

Single Member Cabinet Decision

Executive
Forward Plan
Reference**E3329****TREE AND WOODLAND DELIVERY PLAN - ADOPTION**

Decision maker/s	Cllr Tom Davies, on behalf of Cabinet Member for Resources
The Issue	<p>This Council declared a climate and ecological emergency in 2019 and set a target of carbon neutrality by 2030. Tree and woodland planting is an important tool in addressing these emergencies.</p> <p>On the 10th October 2019 B&NES Council agreed a motion to increase tree cover and develop a clear strategy for planting trees in B&NES with a target of planting 100,000 trees within the district with partners and communities, by May 2023. The tree and woodland delivery plan (Appendix A & B of the report) detail this strategy and is intended to be a "live" document to be updated annually with progress.</p> <p>The majority of the B&NES district sits within the Forest of Avon (one of England's Community Forests which allocates grant funding), and our local B&NES 'strategic tree planting objectives' are encapsulated within the Forest of Avon Plan.</p>
Decision Date	28 September 2022
The decision	<p>The Cabinet Member agrees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. The content of the Tree and Woodland Delivery Plan2. To note that the plan is intended to be a live document with regular updates3. To note progress towards the target of 100,000 trees to be planted in B&NES during the current administration period to May 2023.
Rationale for decision	<p>The Council commissioned Ethos Environmental Planning consultancy in Spring of 2021 to develop the Council's Tree and Woodland Delivery Plan, consulting with relevant partners and referencing other tree planting intentions within the district and the West of England region. After a period of consultation and revision the final tree and woodland delivery plan is now ready to be approved.</p>
Financial and budget implications	<p>An additional £75K of capital money was allocated in 21/22 from the community infrastructure levy (CIL), and a further £75K of capital has since been awarded for 22/23 to take forward tree planting schemes.</p> <p>130k was awarded in 2021/2022 via the Forest of Avon Trust's Trees for Climate Grant (DEFRA backed). Grant funding for Council planting projects in 2022/2023 is anticipated to match 2021/2022,</p>

	<p>with the ambition to source further funding for the One Tree Per Child initiative launching within BA&NES schools. Partnership working with the community, landowners and volunteers is essential to delivering the plan in both urban and rural areas, as the Council does not have sufficient resources, in particular land to deliver these targets on its own.</p> <p>The 2022/2023 planting season will prioritise working with parishes, community groups, and the National Farmers Union to increase planting numbers. In partnership with these organisations and groups, the Council will facilitate the distribution of heavily subsidised tree bundles for copse, woodland, and hedgerow planting on privately owned land. The Council will liaise with the above groups throughout the planting off-season ready for implementation at the commence of the 2022/2023 season.</p> <p>The Council will apply for grants from the Forest of Avon and the Woodland Trust (amongst others) to implement tree planting schemes and will signpost private landowners to grants available for tree planting.</p> <p>Of the trees planted, a very small proportion will inevitably die. Where practical the Council will facilitate the replanting of these trees within resource available.</p>
Issues considered	Customer Focus; Sustainability; Property; Corporate; Health & Safety; Other Legal Considerations
Consultation undertaken	Ward Councillors; Cabinet colleagues; Parish Council; Town Council; Trades Unions; Overview & Scrutiny Panel; Local Residents; Community Interest Groups; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer
How consultation was carried out	<p>Stakeholder consultation was undertaken by Ethos in June 2021 to develop the evidence base and inform the action plan. This is detailed in the report in Appendix A.</p> <p>The Council's Climate & Emergency & Sustainability Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel were consulted on the Tree & Woodland Delivery Plan at their meeting on the 22nd November 2021. (Link in background papers).</p>
Other options considered	None. The production of a delivery plan is essential to provide the framework for tree planting.
Declaration of interest by Cabinet Member(s) for decision:	None
Any conflict of interest declared by anyone who is consulted by a	Cllr David Wood, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhood Services

Member taking the decision:	
Name and Signature of Decision Maker/s	Councillor Tom Davies Cabinet Member for Adults and Council House Building Bath and North East Somerset Council
Date of Signature	28 September 2022
Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision	