

EXECUTIVE DECISION

made by a Council Officer



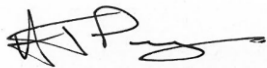
REPORT OF ACTION TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED AUTHORITY BY AN INDIVIDUAL COUNCIL OFFICER – COD47 22/23

Decision	
1	Title of decision: Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest – Trees for Climate Grant Payments 2.0 2022-23 Authorisation for Payments
2	Decision maker (Council Officer name and job title): Anthony Payne, Strategic Director for Place
3	Report author and contact details: Peter Hawking-Sach peter.hawking-sach@plymouth.gov.uk
4a	Decision to be taken: Authorise payments to landowners eligible for DEFRA Trees for Climate funding, totalling: £20,426.74 for the Higher Norris, Broomhill, and Cuckoo Farm landowners
4b	Reference number of original executive decision or date of original committee meeting where delegation was made: L45 21/22
5	<p>Reasons for decision:</p> <p>As lead partner of the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest, PCC's Community Forest Team and Project Board processes all Trees for Climate funding applications within the Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest project area.</p> <p>The provision of DEFRA's Trees for Climate grant funding for landowners is the fundamental operation in delivering Plymouth and South Devon Community Forest's tree planting.</p> <p>The planting provides a significant contribution to the 500 hectares of planting through to 2025, which will see the project secure up to £8.8m from the Trees for Climate fund.</p> <p>The funding is reliant upon tree planting targets being met. Plymouth's planting is a significant proportion of the wider Community Forest target, and will contribute to 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, do not provide DEFRA Trees for Climate Grant funding to landowners within the Community Forest project area.</p> <p>Signpost landowners to alternative sources of funding for tree planting across Plymouth and South Devon. Rejected as we have secured Trees for Climate funding to facilitate the planting of trees in Plymouth.</p>
7	<p>Financial implications and risks:</p> <p><u>Expenditure</u></p>

	<p>Grant award to partners total - £20,426.74</p> <p><u>Income - Grant funding secured</u></p> <p>Trees for Climate fund (Capital) 2022/2023 - £934,192</p> <p>Trees for Climate fund (Revenue) 2022/2023 - £220,000</p> <p>The risk that the award presents is low as all funding is secured and provides for all capital items against all planting.</p>			
8	<p>Is the decision a Key Decision?</p> <p>(please contact Democratic Support for further advice)</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>No</p>	<p>Per the Constitution, a key decision is one which:</p> <p>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>in the case of revenue projects when the decision involves entering into new commitments and/or making new savings in excess of £1million</p> <p>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>
8b	<p>If yes, date of publication of the notice in the Forward Plan of Key Decisions</p>	N/A		
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>Corporate Plan</p> <p>A green, sustainable city that cares about the environment</p> <p>Joint Local Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - DEV026 Protecting and enhancing biodiversity and geological conservation - DEV028 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows <p>Plymouth Plan</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 will</p>		

		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 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 of Place	
		Date consulted	18/03/2023	
Sign-off				
16	Sign off codes from the relevant departments consulted:	Democratic Support (mandatory)	DS127 22/23	
		Finance (mandatory)	pl.22.23.432	
		Legal (mandatory)	MS/00001378/22.03.23	

		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 (<i>mandatory</i>) – 230118 Trees for Climate Grant Payments 2.0 Briefing Report 2022-23						
	B	Equalities Impact Assessment (<i>where required</i>) 230118 Trees for Climate Grant Payments 2.0 2022-23 EIA						
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.				
		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
Council Officer 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	22.3.23
Print Name	Anthony Payne		