

Climate Resilience Team
Inclusive Regeneration
Lewisham Council

Date: 6th September 2024

Dear Mr Gayle

Letter of support for Riverdale Sculpture Park project – WEIF match funding

I am writing with reference to the Riverdale Sculpture Park project Lewisham Council are planning to undertake.

We are very keen to support this project which will improve the Catford to Deptford stretch of the River Ravensbourne, a highly degraded canalised section of river.

As the Environment Agency, we protect and enhance the environment. We help people and wildlife adapt to climate change and reduce its impacts, including flooding, drought, sea level rise and coastal erosion. We improve the quality of our water, land and air by tackling pollution. We work to create better places for people and wildlife and support sustainable development.

The proposed multiple benefits of this project, including channel re-naturalisation, habitat enhancements, flood risk and fish passage benefits, will contribute to statutory Water Framework Directive water body objectives supporting our priorities set out in the Thames River Basin Management and Ravensbourne Catchment plans.

The project also aligns with our corporate strategy [EA 2025](#) providing a fantastic opportunity to engage with the local community and improve the amenity value and public connection with the river environment.

We can confirm £15K has been allocated towards the project from our 24/25 Water Environment Improvement Fund (WEIF). We hope to increase our financial support in 25/26 to £50-100K. The project has been added to our local programme of prioritised on-going projects but, unfortunately, we are unable to confirm this funding until our budgets have been released. We are able, however, to commit to the provision of in-kind support for the duration of the project.

I am pleased to offer this letter supporting this exciting project and look forward to working with Lewisham Council and other catchment partners involved.

Yours sincerely

Jack Hayes

Jack Hayes

Area Business Manager and Ravensbourne Catchment Sponsor

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