

Cabinet



Date of meeting:	14 January 2020
Title of Report:	Green Minds
Lead Member:	Councillor Sue Dann (Cabinet Member for Environment and Streetscene)
Lead Strategic Director:	Anthony Payne (Strategic Director for Place)
Author:	Zoe Sydenham, Natural Infrastructure Projects and Partnerships Manager
Contact Email:	zoe.sydenham@plymouth.gov.uk
Your Reference:	N/A
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To approve the acceptance of an ERDF grant for the total of £3,403,363.97 (€3,995,496.56 at an exchange rate of £0.8518 per €1 as set by the European Commission) and initiate the delivery of the Green Minds project to deliver nature-based solutions in Plymouth

Recommendations and Reasons

It is recommended that Cabinet:

1. Accept the ERDF grant for the delivery of the Green Minds project and ring fence the funds to achieve the project outputs.

Reason: To comply with the ERDF grant conditions and ensure that the outputs and commitments made in the Green Minds Bid are delivered.

Alternative options considered and rejected

Do nothing: REJECTED.

If the grant is not accepted we will limit the Council's aspirations to deliver a high quality natural environment and outstanding quality of life for all; we will lose the trust of partners who have committed to delivering the project with us.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan

Pioneering Plymouth: Green Minds is one of only 20 European projects awarded funding through the fourth call of the ERDF Urban Innovative Actions programme under the theme of Nature Based Solutions. It will develop, test and demonstrate a transferable and sustainable system for planning and managing land in an urban environment. It combines approaches to urban development that are new or in their infancy: Creating Green Mindsets (attitude/behaviour change) to welcome nature, not fight it;

Rewilding of daily urban life in new ways; and applying complexity management principles which view nature as a stakeholder and create strong feedback loops to sustainable land use policy.

Growing Plymouth: A partnership project, Green Minds provides an integrated framework for natural infrastructure delivery at strategic and operational levels in line with the Joint Local Plan; Climate Change Emergency and the Government's 25 year Environment Plan. It will develop additional guides and codes to augment existing policies and deliver exemplar natural infrastructure projects that will enable the city to grow sustainably: providing ecosystem services for storm-water management, improved soils, reduced air pollution. It will work in partnership with a range of landowners, city institutions and social enterprises to ensure social value is captured and investments are sustained.

Caring Plymouth: Green Minds will use a participatory approach to engaging communities, working cooperatively with Public Health and the Community and Voluntary Sector targeting 'non-users' of greenspace. It will support more diverse stakeholder involvement in decision making to engender shared stewardship and ensure investments are socially inclusive, safe and welcoming. It will inspire communities to engage with nature within the city to improve their health and wellbeing and overall quality of life.

Confident Plymouth: Over 3 years, Green Minds aims to transform the city's relationship with its natural capital, enhancing the services and benefits that flow from it. Plymouth will become known as the 'nature city', building on the 'Britain's Ocean City' brand and the National Marine Park. The project will use science and creative digital tools to make nature in the city more visible and exciting to people and experiment with different delivery approaches, communicating in creative ways locally, nationally and as part of the wider European programme.

Implications for the Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The total cost of the Green Minds project is £4.254m (€4.994m):

80% of the costs are funded through the ERDF grant of £3,403,363.97 (€3,995,496.56)

20% funding through secured match funding from PCC and partners of £850,840.99 (€998,874.14)

See table below

€	Grant	Secured Match	Total project cost
PCC:	€2.4m	€0.6m *	€3m
Partners:	€1.5m	€0.4m	€1.9m

* £513,248 (€602,544) of secured match are already in the approved capital programme:

- £142,872 (€167,729) from S106 Derriford Community Park – Biodiversity Improvements (planning ref. 12/02027/OUT).
- £370,376 (€434,815) from the Transforming Cities Fund.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

Green Minds supports the delivery of the City's Climate Change Emergency Plan by:

- Investing in high quality natural infrastructure, with a focus on natural habitats and ecosystems
- Improving air quality and lowering flood risk through projects including tree planting, rewilding corridors, creation of park wetlands and a climate resilient park arboretum
- Working with a range of landowners, sharing learning and resources to ensure a citywide approach to nature-based land management
- Supporting positive attitudes and behaviours towards nature amongst citizens and professionals
- Engaging all sectors of the community to enable them to participate in nature based activities and develop a shared sense of ownership and responsibility
- Creating toolkits for best practice nature based management which can be used beyond the project lifetime and across Europe

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

* When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give 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.

Community Safety: providing more welcoming, accessible and safer parks and greenspaces for use by the community, lowering anti-social behavior.

Appendices

*Add rows as required to box below

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
		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.						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Green Minds Briefing report							
B	Equalities Impact Assessment							

Background papers:

*Add rows as required to box below

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished 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.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable)						
	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.						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 23/12/2019											
Cabinet Member approval: Sue Dann, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene 'approved by email' Date approved: 18/12/2019											