

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member



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

Executive Decision Reference Number – L45 21/22

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Plymouth & South Devon Community Forest
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Richard Bingley, Leader of the Council
3	Report author and contact details: Chris Avent 304184
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approves the Business Case • Allocates £8.651m into the Capital Programme, to be funded by Trees for Climate Funding £8.630m and Local Councillor Grant Contributions of £0.021m • Delegates the award of contracts, land acquisitions and procurement process to the Strategic Director for Place
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The council and its partners have been successful in a bid to DEFRA and England's Community Forests. The Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest will stretch from the heart of the city to the edge of the moor. It will encompass 1,900 hectares of tree planting amongst a much wider landscape to form a mosaic of different forest habitats within the urban and rural areas. It is a long-term project with 30-40 year objectives with an ambition to deliver 500 hectares of new forest creation in the first 5 years. The new planting will be on both public and private land with a landowner offer formed to provide the Community Forest to act as a grant awarding body under landowner agreements.</p> <p>Delivery against the ambition of 500 hectares of planting will see the project secure up to £8.830m from the Trees for Climate Fund for this and the next three financial years.</p> <p>It accesses a significant and unrivalled source of funding for PCC and its partners to achieve the goals set out in the JLP, Corporate Plan and Plymouth's Plan for Trees.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Do Nothing – Turn down grant funding offer.</p> <p>Deliver similar scale tree planting programme through other unsecured funding routes and partnerships. Rejected as we have secured the Trees for Climate funding and commitment from funders.</p>
7	Financial implications and risks:

	<p>Total Project cost = £8.851 million</p> <p>Trees for Climate Fund (Capital) = £8.630m</p> <p>Local Councillor Grant contribution = £0.021m</p> <p>Trees for Climate Fund (Revenue) = £0.200m</p> <p>The risk that the project and decision presents is low as all project governance is in place and project funding has been secured, with Grant Onward Agreement letter issued from the grant funder.</p>			
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	Yes	No	Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:
			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
			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
		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>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</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 		
10	<p>Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)</p>	<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 green 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</p>		

		will enhance this service provision. The Community Forest planting will increase carbon capture/CO2 by 83% from current levels, once fully established, helping us in our fight to become carbon neutral by 2030.		
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 Patrick Nicholson – Deputy Leader Councillor Mrs Maddi Bridgeman – Environment and Street Scene		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted	31.01.2022		
14	Has any Cabinet member declared a conflict of interest in relation to the decision?	Yes		If yes, please discuss with the Monitoring Officer
		No	x	
15	Which Corporate Management Team member has been consulted?	Name	Anthony Payne	
		Job title	Strategic Director of Place	
		Date consulted	22/03/22	
Sign-off				

16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS126 21/22
		Finance (mandatory)	pl.21.22.312
		Legal (mandatory)	LS/38252/JP/150322
		Human Resources (if applicable)	NA
		Corporate property (if applicable)	NA
		Procurement (if applicable)	NA

Appendices

17	Ref.	Title of appendix
	A	Briefing report for publication (mandatory) "220307 Briefing Report Part I_Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest"
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment "220307 EIA_Plymouth South Devon Community Forest"
	C	Business Case "220317 Business Case_CommunityForest"

Confidential/exempt information

18a	Do you need to include any confidential/exempt information?	Yes		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	x					
		Exemption Paragraph Number						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
18b	Confidential/exempt briefing report title:							

Background Papers

19 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. If some/all of the information is confidential, you must 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.

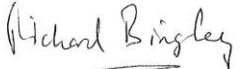
Title of background paper(s)

Exemption Paragraph Number

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Cabinet Member Signature

20 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.

Signature		Date of decision	23 March 2022
Print Name	Councillor Richard Bingley		