

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Cabinet Member




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

Executive Decision Reference Number – ESS06 22/23

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change
2	Decision maker (Cabinet member name and portfolio title): Councillor Bill Wakeham, Cabinet Member for Environment and Street Scene
3	Report author and contact details: Chris Avent 304184
4	<p>Decision to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approves the receipt of the grant award from DEFRA of £966,674 to deliver the Nature-Based Solutions for Climate Change project as detailed in the briefing report. Delegates the awarding of contracts to the Strategic Director for place where they would otherwise not have authority to do so
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>The Council and its partner the National Trust has been successful in applying to DEFRA for funding to enable the delivery of a Nature-based Solutions programme of projects across the city for the next 18 months.</p> <p>These projects will take place on six sites in the city (Ham Woods, Seaton Valley, Efford Marsh, Radford Woods, Newnham Meadow and Budshead Woods), improving habitats and providing opportunities for DEFRA to measure the carbon sequestration rates as a result. The funding will support the continued employment of the Plymouth Natural Grid project team and support the responsibility of the Council to maintain and improve the sites. The funding generates a small financial saving in 23/24 (£20k) for the Council.</p> <p>In addition an engagement programme will involve local communities in the work and the project will provide an opportunity for two apprentices to be employed by PCC.</p>
6	<p>Alternative options considered and rejected:</p> <p>Do nothing – turn down grant funding offer.</p> <p>Consider carrying out similar works through existing staff. Rejected due to lack of capacity and lack of ability to measure impacts of work on carbon sequestration</p>
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p>This decision brings an additional £966,674 grant funding to the Council to deliver the project objectives. As well as the investment in site infrastructure and staff capacity this realises a saving of £20k p.a. for site maintenance from 23/24 to 32/33.</p> <p>The Council is obliged to maintain the sites in line with management plans for a further 8 years which is funded through this grant (to be held in reserve). There is also potential to utilise funding generated from the carbon credits generated on the site enhancements to complement this (by what % will be</p>

	determined through the course of the grant funded period).			
8	Is the decision a Key Decision? (please contact Democratic Support for further advice)	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.	
	If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions			
9	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:	Corporate Plan A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment Joint Local Plan - DEV026 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation, - DEV028 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows Plymouth Plan - SO1 – Delivering a healthy city - HEA7 - Optimising the health and wellbeing benefits of the natural environment		
10	Please specify any direct environmental implications of the decision (carbon impact)	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. It will also allow us to measure the amount of carbon locked up using different management techniques, informing future practices in the city.		
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	
		No	x (If no go to section 14)
13b	Which other Cabinet member's portfolio is affected by the decision?		
13c	Date Cabinet member consulted		
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 for Place
		Date consulted	21/10/2022
Sign-off			
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS83 22/23
		Finance (mandatory)	DJN.22.23.270
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/39414
		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) 221101 Briefing Report_NbS	

	B	Equalities Impact Assessment (where required) 221101EqIA_NbS						
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 <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 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		09/12/22		
Print Name		Councillor Bill Wakeham						