

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL CABINET MEMBER

Executive Decision Reference Number – L17 20/21

| Decision | |
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| 1 | Title of decision: Plan for Trees Investment Programme |
| 2 | Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader) |
| 3 | Report author and contact details: Chris Avent (Green Estate Manager) 304184 |
| 4 | <p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approve the Business Case • Allocate £1,235k for the project to the Capital Programme funded by £300k Service Borrowing, £500k corporate borrowing from the Council's health and safety provision, £425k by the Forestry Commission Urban Tree Challenge Fund and £10k from revenue contribution from the Councillor's Community Grant fund. • Note £120k worth of additional works funded by in-kind contributions from project partners • Authorises the procurement process • Delegates the award of the contract to the Service Director for Street Services |
| 5 | <p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The Plan for Trees and Plymouth's Climate Emergency Action Plan commit the city to securing funding for large scale, city-wide tree planting schemes. This business case proposes allocating funding to bring forward the first significant tree planting programme the 'Plymouth Tree Challenge' which will plant nearly 3000 trees and in doing so promote and enhance the city's urban forest.</p> <p>A grant from the Forestry Commission's 'Urban Tree Challenge Fund' of £425k has been offered to the Council to support this programme of tree planting and £130k of funding match has been offered by project partners. To secure the forestry commission funding the Council needs to provide £300k of match funding, which is proposed as service borrowing funded by Street Services.</p> <p>The Plan for Trees investment programme will also provide resources to manage the health of the city's trees specifically addressing the challenge of Ash Die Back. This element will be funded through the Council's health and safety provisions.</p> |

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| 6 | <p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Do Minimum – deliver the project schemes with existing resources/budgets and capital funds</p> <p>Do Nothing – turn down the offer of the grant funding</p> | | | |
| 7 | <p>Financial implications:</p> <p>Total Project cost = £1.355million</p> <p>External funding secured = £425k</p> <p>Match funding = £120k</p> <p>Councillor Community Grant contributions = £10k</p> <p>Service Borrowing at 2.75% over 20 years (PCC match funding requirement) = £300k</p> <p>Health and Safety Provision Funding = £500k</p> | | | |
| 8 | <p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p> <p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p> | <p>Yes</p> | <p>No</p> | <p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <p>x in the case of capital projects and contract awards, results in a new commitment to spend and/or save in excess of £3million in total</p> <p>x in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1 million</p> <p>x is significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards in the area of the local authority.</p> |
| 9 | <p>Please specify how this decision is linked to the Council's corporate plan/Plymouth Plan and/or the policy framework and/or the revenue/capital budget:</p> <p><u>Corporate Plan</u> A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment</p> <p><u>Joint Local Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DEV026 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation, • DEV028 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows <p><u>Plymouth Plan</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SO1 – Delivering a healthy city • HEA7 - Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment | | | |

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| 10 | Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact) | <p>This programme of works aligns with and supports the delivery of the Plymouth Climate Emergency Action Plan by delivering a programme of works that will enhance and add resilience to the city's tree estate.</p> <p>Plymouth currently has just under 400,000 trees which contribute £4.6m of annual benefits to the city through the Ecosystem Services that they provide, including £1.1 million of carbon storage and £2.9 million of pollution removal (i-Tree Eco survey 2020). This work will enhance this service provision.</p> <p>An outcome of the project will be to deliver a carbon budget for the investment programme and calculate the cost: benefit to inform future tree planting schemes and funding bids.</p> | | |
| Urgent decisions | | | | |
| 11 | Is the decision urgent and to be implemented immediately in the interests of the Council or the public? | Yes | | (If yes, please contact Democratic Support (democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk) for advice) |
| | | No | x | (If no, go to section 13a) |
| 12a | Reason for urgency: | | | |
| 12b | Scrutiny Chair Signature: | | | Date |
| | Scrutiny Committee name: | | | |
| | Print Name: | | | |
| Consultation | | | | |
| 13a | Are any other Cabinet members' portfolios affected by the decision? | Yes | x | |
| | | No | | (If no go to section 14) |
| 13b | Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision? | Councillor Sue Dann – Cabinet member for Environment and Street Scene | | |

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| 13c | Date Cabinet member consulted | 04.06.2020 | | |
| 14 | Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer |
| | | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| 15 | Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted? | Name | Anthony Payne | |
| | | Job title | Strategic Director Place | |
| | | Date consulted | 18.07.2020 | |
| Sign-off | | | | |
| 16 | Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted: | Democratic Support (mandatory) | DS4I 20/21 | |
| | | Finance (mandatory) | pl.20.21.107. | |
| | | Legal (mandatory) | MS/ 34418 | |
| | | Human Resources (if applicable) | | |
| | | Corporate property (if applicable) | | |
| | | Procurement (if applicable) | | |
| Appendices | | | | |
| 17 | Ref. | Title of appendix | | |
| | A | Briefing report | | |
| | B | Equalities Impact Assessment | | |
| | C | Business Case | | |
| Confidential/exempt information | | | | |
| 18a | Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information? | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | If yes, prepare a second, confidential ('Part II') briefing report and indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part I of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box in 18b below. (Keep as much information as possible in the briefing report that will be in the public domain) |
| | | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | |
| | | Exemption Paragraph Number | | |

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| 18b | Confidential/exempt briefing report title: | | | | | | | |
| Background Papers | | | | | | | | |
| 19 | <p>Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below.</p> <p>Background papers are <u>unpublished</u> works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</p> | | | | | | | |
| Title of background paper(s) | | Exemption Paragraph Number | | | | | | |
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| Cabinet Member Signature | | | | | | | | |
| 20 | <p>I agree the decision and confirm that it is not contrary to the Council's policy and budget framework, Corporate Plan or Budget. In taking this decision I have given due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not. For further details please see the EIA attached.</p> | | | | | | | |
| Signature |  | | | Date of decision | 04/11/2020 | | | |
| Print Name | Councillor Tudor Evans OBE (Leader) | | | | | | | |