

Co-Op Academy, Hyde Road - Bio-diversity Encouragement Scheme

Introduction

The following has been prepared to support delivering bio-diversity enhancements at the Co-op Academy Belle Vue site, as required to discharge planning condition 32 associated to planning permission reference 129076/VO/2021.

Bio-diversity Measures

To comply with the National Planning Policy Framework requirement for development schemes to contribute towards achieving a net biodiversity gain where possible, a scheme of habitat and bio-diversity measures will be implemented across the site.

In line with the recommendations made by the appointed ecologist for the project, measures to be implemented which will support biodiversity and natural habitat include the following;

- The replacement of any trees which need to be felled on a like for like basis. The planting scheme to be implemented will provide for the planting of 38no. new trees alongside extensive shrubbery and ornamental grass planting.
- To maximisation the use of native tree and other vegetation in the implemented planting scheme. This will provide recognisable fruit and nectar sources for local birds, small mammals and invertebrates and will enhance the biodiversity of the development. The planting scheme will utilise a appropriate mix of native species.
- Areas of biodiverse planting have been provided within the designated soft landscaping to provide a source of food for local fauna.
- An extensive woodland habitat area along the western length of the site has been preserved and will be protected. A mature tree line buffer has also been retained in the north-eastern corner of the site. These retained woodland areas will support foraging habitat for local birds, bats and invertebrates on the site.
- A scheme of bat and bird boxes will be installed across the site enhancing nesting opportunities within the site for these animals and helping to support local bird and bat population.
- Protected habitat areas within the site will provide teaching opportunities around biodiversity and wildlife exploration for the school pupils.

The incorporation of the above measures are demonstrated in the soft landscaping scheme design. An extract of this is provided below at figure 1.

New trees planting is to be introduced alongside the Hyde Road frontage, entrance courtyard area, car park and close to the southern entrance to the site from Kirkmanshulme Lane.

The inclusion of green roofs on new buildings was considered however, this was necessarily dismissed on a cost and maintenance basis and on the basis that they did not form part of the brief for the project set by the Department for Education.



Figure 1 – Soft Landscaping / Planting Scheme