longer-term value and resale value so this may be understated, however using the governments depreciation percentages provides a solid baseline for estimating added value of highly varied asset types.

Jobs

3.4 As with other capital spending grant funding, the development of community facilities and environmental projects creates and maintains jobs within the challenging charity sphere, where charities are struggling to maintain staffing levels due to inflation and the cost of energy (Guardian, 2023). We collect data on the impact on jobs and have developed an added value calculation based on the average wage of a charity sector full time job in the UK, updated from the same sources as in 2023/2024 for consistency (Talent UK, 2025).

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total Jobs Maintained	509	668	312
Total Jobs Created	219	207	150
Additional economic Value*	£14,660,034	£16,749,901	£10,709,300

**Based on the average full-time salary in the charity sector multiplied by the monitoring period. See Appendix C for the methodology*

Jobs are not just good for the local economy, but charity jobs have a rewarding impact for families, life purpose and wellbeing. While this is not easily measured, leading to a degree of volatility in figures, it is an important factor of the LCF impact, as it meets community needs that are highly valuable and sought after. In 2024/2025, fewer jobs were reported as delivered and maintained than in previous years. However, we believe this is likely due to the additional financial costs needed to deliver similar benefits, meaning the fall in economic value in these measures was expected.

Income Derived

2.3 As with jobs and funding from other sources, receiving Income Derived (ID) because of project works is another valuable source of added economic value, providing sustainability and long-term strategy for maintenance of investment. As such, we have calculated ID as added value over the monitoring period of a project, as this is the only appropriate measure. However, ID is likely to last several years longer, so we believe this may be an underestimate for many projects.

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total project ID	£1,569,215	£1,428,316	£363,453
As a % of Project Expenditure	4.10%	4.30%	1.17%
Additional economic Value*	£3,445,363	£3,758,033	£615,447

The level of reported ID has dropped significantly from previous years, however, this may be as a result of greater understanding, as ID guidance was released that clarified the amounts that should be reported. For example, using language such as 'income received because of LCF project works' instead of 'Income Derived' to ensure it was better understood, and did not include all project related income. We therefore believe ID was over reported before 2024/2025, rather than a change in the aims of the fund toward less sustainable projects.

Summary

3.6 While a fall in economic value could be attributed to changes in reporting, such as the awareness of how to better report ID and the changes to reporting assets, economic conditions are also likely to be a factor. The cost of works has risen substantially over the last few years in manufacturing[1], which would lead to more funds needed to achieve a similar level of output due to the LCF being mostly capital investment projects. However, the LCF still provides double the economic benefit for its investment, which is good performance as an additional benefit alongside the two central aims of the LCF. As you will see further in this report, the central aims of the LCF continue to outperform expectations.

3.6 The table below calculates the added value figure per £10,000 of LCF spending, to give a year-on-year estimate of performance for each £1 of spending:

Added value (per £10,000)	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Other sourced funding	£3,184	£3,180	£1,986
Assets*	*£5,798*	*£7,204*	£5,068
Income Derived*	*£867*	*£1,126*	£199
Jobs	£3,688	£5,017	£3,458
Total	**£13,537**	**£16,527**	**£10,711**

** Unlikely to be like for like comparisons due to changes in reporting methods and updated guidance.*

Therefore, we estimate that for every £1 of LCF funding, there is an additional £1.07 of added economic benefit.

This means the fund in 2024/2025, while spending £31m, has a total estimated economic value of £64.1m.

[1] Based on UK Government inflation figures

Social Value

4.1 1.1.This section looks at the social benefits to LCF spending. While we can compare across a three-year period, these benefits are not possible to quantify in an economic calculation. However, they each clearly deliver a meaningful social benefit, so are vital to report as part of highlighting the value of the LCF.

Volunteering

4.2 The first metric is volunteering, which plays a key role in providing social activity. The benefits of volunteering for an individual, according to Citizens Advice, are very broad and include an opportunity to:

- make a positive difference to people's' lives
- improve self-esteem, confidence and wellbeing
- gain invaluable work experience
- receive high quality training and develop new skills
- use existing skills and knowledge to benefit the local community
- meet new people from a range of backgrounds
- feel valued and part of a team

This is not considering the benefits to society in general from volunteering activity, which are also numerous. EBs reported the following number of volunteers being involved in all completed projects:

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total volunteers	12,827	10,987	10,575
Per £10,000 of LCF spending	3.34	3.34	3.41
Volunteers per project (Object D)	14	12	13
Volunteers per project (Object DA)	38	33	35
Volunteers per project (Object E)	7	6	6

As the number of projects has fallen, the number of volunteers would also be expected to fall. However, as can be seen from the number of volunteers per project, volunteering has remained relatively stable per project, maintaining a similar value per £10k of LCF spending. It is a testament to the success of the scheme for local communities to see volunteers close to 11,000 per year, involved in local initiatives.

Public Amenity Visitors

4.3 The second social measure is to calculate how effective LCF projects are at increasing the footfall of the public to project sites, specific to Object D and E. Clearly, the number of people that visit a project is not indicative of total value but is a good indicator of the breadth of community reach. The following table shows the numbers, and rise in numbers of site visitors:

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Total site visits before project works	20,150,620	12,674,179	23,482,916
Total site visits after project works	26,100,758	17,055,484	28,464,387
Additional visitors (D and E)	5,950,138	4,381,305	4,896,311
Additional visitors per project	6,879	5,065	6,167
Additional visitors per £10,000 LCF spending	1,550	1,330	1,581

This measure has risen in the last year, not just in the number of additional visitors, but the number of projects with high foot fall focus, with two large public amenity projects in particular, making up nine million of these site visitors. LCF projects completed in 2024/2025 estimate a footfall of 28 million in just one year, up from 17 million. The additional visitors has risen per £10,000 from 1,330 to 1,581, meaning an additional 6,167 visitors to project sites on average.

However, it is worth mentioning that the LCF also reaches the smaller villages who struggle to access funding, do not cater to many people, but are equally valued by their small community, highlighting that visitor numbers are not always the best metric to assess value when looked at in isolation.

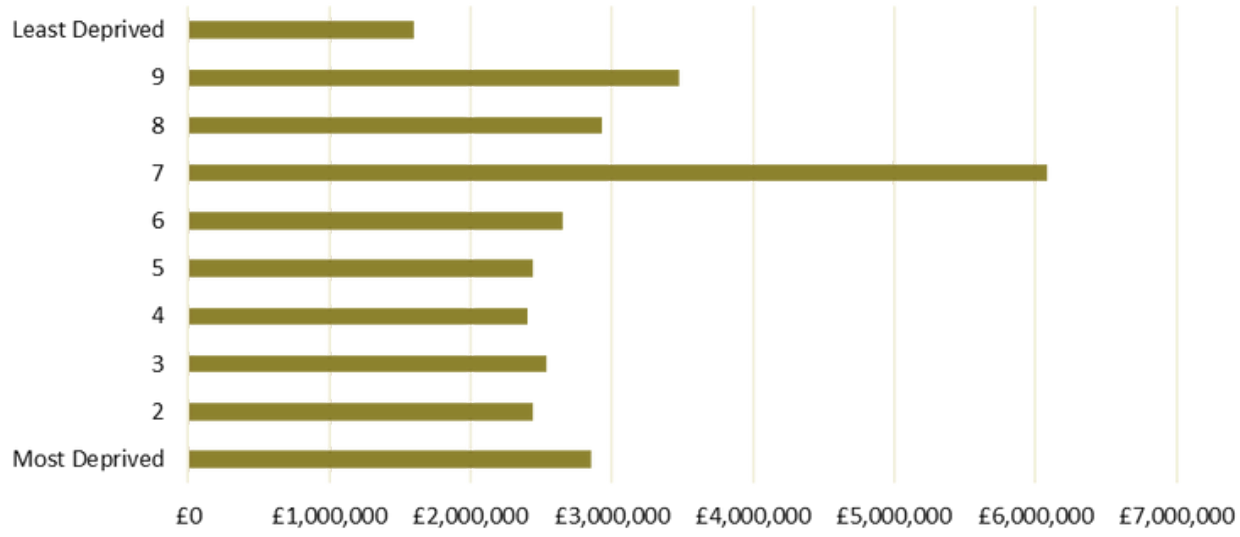
Deprivation

4.4 In 2025, the UK Government released an updated deprivation rank index for England (from 2019), splitting the UK into 33,755 different areas, and ranking them in order of how deprived the area is, 1 being the most deprived. This was calculated on several factors which are available in the report. We have given each project a score, based on this ranking index, and have established the following for the scheme.

On average, as can be seen from the table below, projects are delivered in slightly more affluent areas to the previous two years, slightly above the median of 16,877, which would indicate projects being delivered in more affluent areas, but still reaching all forms of communities on the scale.

	2022/2023 [2]	2023/2024	2024/2025
Average Deprivation Score (England)	16,148	16,559	17,853
Trend		411	1294

To see how LCF funds are spread across different communities with varying levels of deprivation, the following chart break this down further into deciles for the amount of funds into each decile.



As we can see from the graph above, that while the above average areas receive the highest amount of funding, specifically in decile 7, there is a good proportion of spending spread across the other deciles, including reaching the most deprived areas, with close to £3m being invested in the most deprived areas of England, similar to the picture in 2023/2024. The fund reached the full breadth of England the 22nd most deprived area, located in Sheffield, to the 50th most affluent in Cheltenham.

Similar analysis can be done for Northern Ireland projects, as a deprivation index has also been carried out although due to the smaller number of projects (45), a deciles chart is not informative. The Northern Ireland index is out of a total of 890 areas.

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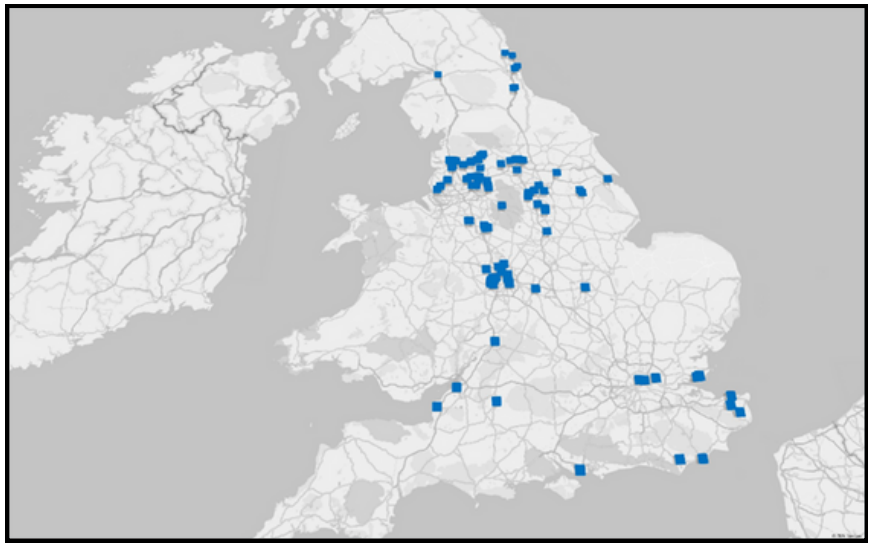
[2] 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 scores are using the 2019 data set, however, there is little difference in average scores for either data set and are therefore comparable.

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Average Deprivation Score (NI)	421	464	338
Trend		43	-126

Northern Ireland projects have shifted in 2024/2025 toward more deprived communities, with an average score of 338 well below the median score of 445. The spread of projects can be seen across the deprivation scale, with the 11th most deprived area in Causeway Coast and Glens and the 76th most affluent in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

To get a more visual picture, the following map shows the projects in eligible areas which are in the two most deprived deciles, indicating that the north of England has received a significant proportion of spending towards deprived communities:



The picture in Northern Ireland shows the LCF mainly reached a cluster of deprived communities within and around the city of Belfast.

Diversity and Inclusion

4.5 Another measure of social impact is whether funds are reaching all people groups that reside in England and Northern Ireland. We have, therefore, also given each project a diversity score, which is the percentage of people in the project area location, who consider themselves not to be 'White: British' according to the 2021 Census.

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Average non-White/British population percentage at project location	16.8%	16.1%	12%
Trend		-4.2%	-4.16%

In 2024/25 projects were generally delivered to communities with a lower diversity score, compared with previous years; however, this is a very broad brush measure and a shift is not unexpected due to the wide dispersal of projects in all areas of the country.

Summary

4.6 In summary, social impact remains the key aim of LCF project value, due to the reason for the LCF to exist as a mitigation for landfill activity. As the main aim of the fund, it is continuing to deliver very high value per £1. While economic issues that have affected all areas of the economy are seen in section two of this report, the social aspects paint a different picture, where despite economic difficulties, the social value of the LCF remains high, borne out in the large numbers of site visits, volunteering opportunities and the funds being delivered across all types of communities, both affluent and more deprived.

A reason for this is clear when speaking with EBs, that these items continue to be on EB Board meeting agendas in assessing the value of potential projects and form the basis for funding scoring systems. This is key to maintaining high value while remaining within the regulatory boundaries as set by Government to achieve the aim to compensate the communities affected by local landfill activity.

Environmental Value

5.1 1.1.This section of the report details the Environmental impact of the LCF. This is a challenging area to report, as the figures can vary from year to year due to a relatively small number of projects from which the data is sourced. There were 36 Environmental projects compared to 717 amenity-based projects, and there is no common set of numerical measures to recognise a project's impact on the environment. It is also considered likely that some project spending, such as projects for community buildings, may increase social value at the expense of environmental value, or vice versa, for example, where an environmental project restricts community use of an area of land.

Another consideration is that an Object D (public amenity) project may have a primary purpose for social benefit, but also a secondary purpose to improve the natural environment – for example, solar panels on a community hall, or a nature reserve training facility, to raise awareness of species decline.

However, there are several areas in which we can report the data, to indicate in their areas the amount of funds directed to environmental purposes and their impact on species, habitats and tree planting. This is enough to show that the LCF does have a tangible role in England and Northern Ireland to improve biodiversity.

5.2 Total spending on Object DA (species or habitat conservation) is slightly lower than the previous year, but still funding between 10-18% of all LCF spending as it has done for the last 10 years. Clearly, biodiversity remains a key aspect of LCF impact, and there is no trend to suggest that there is growing or waning appetite to carry out biodiversity work with LCF funds. As there is no regulatory requirement or government priority for the LCF to spend a certain proportion of funds on Object DA, the amount of spending is based on the choices of EBs as to their funding priorities, or quantity of Object DA applications.

5.3 One item of data that is collected is species of plants and animals that are impacted by the Object DA works. While the below table is not informative of any trend, due to the results being very project type specific, it does show a good indication of the breadth of impact across thousands of varieties across the last three years.

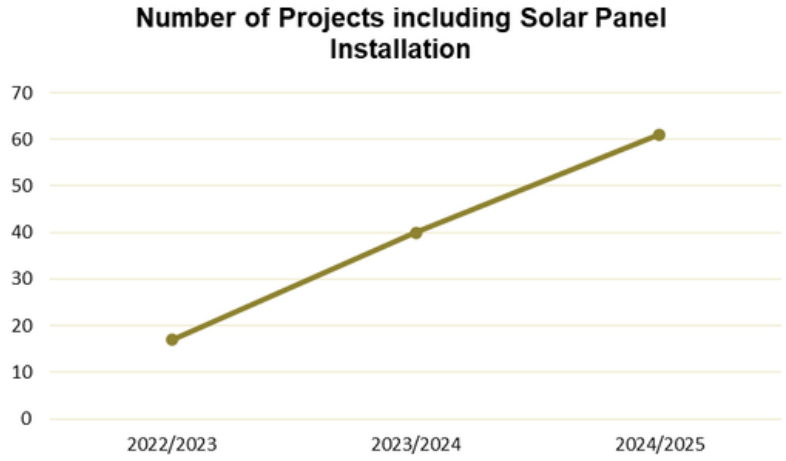
	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of plant species protected	4,748	1,382	597
Number of animal species protected	6,252	2,355	1,368

From 2021/2022, Entrust began to collect data to report on the level of tree planting activity in the LCF. While this is not alone a good indicator of biodiversity per se, there are several additional benefits to tree planting, such as area aesthetics and wellbeing which make it worthwhile adding as a value metric for value reporting.

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Number of trees planted	27,509	24,676	11,873
Trees per project	32	29	15
Number of projects with tree planting	84	73	81
% of projects with tree planting	8%	8%	10%

There were nearly 12k trees planted as part of LCF projects in 2024/2025, and while this is around half the number in 2023/2024, the percentage of projects that have tree planting as part of the aim has increased from 8% to 10%. We believe the percentage of projects which have tree planting as part of their objectives is the more reliable statistic to show any trend in the fund.

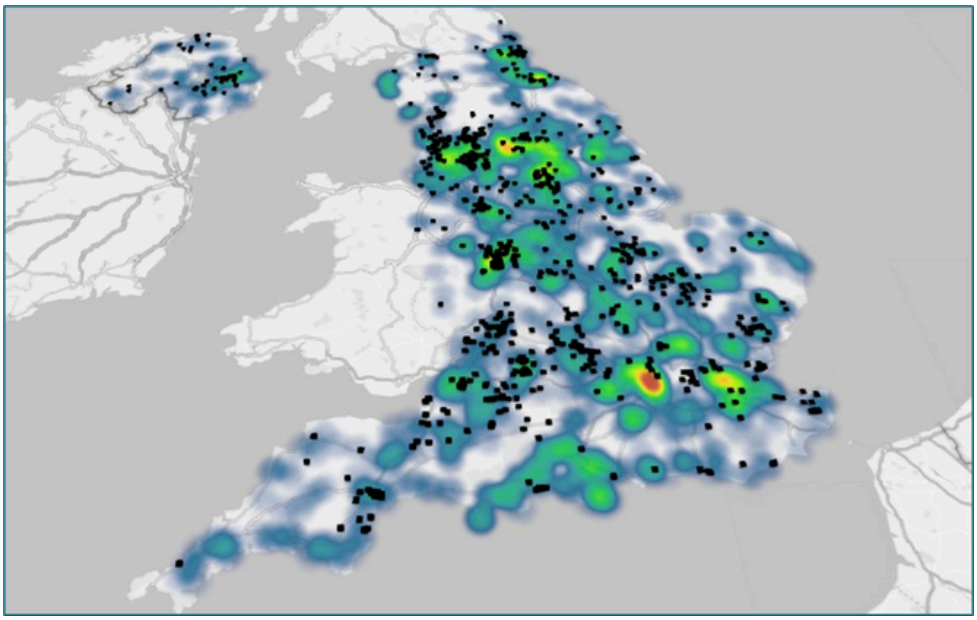
5.4 Of the 717 Object D (public park or amenity) projects (see table at para. 2.3 above), there have been 61 projects which have installed solar panels as opposed to 40 the previous year. This suggests a shift to green energy solutions and sustainability planning when considering the way to heat and power community projects:



While the caveats mentioned above apply, we believe the reported figures continue to show that the LCF has a tangible role in England and Northern Ireland to improve biodiversity and to contribute to the move toward greener energy. As the number of Object D projects with a secondary aim of improving a public amenities environmental impact has grown, the value of the LCF to the environment grows each year.

Geographical

The final area of assessment is the geographical spread of LCF projects and spending, to identify whether there are communities who are not able to access LCF funding. While eligibility for the LCF is restricted to projects in areas in the vicinity of a landfill site (interpreted to be 10 miles), this does not in fact leave many areas ineligible, with few postcodes in England and Northern Ireland not within 10 miles of landfill activity (see ,map below). Distance from a landfill site is therefore, it is not a key factor in determining geographical equity.



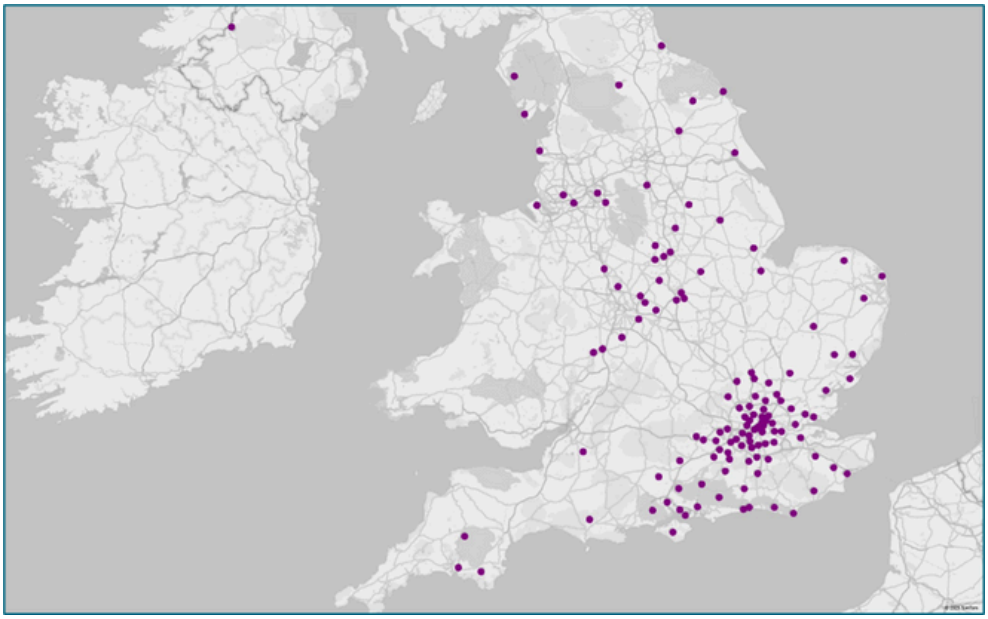
Landfill sites (heat map) and location of projects (black) in England and Northern Ireland

6.1 To further evidence this point, the following table maps how close a project is on average to the nearest licensed landfill site:

	2022/2023	2023/2024	2024/2025
Average project distance to licenced landfill site	2.7	2.6	2.7
Trend		-4%	3%

While the qualifying distance in Entrust guidance is up to 10 miles, EBs have consistently looked to fund projects much closer to landfill activity, fulfilling the key aim of the scheme in providing funding for those most impacted by the activity. This has remained consistent across three years at between 2.6 – 2.7 miles on average.

6.2 To assess how equal funding is across eligible areas, we have broken funding down into the 320 local authority (LA) areas in England and Northern Ireland. In doing so, we have identified that 189 areas had at least 1 project in 2024/2025. However, this does mean that 131 (41%), up from 93 areas have not received any funding in 2024/2025 as the map below highlights.



Areas of England and Northern Ireland with no LCF funding in 2024/2025

From last year's report, it does appear that the areas that do not receive any funding are mostly in the South East, despite there being a form of landfill activity in most of these areas as can be seen from the map in 6.1. This may be for several reasons, but many EBs are affiliated to landfill operators and it is possible the LO may have less activity in certain areas.

However, the LCF does appear to fund comprehensively the areas understood within the previous governments levelling up agenda, as less well funded areas of England. This could be due to the scheme's unique features, the funding source for projects being proximity to landfill activity, rather than fundraising from the local area's economy.

Also, if the last 3 years are taken into account, rather than just for 2024/2025, only 36 areas have not received any funding (11%), showing that while in one particular year, there are a number of unfunded LAs, over time, the LCF has funded the majority of eligible areas.
The table below lists the top 10 local authorities by project spending for the last two years:

Top Local Authorities 2023/2024	Total Project spending 2023/2024	Top Local Authorities 2024/2025	Total Project spending 2024/2025
Wiltshire	£2,916,941	Bedford	£1,015,000
Sheffield	£1,508,635	Leeds	£866,132
North Northamptonshire	£590,811	Dudley	£858,593
Leeds	£539,200	Chelmsford	£758,607
South Cambridgeshire	£478,901	Bolsover	£679,376
Newark and Sherwood	£469,673	South Ribble	£643,147
Colchester	£465,331	Cheshire East	£633,232
Buckinghamshire	£459,479	East Lindsey	£554,711
Somerset	£455,971	Wiltshire	£523,628
Newcastle-under-Lyme	£454,822	Tewkesbury	£522,077

While the above table suggests a bias towards certain LAs, there are some very high value projects which can act as outliers. Therefore, the below chart also shows the number of projects, alongside project spending per capita.

Local Authority	Spending Rank	Total number of Projects - 2024/2054	Total Project spending per capita - 2024/2025
Bedford	1	2	£5.48
Leeds	2	12	£1.07
Dudley	3	16	£2.65
Chelmsford	4	1	£4.18
Bolsover	5	5	£8.46
South Ribble	6	4	£5.79
Cheshire East	7	7	£1.59
East Lindsey	8	5	£3.90
Wiltshire	9	41	£1.03
Tewkesbury	10	15	£5.50

As the table indicates, an LA such as Bolsover may only be fifth highest on the funding list, but per capita, is ranked first due to lower population levels, another indication that smaller population centres are reached by LCF funding and can provide essential access to funding where it can be more challenging to access sources of finance. Also, while Bedford has seen the highest levels of funding, this was across two projects, including one large land purchase, as opposed to Wiltshire who received approximately half of Bedford's funding but across 41 projects.

Conclusion

This report has demonstrated that despite the economic challenges, EBs have been able to sustain high levels of value per £1 in both Community and Environmental areas. These are the two key aims of the fund, in providing funding for areas in the vicinity of landfill activity. The resilience shown in the face of the economic challenges provides the evidence that the fund is both achieving its key goals and providing substantial benefits for the social and natural environments.

We are delighted to see continued high levels of public engagement with projects while witnessing the energy and enthusiasm shown by actors within the LCF as we carry out our regulatory duties. This has resulted in a fund, which this report demonstrates, that delivers for communities and the environment, due to the continued efforts of EBs to ensure the LCF provides Value for Money.

It is also apparent that despite a gradual decrease in income and available funds, the energy and commitment to deliver highly valued, compliant projects is thriving, and as the regulator, we look forward to seeing the valuable work carried out by all actors in the fund over 2025/2026 and beyond.

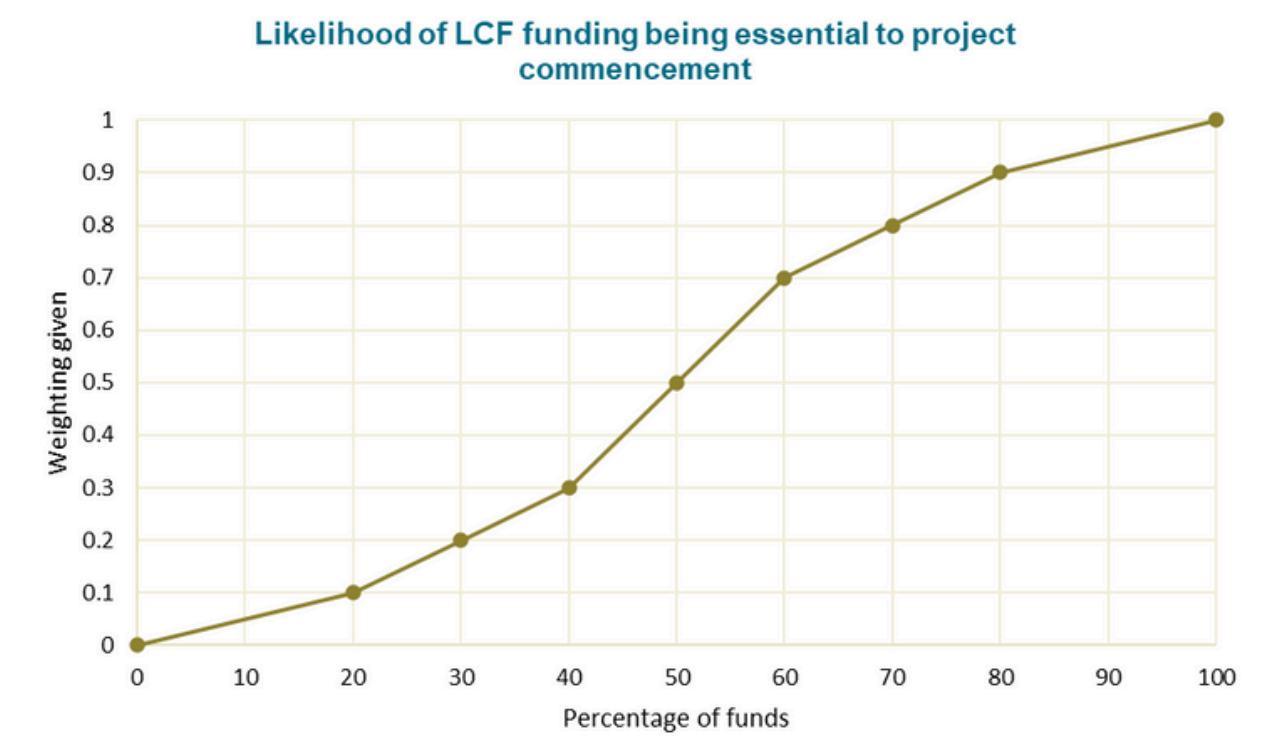
Entrust

November 2025

APPENDIX A: CALCULATING THE ADDED VALUE OF FUNDING FROM OTHER SOURCES

The following graph details the likelihood of the LCF being essential to a project progressing based on our regulatory experience and research into charity funding sources. This has been calculated on the basis that if a project is only receiving a small proportion of LCF funding as the total cost, it is less likely to have been instrumental in raising the other funds. In contrast, if the LCF is providing a high proportion of the total project cost, it is more likely that the LCF has been influential in generating further funds.

As several non-LCF funding bodies require match funding, when the LCF is providing just over 50% of funding, in our experience as the regulator of the fund, it is more likely that the EB is able to source funding from other sources. To represent this factor around the 50% mark, the chart has been adjusted to an 'S curve', showing a sharper rise in likelihood just over 50%, and a sharper fall just below 50%, than at other ratios.



Therefore, each project has been separately calculated depending on the ratio of LCF to non-LCF funding sources, to identify how likely the funding from other sources can be directly attributed as added value to LCF funding. The combined figure of the weighted totals provides the figure in section 3.2 of this report.

APPENDIX B: CALCULATING THE ADDED VALUE OF ASSETS

We have developed our calculation limited by how we have collected data in 2024/2025. Due to changes to how we collect this information, we no longer ask for categorisation, as this was time consuming and unnecessary. Also, the results of splitting the categories did not make any material difference to the result if a more general calculation was made.

Another change was the introduction of guidance as to what constitutes an asset. We limited this based on regulatory requirements, to only items that could be resold.

Therefore, for all assets, we recognise the added value an asset has in repeated use after the initial project works are complete. For example, a cricket club lawn mower will bring long term benefits to the cricket club, repeating the same maintenance project multiple times and multiplying its value across several years. Therefore, added value is calculated by multiplying the original cost by the estimated depreciation value across the 3 year period. The UK government estimate the reduction in value to be 25% per year.

- Asset cost (AC) x 75% + AC x 50% + AC x 25% = Added Value

This calculation provides the total added value in section 3.3 of this report.

We believe these are conservative estimates, as they do not always multiply across the full monitoring period, or recognise that some assets, such as machines and multi-use games areas, can have a benefit significantly beyond 3 years. However, these current calculations using basic UK Government depreciation estimates are considered appropriate to provide a solid baseline for additional value.

APPENDIX C: CALCULATING THE ADDED VALUE OF JOBS

On the Value for Money Form, EBs estimate how many Full Time Equivalent (FTE) jobs will be created or maintained because of the project works.

This allows us to calculate added value, by multiplying the number of jobs by the estimate of average annual salary of the year in which the projects were completed. The estimate for 2024/2025 data was published by TalentUK, providing a revised figure of £35,000 as opposed to £35,308 for all sectors provided by the Office for National Statistics. This we believe is a more appropriate figure, as the sectors in which jobs are more likely to be created in community establishments are in the charity sector.

We have, however, reduced the weight of maintained jobs, as these are jobs that may not have been lost if the project had not gone ahead. Therefore, maintained jobs are given a weighting of 0.5.

The calculation is as follows:

- New Jobs + (Maintained Jobs*0.5)

-Multiplied by-

Average charity salary (2024/2025)

= Added Value

This provides the jobs added value calculation estimate found in section 3.4.