



The Value of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

2025/2026

Celebrating 30 years of the LCF



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1. Executive Summary

This Value of the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) 2025/2026 report marks the thirtieth anniversary of a significant environmental and community funding scheme. Established in 1996, the LCF enables landfill operators to contribute to community and environmental projects in return for landfill tax credits, with funds distributed by Environmental Bodies regulated by Entrust. Over three decades, the scheme has invested more than £1.755 billion in 71,288 projects, supporting communities across the UK [1] and leaving a substantial legacy of environmental and social improvement.



In 2025/2026, the LCF continued to deliver a significant impact for local communities. Although overall project spending declined to £23.7 million in 2025/2026, reflecting reduced landfill activity and lower contributions to the scheme, a total of 654 projects were completed during the year, with 87% of funding directed towards public amenities, 11% towards biodiversity conservation and 3% towards places of worship and historic buildings. Community halls, sports facilities and playgrounds remained the most heavily funded project types.



The report estimates that every £1 invested through the LCF generated a further £1.08 in economic value. This additional value has been calculated from four areas: through funding received from other sources, the long-term value of assets created, employment supported or generated, and income derived from completed projects. Overall, £23.7 million of LCF spending is estimated to have created a total economic value of approximately £49 million. The Fund also helped maintain 237 jobs and create 87 new jobs while contributing to leveraging over £31 million from external funding sources.



Socially, the LCF demonstrated strong community outcomes. More than 16,600 volunteers were involved in supported projects, representing a significant increase in volunteering opportunities in comparison to 2024/2025. Projects generated over 2.2 million additional visits to public amenities and community facilities. The Fund continued to support a wide variety of communities, including highly deprived areas, while maintaining broad geographical coverage across England and Northern Ireland. Funding reached areas with diverse populations and communities that often struggle to secure alternative investment.

[1] Due to tax devolution, the LCF ended in Scotland (2015) and Wales (2018), with the devolved governments setting up their own schemes. Therefore, the fund currently operates in England and Northern Ireland only.

Executive Summary



Environmental benefits remained a key feature of the scheme. Biodiversity projects accounted for £2.5 million of expenditure, nearly 36,000 trees and shrubs were planted, and 61 projects incorporated solar power installations. Further benefits included habitat restoration, species conservation and the enhancement of natural landscapes.

The report concludes that, despite reduced funding levels, the LCF continues to provide value for money. Its combination of economic, social and environmental benefits demonstrates a lasting and meaningful contribution to communities, reinforcing its importance as it enters its fourth decade.

2. 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 are often asked to 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 (VfM) 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, included are economic, social, and environmental benefits, as well as identifying geographical trends.



Provide an overview of fund spending, and its value, for the 30 years the scheme has operated, including input from EBs, with case studies, to share their perspective on the value of the fund to communities and the environment.

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

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

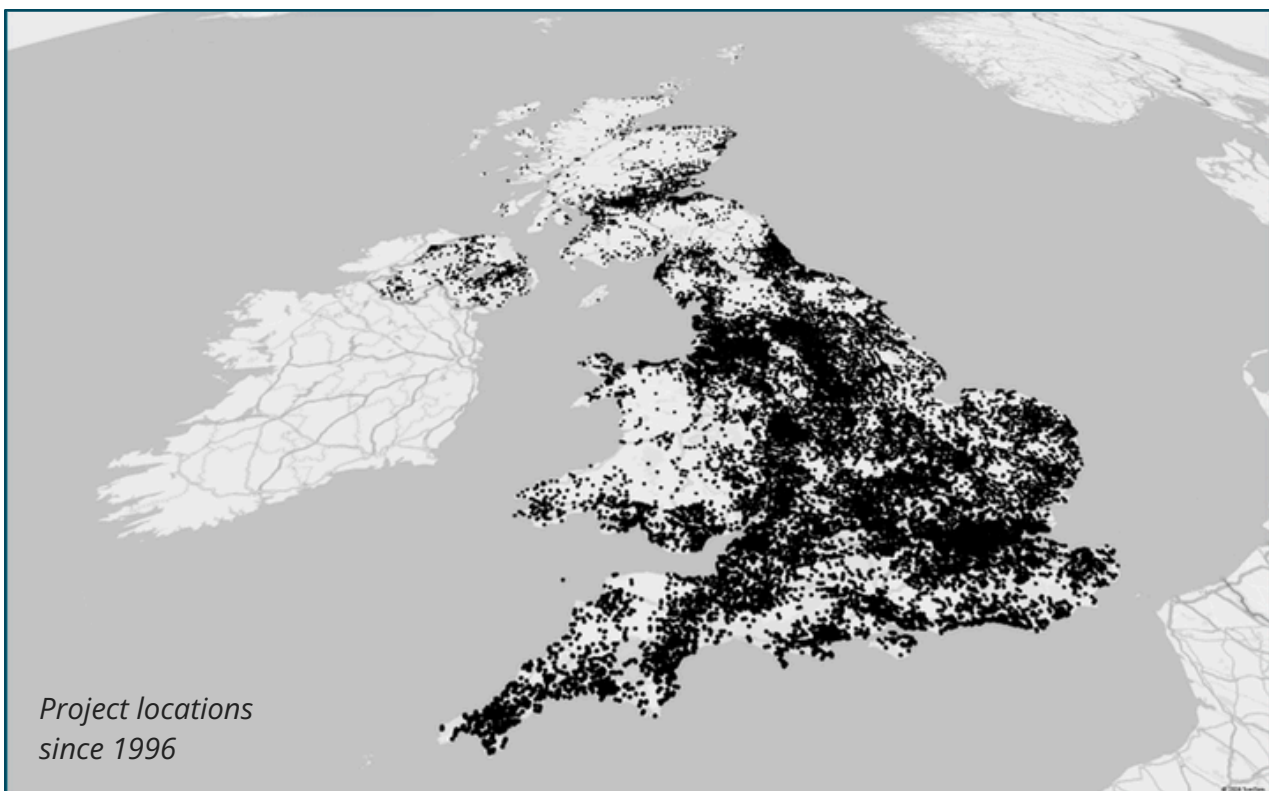
[2] In using data, where possible only UK Government sources are used, to strengthen any conclusions made. Where another source is used, the source is clearly labelled for completeness.

To consider the value of the fund over 30 years, data is taken from all projects; however, methods have changed over that time in collecting data to demonstrate VfM. While the statistics provide an overview of the Fund's activity, they cannot fully capture its impact. They should therefore be considered alongside the qualitative evidence provided by scheme beneficiaries.

{2} 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 spending within the financial year irrespective of whether the project had completed.

3. 30 Years of the LCF

- 3.1 This section looks back on the last 30 years of funding, since the fund began in 1996. Due to the number of times VfM reporting has changed, only a limited range of statistics have been collected for the whole period to give quantitative insight. It is also undesirable to assume that projects completed before VfM data was collected had the same average value as more recent activity, as value per project may have shifted significantly since the scheme began. Therefore, several of the areas explored in this report from section 4 (Key spending trends) are not also provided for, as there are not 30 years of data collected. However, at the end of this report is a selection of project reports from EBs, to give some qualitative insight into how valuable the LCF is to the communities that benefit.
- 3.2 Over the 30 years, the fund has reached significant parts of the United Kingdom, as the map below demonstrates:



Over 30 years, project spending has reached thousands of organisations, for different objectives and in thousands of community groups. The fund was active from 1996 across all four parts of the UK up until tax devolution to Scotland (2015) and Wales (2018) leading to the creation of separate landfill tax-based schemes.

30 Years of the LCF

The following table outlines the amount of funds spent on the different objectives of the scheme (objects). These objects, set out in more detail in section 4.3, have been amended since the scheme began due to changes in government priorities for the fund, and Objects C, CC (2003) and F (2015) are no longer eligible:

Object	Number of Projects	Total Spending	%
The remediation of land (A)	455	£27,011,537	1.5%
The prevention of pollution (B)	76	£2,151,746	0.1%
The reduction of waste (C)	5,574	£240,144,881	13.7%
The recycling of waste (CC)	78	£4,662,122	0.3%
Public parks and public amenities (D)	52,074	£1,206,682,939	68.7%
Biodiversity conservation (DA)	4,470	£155,797,771	8.9%
The restoration of places of worship and historic buildings (E)	8,505	£116,363,996	6.6%
The provision of services to other EBs (F)	56	£2,540,032	0.1%
Total	71,288	£1,755,355,024	100%

These objects were delivered by EBs, some receiving contributions directly from landfill operators, and some who received funds from other EBs:

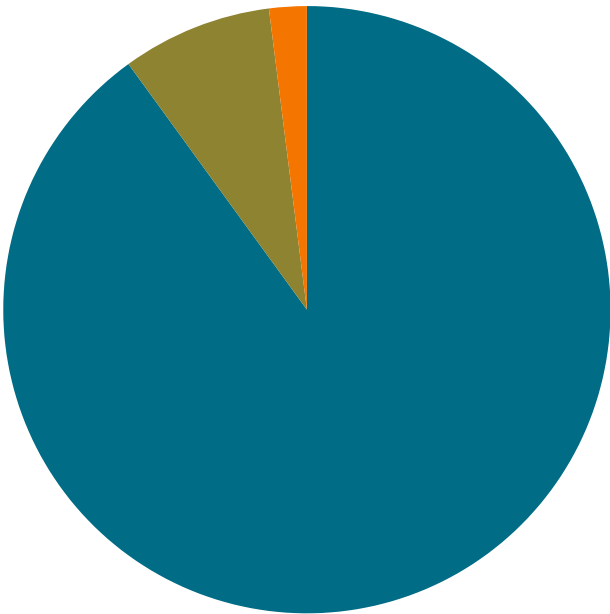
- Number of EBs who received contributions directly from landfill operators: 1,465
- Number of EBs who have registered and completed projects: 5,150
- Regarding where funds have been spent, the LCF has diverted 90% of all contributions and the income derived directly from these contributions, such as bank interest, to project spending:

30 Years of the LCF

Spending Categories in the LCF

Regarding where funds have been spent, the LCF has diverted 90% of all contributions and the income derived directly from these contributions, such as bank interest, to project spending:

-  Project spending - 90%
-  EB Administration - 8%
-  Entrust Levy - 2%



3.3 Looking back, the fund has been a key contributor to local communities and the environment, providing a vital source of funds across the country. The LCF has reached all kinds of communities in the vicinity of landfill activity, from inner city to rural, deprived to affluent, and to the far corners of the UK.

The LCF has contributed significant value over 30 years, and as the next sections explore, what was spent continued to provide high value for each contribution made in 2025/2026, even though spending has reduced.

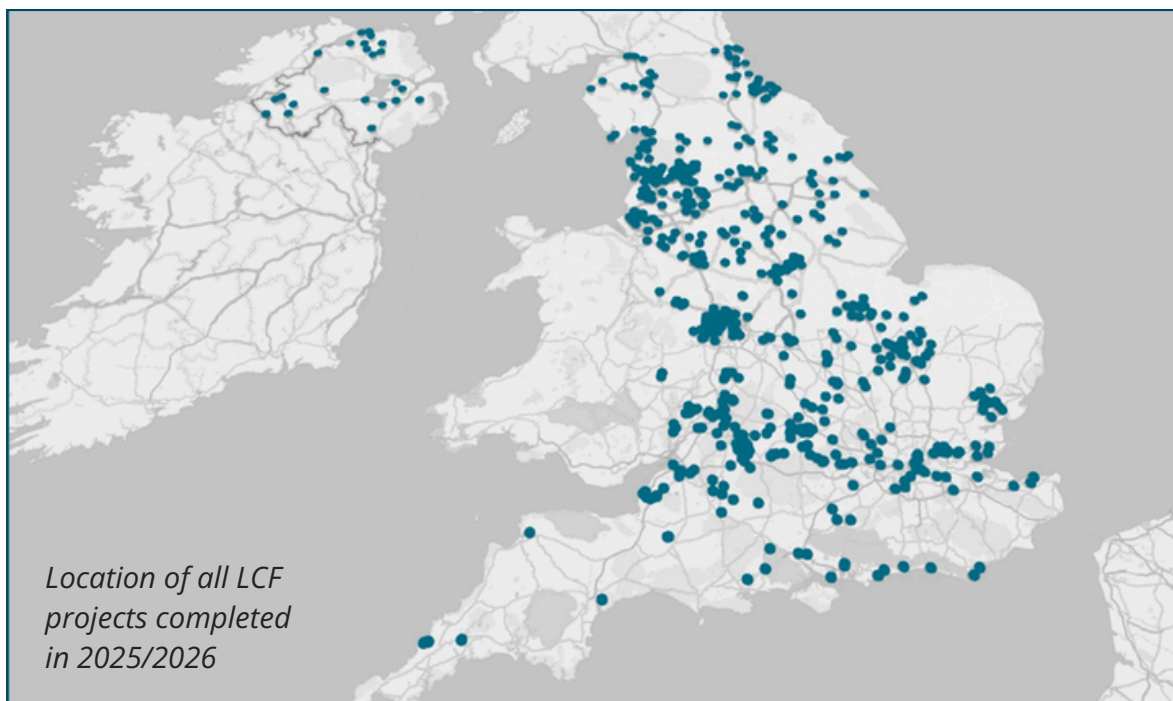
Section 10 continues the theme of looking back, with case studies directly from EBs to highlight their experience in the value that the LCF provides to communities and the environment. As has been highlighted, a number of these EBs were there at the very start of the scheme.

4. Overall Key Spending Trends

- 4.1 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.
- 4.2 The first table shows the total amount spent on projects that completed during 2025/2026, with comparisons with the two previous years:

Year	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Project spending	£32,932,905	£30,972,807	£23,709,766
% Change		-5.95%	-23.45%
Number of projects	865	794	654
% Change		-8.21%	-17.63%
Average project amount	£38,073	£39,009	£36,253

This is displayed visually on the map below, which shows the geographical distribution of LCF funds.



As can be seen, project spending has fallen significantly, by 23.5%, which is to be expected due to a fall in contributions.

The number of projects delivered has not fallen by as much as spending, a 17.6% reduction, primarily due to the average award being slightly lower than in 2024/2025. It was not expected that this would be the case as some EBs informed Entrust that they had implemented a higher minimum project award. However, this has not yet materialised into a higher average award, which may happen as projects awarded under new minimum award criteria come to completion.

4.3 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	586	£27,069,162	£25,932,913	£20,600,089	87%
Object DA	43	£4,872,224	£3,742,390	£2,497,489	11%
Object E	25	£991,520	£1,297,505	£612,188	3%
Total	654	£32,932,905	£30,972,807	£23,709,766	100%

By comparing over a three-year period, it can be determined that there have only been small shifts in the split of all project spending between Objects. A and B are rarely used Objects as most project ideas within these categories tend to fall within other, less complex Objects. Public amenities (Object D) received 87% of all project spending (previously 85%), with biodiversity projects (Object DA) making up 11% (from 12%), and restoration of religious or historical buildings (Object E) 3% (from 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 2024/2025	Spend in 2025/2026	% of spend in 2024/2025	% of spend in 2025/2026
Community Hall/Centre	167	£7,757,654	£5,146,465	30%	25.0%
Sporting Facilities	145	£6,973,582	£4,691,277	26.90%	22.8%
Public Playground	100	£3,012,633	£4,578,608	11.60%	22.2%
Other	42	£1,928,073	£1,894,988	7.40%	9.2%
Park	40	£1,381,055	£1,101,226	5.30%	5.3%
Nature Reserve	27	£1,242,368	£995,309	4.80%	4.8%
Church/Place of Worship	23	£1,635,459	£748,405	6.30%	3.6%
Museum	7	£1,008,291	£689,061	3.90%	3.3%
Village Green	8	£53,613	£177,800	0.20%	0.9%
Bridleway/Public footpath	10	£285,488	£166,668	1%	0.8%
Zoos and Public Farms	2	£57,442	£150,000	0.20%	0.7%
Activity Centre	6	£260,271	£138,019	1.00%	0.7%
Public Woodland	6	£217,956	£79,388	0.80%	0.4%
Cycle Path	1	£28,000	£25,000	0.10%	0.1%
Canal Works/Waterways	1	£35,000	£15,000	0.10%	0.1%
Library	1	£56,028	£2,874	0.20%	0.0%
Total	586	£25,932,913	£20,600,089	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 remain the highest funded category. Public playgrounds are the project type with the largest shift, from 11.6% to 22.2% of all Object D funding.

- 4.5 For Object DA, categories are split into different types of land. The table below indicates the funding split between these land types:

Land Type	*Number of projects with this land type	Spend in 2024/2025	% of Object spending in 2024/2025
Lakes and Ponds	13	£766,177	31%
Wetland	17	£542,077	22%
Lowland Farmland	15	£427,689	17%
Woodland	12	£321,304	13%
Upland	5	£204,024	8%
Urban and Brownfield	5	£99,828	4%
Rivers	5	£92,778	4%
Coastal	1	£35,557	1%
None	3	£8,056	0%
Marine	0	£0	0%
Total		£2,497,489	100%

*One project can be registered under multiple land types. Where this is the case, the spend has been split between these land types.

- 4.6 Object DA projects shift regularly in terms of which land type is the most prevalent. Therefore, there are no discernible trends from comparing data from previous years.
- 4.7 For Object E, there are only two types of projects: places of worship, which accounted for 56% and buildings of historical interest, which accounted for 44% of project spending. There is little shift in activity from 2024/2025.
- 4.8 The reduction in contributions to the Landfill Communities Fund has placed increasing pressure on the cost of administering the scheme. As a result, a greater proportion of available funds is required to support delivery and regulatory activity, reducing the amount that can be distributed to projects, as illustrated in the table below:

Scheme administration	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total EB Administration Costs	£2,219,763	£2,181,586	£2,047,028
Entrust Regulatory Resource Requirement (Levy)	£1,135,000	£1,056,000	£899,478
Total fund administrative cost	£3,354,763	£3,237,586	£2,946,506
- As a % of completed project spending	10.19%	10.45%	12.43%

The cost of administering the scheme, measured as a percentage of completed project expenditure, has increased as contribution levels and project spending have declined. However, the actual cost of administration has continued to reduce year on year. As contributions are forecast to reduce further in 2026/2027, resulting in lower levels of project expenditure, this percentage is expected to increase again in the longer term, even if the overall monetary cost of administration continues to fall.

Levy income in 2025/2026 was higher than anticipated due to contributions exceeding forecast levels. Combined with regulatory cost savings and the planned use of accumulated surplus in 2026/2027, this has enabled the UK Government to reduce the levy rate despite further forecast reductions in contributions. Subject to EBs continuing their gradual reduction in administration costs, this is expected to deliver a further decrease in the total cost of scheme administration in 2026/2027, helping to maximise the funding available for projects that benefit communities and the environment.

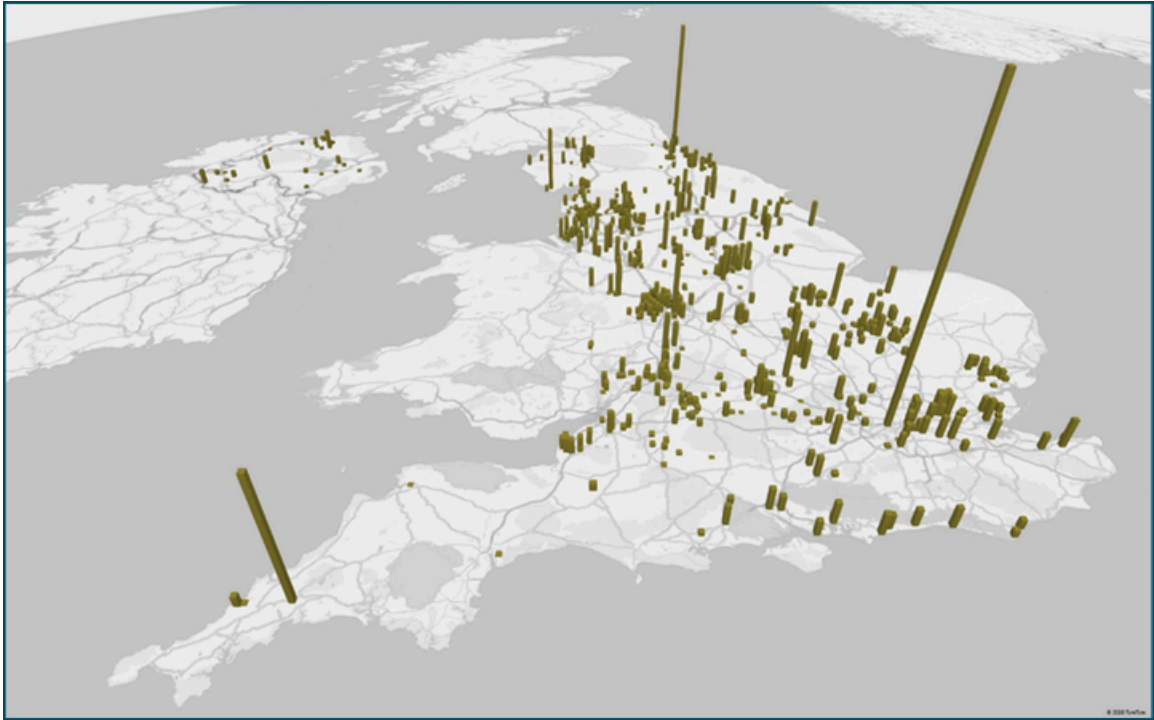
4.9 In summary, apart from all elements impacted by a reduction in contributions, there are no notable shifts in Object spending.

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. The fund operators continue all efforts to keep the administration of the fund low in the context of reducing contributions. One element to note is the increase in spending on playgrounds, which may represent a shift to more playground related projects.

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

5. Economic Value

- 5.1 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 can be assessed with an estimated figure of added economic value. Looking at this over a three-year period can also indicate the relative increase or decrease in calculated value over time.



Map of 2025/2026 spending, with higher bars representing higher project values

Funding from other sources

- 5.2 The first area is how impactful the LCF is in attracting funds from other sources. It is reported to Entrust 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, listed below are the ratios, with 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:

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
LCF Spending	£32,932,905	£30,972,807	£23,709,766
Funding from other sources	£23,881,510	£29,532,278	£31,632,542
Total Spending incl. funds from other sources	£56,814,415	£60,505,085	£55,342,308
Ratio of LCF to Other Sources	58%	51%	43%
Additional economic value*	£10,617,910	£6,152,580	£4,778,597
Additional economic value per £10,000 of LCF spending	£7,204	£5,068	£5,064

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

The amount of funding spent on LCF projects but raised from other sources has risen from £29.5m in 2024/2025 to £31.6m in 2025/2026. Resulting in a larger percentage of total spending on LCF projects (57%) coming from non-LCF sources. This is in the context of a large fall in LCF spending (23.5%), which in turn, led to the fall in total additional economic value (22.3%). However, as LCF project spending fell by less than the additional value it created, the additional value calculation for 2025/2026, per £10,000 of LCF spending, has risen from 2024/2025.

Assets and Resaleable Items

5.3 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 for ongoing repeat administrative costs. Therefore, alongside the numbers and percentages of total funding, below is an estimate of added longer term value for any spend on an asset. The full methodology can be found in Appendix B:

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total amount listed as an asset	£16,032,944	£10,465,024	£8,004,382
% of total spending	49%	34%	34%
Additional economic Value*	£24,049,416	£15,697,536	£12,006,573
Additional economic value per £10,000 of LCF spending	£7,204	£5,068	£5,064

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

Total spending on items listed as an asset has fallen; however, this is in line with the reduction in spending as the percentage of total spending has remained the same, at 34%. Asset reporting was simplified to include only assets that could be resold rather than a much broader definition, meaning the data reported to Entrust since 2024/2025 was expected to be lower than in 2023/2024, and a lower percentage of total spend as the data confirms. This does mean that the above estimates are likely to be undervaluing the scheme in this and the previous financial year regarding assets; however, Entrust do not collect the data that would give a like for like comparison due to the unnecessary administrative burden it would create.

The added value estimate, set out in Appendix B, looks to acknowledge the longer-term aspect of asset purchasing, by using the UK Government depreciation of asset calculation for a three-year period. As this is based on resale value, the calculation method is likely to be 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 Government's depreciation percentages provides a helpful baseline for estimating added value of highly varied asset types.

Jobs

- 5.4 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 raise funding due to several factors including the cost of living ([UK Government, 2026](#)). Entrust 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 ([Charity Jobs, 2026](#)).

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total Jobs Maintained	668	312	237
Total Jobs Created	207	150	87
Additional economic Value*	£16,749,901	£10,709,300	£7,414,380
Additional economic value per £10,000 of LCF spending	£5,017	£3,458	£3,127

**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. Job growth has fallen, but this is largely in line with the fall in project spending, meaning the calculation per £10,000 for 2025/2026 is only slightly below the 2024/2025 figure.

Income Derived

- 5.5 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, ID is calculated 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 this may be an underestimate for many projects.

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total project ID	£1,428,316	£363,453	£709,049
As a % of Project Expenditure	4.30%	1.17%	2.99%
*Added economic value	£3,758,033	£615,447	£1,329,623
Additional economic value per £10,000 of LCF spending	£1,126	£199	£561

**ID Figure multiplied by the monitoring period – previous calculations included values that may have been overstated due to a misunderstanding of how to report ID.*

The level of reported ID had dropped significantly from historical years; however, this may be because 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. Therefore, ID may have been over reported before 2024/2025, rather than a change in the aims of the fund toward less sustainable projects. This means a genuine increase in ID has been reported for 2025/2026, rising to almost 3% of all project expenditure, and a large increase in value per £10,000 of project spending to £561.

Summary

- 5.6 While the LCF has maintained the level of additional value per £10,000 of project spending, there have been some shifts in where this value originates, with a significant rise in derived income, a small rise in the impact of the LCF in sourcing other funding, similar asset levels and a slight fall in job growth.
- 5.7 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)	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Other sourced funding	£3,180	£1,986	£2,015
Assets*	£7,204	£5,068	£5,064
Income Derived*	£1,126	£199	£561
Jobs	£5,017	£3,458	£3,127
Total	£16,527	£10,711	£10,767

** Unlikely to be like for like comparisons due to changes in reporting methods and updated guidance in 2024/2025.*

➤ Therefore, it is estimated that for every £1 of LCF funding, there is an additional £1.08 of added economic benefit, just above the previous year figure of £1.07.

This means the fund in 2025/2026, while spending £23.7m, has a total estimated economic value of £49.2m.

6. Social Value

- 6.1 This section looks at the social benefits to LCF spending. While compared 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

- 6.2 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:

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026 (pre-project)	2025/2026 (post-project)	2025/2026 (total)
Total volunteers	10,987	10,575	10,442	6,201	16,643
Per £10,000 of LCF spending	3.34	3.41	4.4	2.62	7.02
Volunteers per project (Object D)	12	13	16.5	9.32	25.84
Volunteers per project (Object DA)	33	35	15.4	14.7	30.09
Volunteers per project (Object E)	6	6	3.9	4.32	8.2

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 increased, with volunteers per £10k of LCF spending reaching to over seven. It is a testament to the success of the scheme for local communities to see so many volunteers involved in local initiatives.

However, while the combination of pre and post project figures have been provided, the figures may not be exactly comparable, as this year, volunteers have been split between those that were involved in the delivery of the project, and opportunities that have arisen due to the project having completed. This was due to an amendment to the questions on the Value for Money form. Also provided are the split between the different Objects. Together, this provides a clearer understanding, that across project types, and time, volunteering is a strong objective for EBs in the scheme and delivers high levels of social value.

Public Amenity Visitors

6.3 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:

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Total site visits before project works	12,674,179	23,482,916	8,095,594
Total site visits after project works	17,055,484	28,464,387	10,356,020
Additional visitors (D and E)	4,381,305	4,896,311	2,260,426
Additional visitors per project	5,065	6,167	3,456
Additional visitors per £10,000 LCF spending	1,330	1,581	953

As the types of projects can make this measure volatile, it is difficult to see any trends. This measure has fallen in the last year; however, two large public amenity projects made up a third of all site visitors in 2024/2025 whereas in 2025/2026, the top 20 projects had an estimated footfall of between 100,000 and 250,000 annually post project works. The spread of visitors to projects was greater in 2025/2026, therefore, it is not correct to indicate a fall in value, rather, a smaller amount of large public amenity projects.

It is also 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 community, highlighting that visitor numbers are not always the best metric to assess value when looked at in isolation.

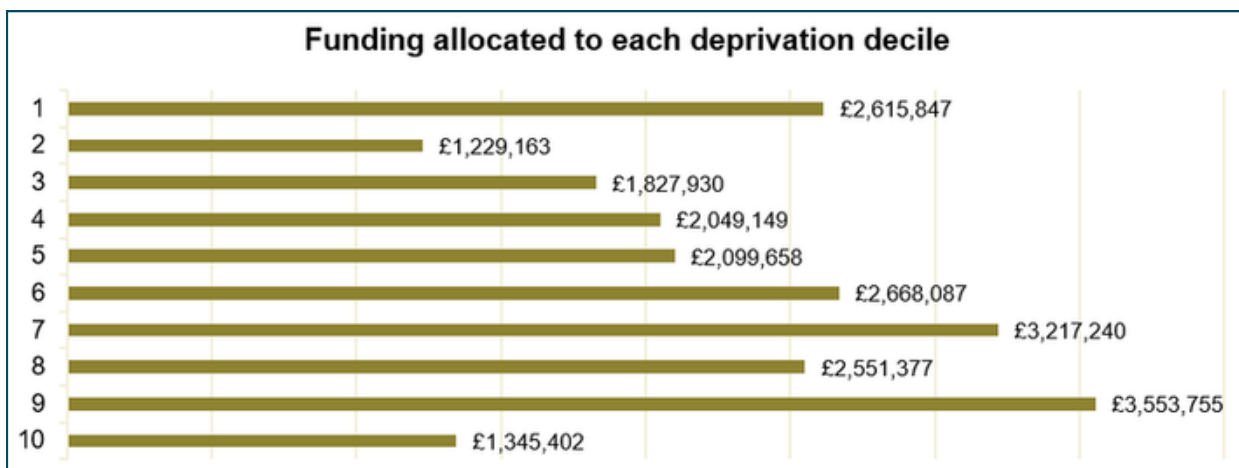
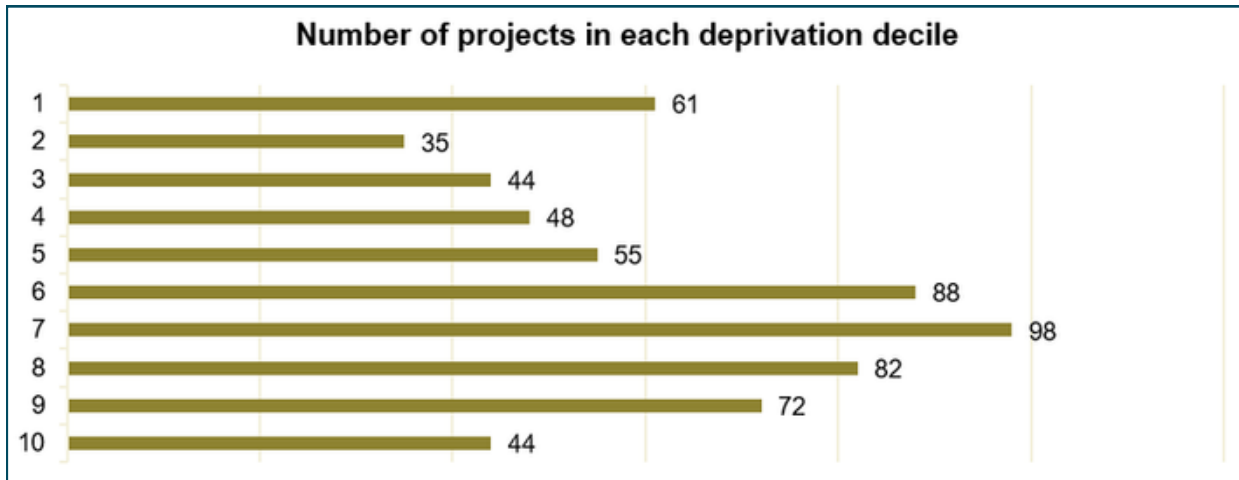
Deprivation

6.4 In 2025, the UK Government released an updated deprivation rank index for England (replacing the 2019 version), splitting England 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](#). Each project has been given a score, based on this ranking index, and has established that on average projects are delivered in slightly more affluent areas, similar to the 2024/2025 average, slightly above the median of 16,877, but still reaching all forms of communities on the scale.

	2023/2024 [3]	2024/2025	2025/2026
Average Deprivation Score (England)	16,559	17,853	18,138
Trend	411	1294	285

To see how LCF funds are spread across different communities with varying levels of deprivation, the following charts break this down further into deciles. The first graph shows the number of projects funded in each decile, and the second, the total amount of funding to that decile (1 being the most deprived):

[3] 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.



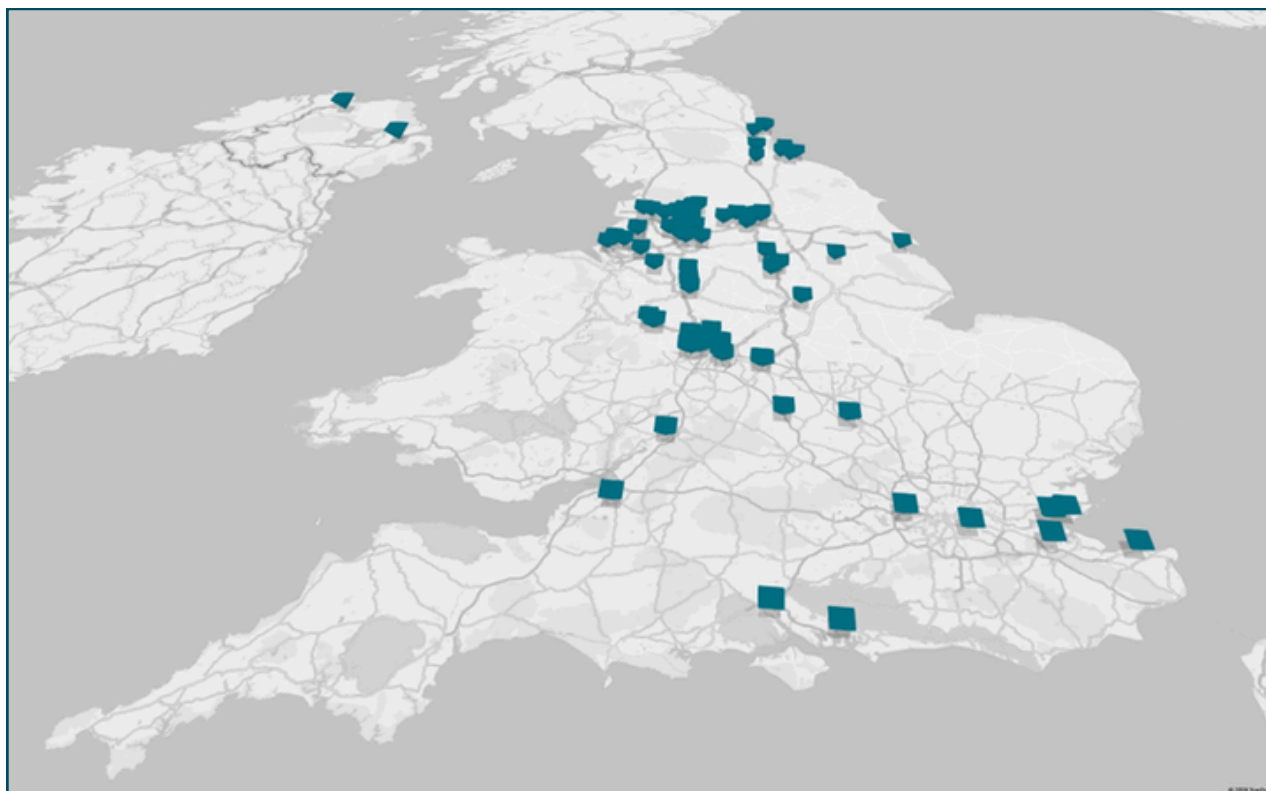
As can be seen from the graph above, while the above average areas receive the highest amount of funding, specifically in decile 9, there is a good proportion of spending spread across the other deciles, including reaching the most deprived decile, with close to £2.5m (11.3% of all funding) being invested in the most deprived decile of England, similar to the picture in 2024/2025. The fund reached the 80th most deprived area in England, located in Hartlepool, to the 533rd most affluent in England, which is in Birmingham. It is notable that the most deprived decile clearly shows higher levels of funding than the second, third and fourth deciles, in a similar picture to 2024/2025. This indicates that while generally projects fall in deciles 6-8, more affluent areas, there have been deliberate attempts by some EBs to reach postcodes in the most deprived decile in England over the last two years.

Similar analysis can be done for Northern Ireland projects, as a similar deprivation index was compiled in 2017, although due to the smaller number of projects (27), a deciles chart is not informative. The Northern Ireland index is out of a total of 890 areas.

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Average Deprivation Score (NI)	464	338	432
Trend	43	-126	94

Northern Ireland projects have an average score of 432, higher than in 2024/2025; however, this is still below the median score of 445 meaning projects are generally in more deprived areas. The spread of projects can be seen across the deprivation scale, with the 11th most deprived area in Limavady and the 97th most affluent in Coleraine.

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



2025/2026 projects in the two most deprived deciles in England and Northern Ireland

Diversity and Inclusion

6.5 Another measure of social impact is whether funds are reaching all people groups that reside in England and Northern Ireland. Therefore, each project has been given 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.

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
*Average non-White/British population percentage at project location	16.10%	12%	17.63%
Trend	-4.20%	-4.16%	5.63%

In 2025/2026 projects were delivered to communities with a higher diversity score, compared with the previous year; 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 and figures are likely to be coincidental.

Summary

6.6 In summary, value that cannot easily be measured in monetary value has remained strong, particularly in the increases in volunteering opportunity. The LCF remains a fund that reaches all forms of communities, both diverse in social background and in affluence. In conversations with EBs and Projects, the social benefits are clearly the most heralded aspect of scheme VfM, commonly mentioned as vital, treasured, and valuable amenities for the communities involved.

7. Environmental Value

- 7.1 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 43 Environmental projects compared to 586 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 areas in which data can be reported, to indicate the amount of funds directed to environmental purposes. This is enough to show that the LCF does have a role in England and Northern Ireland to improve biodiversity.

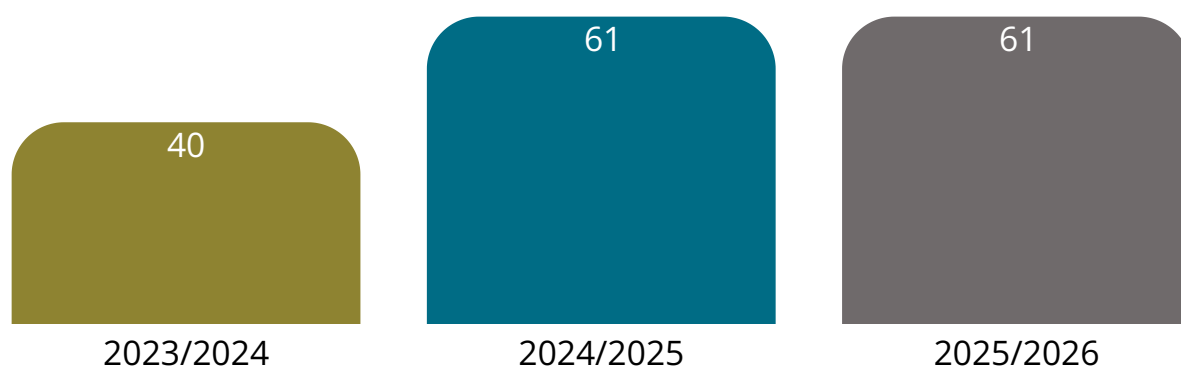
- 7.2 Total spending on Object DA (species or habitat conservation) is lower than the previous year, but a similar proportion of total LCF spending (11%) has been typical across the last 10 years (between 10-18%). Clearly, biodiversity remains a sizable aspect of LCF impact, and there is no trend to 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.
- 7.3 From 2022/2023, 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 carbon reduction, area aesthetics, and wellbeing which make it worthwhile adding as a value metric for value reporting. Entrust also amended the wording from 'trees' to 'trees and large shrubs' to better represent the aim of aesthetic improvements as well as biodiversity goals.

	2023/2024	2024/2025		2025/2026
Number of trees planted	24,676	11,873	Number of trees/shrubs planted	35,699
Trees per project	29	15	Trees/shrubs per project	60.92
Number of projects with tree planting	73	81	Number of projects with tree/shrub planting	82
% of projects with tree planting	8%	10%	% of projects with tree/shrub planting	13%

There were nearly 36k trees and large shrubs planted as part of LCF projects in 2025/2026. This is significantly above the number in 2024/2025, and the percentage of projects that have tree/shrub planting as part of the aim has increased from 8% to 13%. This is likely to be due to the addition of the word 'shrub' in the question, so is not like for like and no trends can be gained from the comparisons. However, it is worth noting that 13% of all projects have planting trees and shrubs as part of project works, which is significant, as it shows a clear plan to provide environmental and social benefits through aesthetic and biodiversity improvements.

7.4 Of the 586 Object D (public park or amenity) projects (see table at para. 4.3 above), there have been 61 projects which have installed solar panels (10% of all Object D projects) which was also 61 in the previous year, maintaining a higher level of green energy solutions within project works compared to 2023/2024. There were also 18 projects identified which included an air-source heat pump.

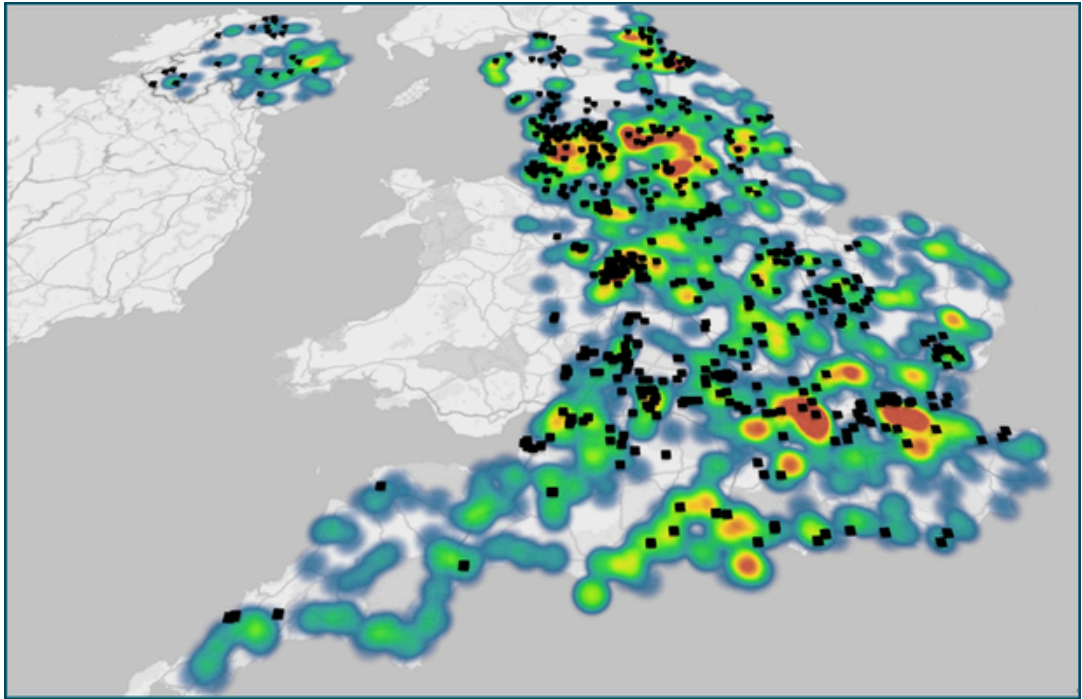
Projects with a solar power element



While the caveats mentioned above apply, 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.

8. Geographical

The final area of assessment is the geographical spread of LCF projects and spending, to identify whether there are communities who cannot 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).



Landfill sites (heat map) and location of projects (black) in England and Northern Ireland. Please note, not all licensed sites on this map are actively taking waste but continue to hold a licence either in a closure scenario or not currently accepting waste.

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

	2023/2024	2024/2025	2025/2026
Average project distance to licensed landfill site	2.6	2.7	2.1
Trend		3%	-22%

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 consistently low across three years at between 2.1 – 2.7 miles on average and has decreased to 2.1 miles in 2025/2026.

8.2 To assess how equally spread the fund is across eligible areas, funding has been broken down into the 164 upper-tier authority areas in England and Northern Ireland. Last year’s report used the 320 lower-tier local authority areas; however, as project numbers reduce, it is more informative for this report to use larger geographical areas as it is easier to identify areas that do not receive funding. 116 areas had at least 1 project in 2025/2026, close to 75% coverage. However, this does mean that 48 have not received any funding in 2025/2026 as the map below highlights.

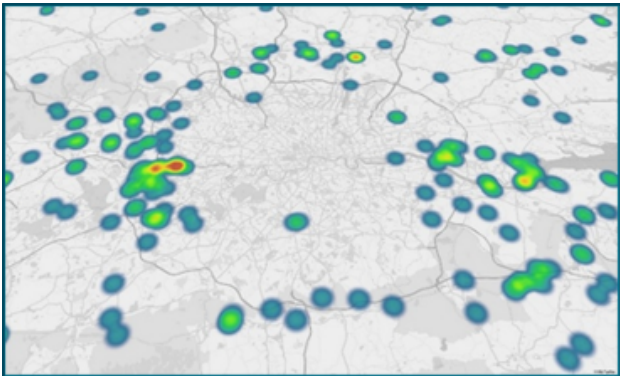


Areas of England and Northern Ireland with no LCF funding in 2025/2026

The cluster of areas of note is in Central areas of London. However, this is one of the areas of England furthest away from landfill activity, as the landfill heat map of London and the surrounding areas shows (left). Therefore, it is not unexpected that several of the more central areas of London did not receive any funding in 2025/2026.

Despite the scheme’s unique features, the funding source for projects being proximity to landfill activity, rather than fundraising from the local area’s economy, the LCF does continue to cover a significant proportion (nearly 75%) of England and Northern Ireland upper-tier authority areas.

The table below lists the top 10 areas by project spending for the last two years:



Landfill sites heat map (London)

*Top LAs 2024/2025	Total Project spending 2024/2025	Top Upper Tier LAs 2025/2026	Total Project spending 2025/2026
Bedford	£1,015,000	Lancashire	£1,619,225
Leeds	£866,132	Cambridgeshire	£1,146,981
Dudley	£858,593	Richmond upon Thames	£1,000,000
Chelmsford	£758,607	Gloucestershire	£873,138
Bolsover	£679,376	Westmorland and Furness	£717,763
South Ribble	£643,147	Oxfordshire	£647,465
Cheshire East	£633,232	Stockton-on-Tees	£606,713
East Lindsey	£554,711	Nottinghamshire	£588,085
Wiltshire	£523,628	North Yorkshire	£586,244
Tewkesbury	£522,077	Essex	£565,166

**Areas are not like for like due to shift to Upper-Tier LAs areas, which is why amounts are higher in the right column despite reduced funding amounts for the fund overall.*

While the above table suggests a bias towards certain areas, 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.

Upper Tier LA	Spending Rank	Total number of Projects - 2024/2025	Total Project spending per capita - 2025/2026
Lancashire	1	81	£1.25
Cambridgeshire	2	38	£1.61
Richmond upon Thames	3	1	£5.08
Gloucestershire	4	35	£1.30
Westmorland and Furness	5	11	£3.12
Oxfordshire	6	36	£0.85
Stockton-on-Tees	7	14	£2.93
Nottinghamshire	8	10	£0.69
North Yorkshire	9	14	£0.92
Essex	10	20	£0.36

As the table indicates, an area such as Richmond upon Thames had one very large project, leading to over £5 per capita spent, whereas Lancashire had far less spent per capita, £1.25, but over 81 projects. This helps to bring context to the figures, to show that there are high levels of variation in project numbers and funding spent when considering the spread of funding across eligible areas.

9. Value Statements

At the launch of the new online system, EntrustOnline, a new question was asked as part of the VfM project forms, to give an opportunity for the project applicant to share the benefits of the project in their own words. While it is not a compulsory field, most projects completed have been keen to provide extensive information in this section, providing a wealth of qualitative statements that show how valuable the project is to the applicant and local community. The following is an anonymised selection of 20 of the hundreds of statements, picked to represent a variety of project types, LCF Objects, and geographical areas:

- "From being completely closed, the project is now a sustainable, welcoming hub; creating jobs and volunteer roles, hosting local clubs, bringing all ages together, reducing loneliness, and enriching community life beyond measure."
- "The completion of the inclusive playpark successfully achieved its aim of creating a welcoming space for all ages and abilities, significantly improving the quality of life for local residents by promoting outdoor activity, fostering connections across diverse backgrounds, and strengthening community spirit."
- "The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with residents expressing deep appreciation for the community green space. Many comments highlight the project's success in creating a welcoming, inclusive, and well-used space that has already become a focal point for community life."
- "This project has been a huge boost for the amenity... improving accessibility, creating more opportunities for wildlife experiences, visitor engagement, education and community involvement."
- "The project has turned overgrown waste land into a fully usable facility... transformed, levelled and seeded to produce a playing surface that can be used by academy children and the wider community."
- "The garden is now a vibrant and exciting part of the centre – a space that people come to relax, learn about nature and grow and cook food... Everyone is welcome."
- "This project is already bringing people together, encouraging them to care for wildlife and inspiring them to enjoy nature. It is uniting the community through time spent outdoors."
- "With thanks to the grant funding the group have been able to transform the play park with new swings, a refurbished basketball area, and a fantastic outdoor ping pong table. These improvements are already making a real difference, giving children and young people of all ages a safe and fun space to enjoy together."

- "The project has brought an unused area of the centre to life, providing a warm hub but more importantly a place where the socially isolated in the community will be able to come and make friends."
- "A safe, welcoming and beautiful place! The positivity they have had from the village, visitors and congregation has been outstanding."
- "The project has achieved a new and exciting playground for younger children and has brought the village together to achieve something great. It has improved the lives of people in the community."
- "The improvement to the club has lifted the spirits of the community. People are now proud of the club and are excited to come."
- "The project has revitalised the playground, providing new and exciting play equipment for all ages... This project has strengthened our community by creating a more welcoming environment for local young people and all who visit the area."
- "The play area provides a free, safe, green space for children to play & parents/carers to socialise on their doorstep... The play area is providing an outdoor social hub for families that was missing from the area."
- "This funding allowed us to function in the very beloved community centre whilst the essential repairs have been completed without any major disruption. The community centre provides a safe, welcoming, warm and dry place to socialise, learn, seek support and give back."
- "The project has improved the mental health and wellbeing of the volunteers who use the space... It helps build their self-esteem, resilience and confidence."
- "People are now proud of the club and are excited to come. A simple but powerful expression of renewed community pride."
- "Working on the Project brought the community together through a variety of fundraising activities. The new Playpark has achieved its aims... We are delighted with the new Playpark and very happy to see so many children already using the facility."
- "The Skatepark project went beyond simply providing a recreational facility; it acted as a catalyst for community development, bringing people together through shared purpose, active participation, and the creation of a vibrant public space."
- "The project has transformed the former football changing rooms into a vibrant community space. The new space will foster a welcoming environment for diverse activities, workshops, and gatherings."

10. EB Case Studies

- 10.1 The following pages are a selection of case studies, provided by EBs, to bring to life the statistics in the preceding chapters. These have been included as part of celebrating 30 years of the fund, to demonstrate the 'on-the-ground' impact of the fund.

The Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall

EB: Derbyshire Environment Trust

The Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall was awarded a grant of £360,500 by Derbyshire Environment Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

The Chignals and Mashbury Village Hall is a hub for three Essex villages, Chignal St James, Chignal Smealy and Mashbury. The previous Village Hall was an old second world war wooden army hut and on its last legs. The new Hall is slightly larger, of solid construction, incorporating modern energy efficient heating and insulation.

It is a vast improvement and has invigorated community use. The villages take great pride in their superb Hall - a wonderful asset for the local community also providing the ability to host larger events such as wedding receptions thereby increasing bookings and financial sustainability.



The new Village Hall hosts a range of regular activities/meetings including bowls club, table tennis club, Women's Institute, gardening club, fitness groups and community group as well as quizzes, whist drives, parish council meetings and coffee mornings. In addition, the Hall is used for children's parties, private parties, ad hoc events and a large annual fete.

The group are really grateful to be the recipients of such a large grant from the Landfill Communities Fund, without it, this new hall would not exist and there may well not be a village hall at all.



Harrison Woodlands

EB: Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust was awarded a grant of £350,000 by Veolia Environmental Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF) to purchase Harrisons Woodlands.

Harrisons Woodlands, Lincolnshire is an amazing project, and we are already seeing benefit and impact. Purchase price £2.75m for 489 acres of PAWS (Broadleaf and Conifer) was challenging until support of £350,000 from Veolia Environmental Trust, helped unlock many funding sources including over £1m from one funder.

Harrison Woodlands will be the second largest ancient woodland restoration project the Woodland Trust has undertaken in England, vital as only about 4% of Greater Lincolnshire is covered by woodland with ancient woodland only around 1%.

A 100-year project, and over next 10 years looking to have first round of entire site restoration complete; have deer under control (normally 7-9 deer per km² and Harrison Woodlands currently 170 deer per km²) as well as eradicating Himalayan balsam and rhododendron.



Surveys have reaffirmed need for protection as 250 invertebrate species found including 2 nationally scarce beetles and 47 species of fungi including 4 new to Lincolnshire. We have our first volunteers, created small car park and had information sharing day with local community who are very supportive.

Key plans include opening over 5km of footpaths and at least 8 large ponds, as well as introducing Ravens nest cam, creating wildlife links, and tree nursery.



St Christopher's Church and Community Centre

EB: Royal Society of Wildlife Trusts

The Parochial Church Council of the Parish of Tong and Laisterdyke was awarded a grant of £22,740 by Biffa Award through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

St Christopher's Church and Community Centre has served Homewood, Bradford, for more than sixty years, providing a vital place of welcome, support and belonging in an area of severe deprivation, ranked 89 in the Indices of Deprivation. The building is used every week by hundreds of local people, including young families, children, young adults, older residents and vulnerable people.

Located at the heart of the estate, the building hosts local schools, community groups and organisations for activities including youth and children's sessions, employment training, advice and parenting support, uniformed groups, dance, toddlers, community choir, a food pantry and a much-loved community café offering affordable, home-cooked food.



Before the project, obsolete and unreliable heating was putting this important community provision at risk. Failed thermostats and controls meant the system could only be switched fully on or off from an external plant room, leaving the building too hot or too cold, wasting energy and causing activities to be cancelled at short notice.

Biffa Award funding through the Government's Landfill Communities Fund has transformed the centre's future. The grant enabled the installation of two modern, efficient gas boilers, repurposed from a local school, alongside a new online control system. The building can now be heated reliably, efficiently and remotely, using 40% less gas.



The difference is immediate and lasting: St Christopher's can now offer a warm, comfortable and dependable space where community life can continue without disruption. By safeguarding this trusted local hub, Biffa Award has helped protect a place where people in Homewood feel valued, supported and less alone, ensuring this much-loved centre can continue to bring warmth, friendship and hope to the heart of the community for years to come.

Please click on [this link](#) to watch a short film about the project

Saltburn PlayZone

EB: Enovert Community Trust

The Playzone at Saltburn Athletic Football Club was awarded a grant of £50,000 by Enovert Community Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).



Statement from Roy Myers, Chairman of Saltburn Athletic Football Club and lead for our PlayZone project -

The PlayZone is part of a national Football Foundation scheme, delivered in partnership with local authorities ([THIS IS PLAYZONES](#)). The Foundation funded 73% of the project cost, while the local authority identified the location and managed construction. Once complete, the facility was handed over to Saltburn Athletic Football Club. The final project cost was £302,140.

As a club, we needed to raise £81,578. This was achieved with support from several funding bodies. The £50,000 donation from Enovert Community Trust was our largest contribution and made the project achievable. The PlayZone gives the local community much-needed access to sport and recreation. Many nearby villages have limited access to sporting facilities, so this multi-use space is an important local asset. It supports football, basketball, rugby, netball, hockey, cricket and wheelchair variations of several sports.

The facility is open to people of all ages and abilities. Bookings are made through an app, with keypad entry making access simple and convenient. The PlayZone provides safe, high-quality recreation opportunities for young people, older residents, disabled people and community groups in a well-maintained environment."

Statement from Carl Henderson, U14 Boys & U14 Girls Football Coach -

As a coach for both the Under 14s boys and Under 14s girls teams at Saltburn Athletic, I have seen first-hand how vital high-quality facilities are for the development, confidence, and wellbeing of our young players. The new PlayZone facility is a massive game-changer for our club and the wider local community.



Before this project, finding consistent, reliable training space during the harsh winter months was always a challenge. The PlayZone changes that. Having access to a secure, floodlit, all-weather astroturf surface means we can now train safely throughout challenging weather and the darkest winter nights. It guarantees that our players don't miss out on vital time on the pitch.

Beyond just technical skill development, this facility provides our teams with a sense of consistency and security. It's a space where they can build their confidence, stay active, and feel a sense of belonging - both within Saltburn Athletic and the wider community. The fact that this space is accessible to all of our club's teams, as well as local community groups and individuals, highlights just how inclusive it is.

As we look ahead to the coming 2026/27 season, with my groups progressing to the Under 15s level, we are excited to make full use of the PlayZone. We are very grateful to the Enover Community Trust for its funding and support in bringing this project to life. It is an investment that will benefit Saltburn's young people for years to come."

The CARE Hub

EB: FCC Communities Foundation

The CARE Hub in Grimsby was awarded a grant of £98,285 by FCC Communities Foundation through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

A year ago, the building that now houses the CARE Hub in Grimsby, a derelict former high street bank, stood empty and overlooked. Today, it tells a very different story, one of warmth, welcome and community.

Step inside on any given weekday and you'll find hundreds of people passing through its doors. In just the first week alone, 367 people came in search of something many had been missing: a safe place to go, a friendly face, and a sense of belonging.



For some, that need is immediate. Visitors arrive carrying the weight of homelessness, financial hardship, trauma or isolation. But what they encounter inside the Hub is not simply a service, it's an experience. The space itself has been carefully created to feel calm, comfortable and dignified, a place where everyone is treated with respect from the moment they arrive.

It's this attention to people as well as place that makes all the difference.

One visitor described it as "fancy, but fancy for everyone... like a stately home where you can belong." Another shared a quieter but equally powerful reflection: "Not everyone has family in their lives, but they do here."

Alongside that sense of welcome comes practical, life-changing support. In a single visit, someone might receive help securing stable accommodation, sorting out mounting bills, or simply access food, warmth and a listening ear. Small steps, taken together, begin to rebuild confidence and hope.

For many, the impact is immediate. One woman described arriving on “the worst day ever” but leaving feeling as though it had become “the best day ever.” Moments like this capture what the Hub does so well: meeting people where they are and helping them see a way forward. The transformation of this building, and the lives it now touches every day has been made possible through the Landfill Communities Fund.



While the fund is often associated with improving physical spaces, its real value lies in what those spaces make possible. Because this isn't just about restoring a building. It's about creating somewhere people can reconnect, rebuild and feel they belong. It's about investing in communities in a way that respects dignity and brings people together.



The CARE Hub is a powerful reminder that when you invest in both people and place, the results go far beyond bricks and mortar. You create spaces where lives begin to change, often in ways that are felt immediately and remembered for a long time to come.

Hindhead Heathland Habitat Restoration project

EB: National Trust

The National Trust was awarded a grant of £285,000 by Biffa Award through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF), enabling delivery of the Hindhead Heathland Habitat Restoration project.



This partnership project, developed with key stakeholders including Natural England, is located within the Wealden Heaths National Nature Reserve—an area of national ecological importance.



LCF investment has supported a step-change in conservation outcomes through large-scale habitat restoration across 900 hectares of Surrey heathland. Works have included scrub clearance through the introduction of grazing by Exmoor ponies, creation of ponds and scrapes, and re-wetting habitats. Together, these interventions are restoring priority habitats and improving biodiversity. As a direct result of this investment, conditions have improved for 16 threatened species, including butterflies, bats, birds, and reptiles.

The funding has also delivered significant social value. The site is free and open year-round, providing access to nature for over 750,000 visitors annually, while supporting volunteering, training, and skills development for a dedicated volunteer team. The project contributes to health and wellbeing, environmental education, and stronger community engagement with the local landscape.

Overall, LCF funding has been instrumental in delivering landscape-scale restoration that would not otherwise have been possible. It has helped create a more resilient natural environment while providing lasting environmental and social benefits.



The Childcare & Community Centre

EB: Veolia Environmental Trust

The Childcare & Community Centre in Ashton in Makerfield, Wigan was awarded a grant of £67,116 by Veolia Environmental Trust through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF).

Thanks to a grant of £67,116, The Childcare & Community Centres were able to purchase solar panels and a new lift for its community premises in Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan. The grant has allowed us to improve financial sustainability, accessibility, service delivery, and the overall experience of beneficiaries.

Our solar panels provide long-term financial and environmental benefits by reducing electricity bills, allowing more of the charity's income to be directed towards frontline services rather than utility costs. They also help protect the charity from rising energy prices, making budgeting more predictable.



During a recent power cut, the building's lighting remained on by drawing power from the batteries. The funding helped create a more sustainable environment for children to learn about environmental responsibilities. Even though the children are very young, they still point at the panels and say they are collecting the sun.

It also supports our environmental sustainability objectives, which may strengthen future funding applications and partnerships.

The installation of the lift has enabled children, parents, carers, staff, volunteers and visitors with mobility impairments to access all areas of the building independently and safely. It has supported families with pushchairs, making attendance easier, and allows older community members and people with disabilities to participate fully in activities.

Overall, the funding has enabled us to create a welcoming environment where everyone can access services regardless of physical ability.

Greno Woods

EB: Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust

Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust were awarded a grant of £35,775.00 by Biffa Award through the Landfill Communities Fund (LCF)

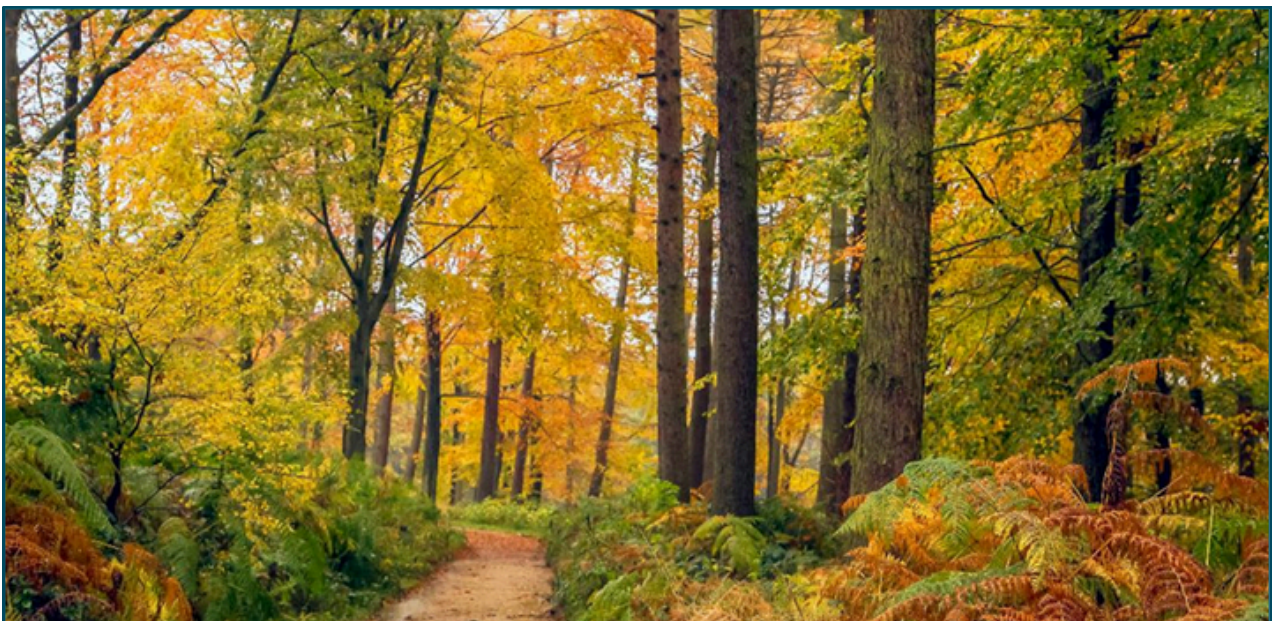
Greno Woods is a beautiful ancient woodland on the edge of the Peak District. Once scarred by logging and quarrying, it is now cared for by Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust. But as our climate changes, flooding and woodland fires are becoming more regular, threatening the woods and the wildlife that lives there.



A grant of £35,775 enabled vital works to be undertaken to ensure Greno Woods remains a haven for both wildlife and the local community. The Wildlife Trust and volunteers built leaky dams to slow the flow of water during heavy rain, reducing flood risk. This also created wetland habitats for frogs, dragonflies and birds. Native trees were planted and space opened up for woodland flowers to bloom.

New signage now educates visitors on how to enjoy the woods responsibly, discouraging people from lighting fires and disturbing wildlife. Now, if a fire does break out, fire breaks will limit the spread, emergency vehicles have better access and water storage systems will help firefighters tackle the flames.

"It's been incredibly rewarding to see the positive changes in Greno Woods," said one volunteer. "This project proves that when people come together, we can make a real difference for nature."



> Conclusion

Thirty years after its creation, the Landfill Communities Fund continues to demonstrate its unique value as a mechanism for reinvesting landfill tax revenues into the communities and environments in the vicinity of landfills. Since 1996, the Fund has delivered more than £1.7 billion of investment to over 71,000 projects, leaving a lasting legacy of improved community facilities, restored habitats, enhanced biodiversity, and protected heritage assets.

While overall project spending has reduced in 2025/2026, reflecting the continued decline in landfill activity and associated contributions, the evidence throughout this report shows that the impact of the Fund remains substantial. The LCF continues to generate significant economic value, attract funding from other sources, support employment, encourage volunteering, and create sustainable community assets that deliver benefits long after project completion. Entrust estimates that every £1 invested through the Fund generates a further £1.08 of economic benefit, demonstrating strong value for money even in a period of reduced expenditure.

Beyond the statistics, the case studies and project testimonials highlight the true strength of the Fund: its ability to transform places, bring communities together, protect natural environments, and improve quality of life. From community hubs and play areas to woodland restoration and biodiversity projects, the LCF continues to deliver meaningful outcomes across England and Northern Ireland.

As the Fund enters its fourth decade, it remains a valuable source of support for communities and environmental organisations alike. The evidence presented in this report demonstrates that, despite changing funding levels, the LCF continues to provide exceptional economic, social and environmental value, ensuring that local communities benefit from lasting investment and positive change

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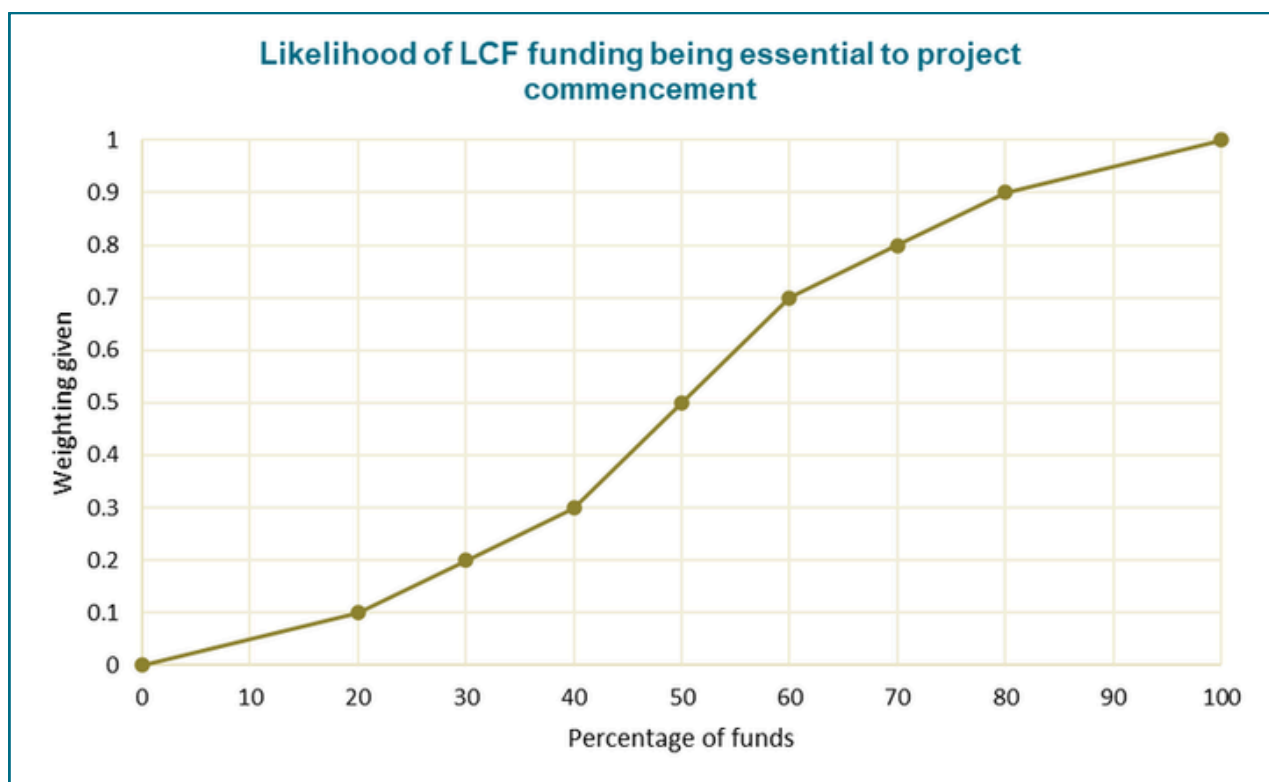
October 2026



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 4.2 of this report.



APPENDIX B: CALCULATING THE ADDED VALUE OF ASSETS

The calculation has been developed, limited by how data has been collected since 2024/2025: no longer asking 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. This is now limited to items related to regulatory requirements, items that could be resold.

Therefore, for all assets, it is recognised that 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.

- $\text{Asset cost (AC)} \times 75\% + \text{AC} \times 50\% + \text{AC} \times 25\% = \text{Added Value}$

This calculation provides the total added value in section 5.3 of this report.

It is considered that 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 Entrust 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 2025/2026 data was published by [Charity Jobs](#), providing an updated figure of £36,000 from £35,000 in 2025. This is believed to be a more appropriate figure, as the sectors in which jobs are more likely to be created in community establishments are in the charity sector.

Maintained jobs 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 (2026)

= Added Value

This provides the jobs added value calculation estimate found in section 5.4.