

**URGENT LEADER OF THE COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING
30 May 2022**



Report sponsor: Samantha Dennis – Director of
Public Protection and Streetpride

Report author: Lee Wheatley – Service
Manager for Grounds Maintenance &
Arboriculture

ITEM 5

Grounds Maintenance – Forest for Change

Purpose

- 1.1 Parks, open spaces and green spaces are valuable assets and are central to the lives of our communities. They provide opportunities for leisure, play, relaxation and exercise, but can also be influential in terms of community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and local economic growth. Urban settings are often deprived of these great green benefits.
- 1.2 An urban pop-up forest in the centre of Derby, will deliver interest, increase footfall, boost reputation and encourage partners to participate with complementary events which will enhance not only the forest and showcase Derby's rich culture.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To approve the installation of an urban forest within the marketplace for a duration of 6 weeks.
- 2.2 To approve the purchase of trees, shrubs and accompanying items along with services to construct, maintain and disassemble the forest at a cost of £163,000 (see 7.1).
- 2.3 To delegate authority to Director of Public Protection and Streetpride to manage the operational decision making of the project.
- 2.4 To approve the use of the Derby Market Place reserve to fund approx. £50,000 to additional costs to support the project (see 7.2).

Reason(s)

- 3.1 Continuing to support the council's recovery plan and climate change action plan, the project will accomplish several benefits including carbon storage and sequestration, temperature regulation, noise reduction, landscape enhancement, recreation as well as educational and cultural value.
- 3.2 The Reconnecting with Nature sub-group has committed to several goals within its action plan to achieve biodiversity net gain, habitat creation, nature connections,

carbon reduction and community engagement and awareness. Specific targets include:

- Deliver on vibrancy projects within the city Centre boundary to increase green infrastructure, to include tree planting
- To increase the city's tree canopy coverage after the event

The projects will also contribute towards the councils Recovery Plan aim of reducing carbon emissions and specifically:

- Intelligent led decisions
 - Development of a Council Climate Change Action Plan, identifying the measures and projects we, as a Council, can undertake to reduce our carbon footprint
- De-carbonisation

The project will also contribute towards Derby's Champion City status.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Derby City Council have a modest tree planting budget which equates to roughly 80 trees planted each year out of revenue.
- 4.2 Typically, the Arboricultural team fell more trees than it plants and in 2020-2021 (including contributions from Derby Homes) it planted a total of 120 trees and felled 193.
- 4.3 In 2021, Derby City Council commissioned the Urban Forest Research Group to undertake an iTree Eco survey of Derby city's tree stock to ascertain its condition. The report's findings noted the following:
 - Derby city has an estimated 255,000 trees which equates to a canopy cover of 8% which is considered relatively low. In contrast, the city of London has a canopy cover of 14%.
- 4.4 Derby's existing tree stock has a CAVAT amenity value of £1,020 million which also each year:
 - sequesters 3,233 tonnes of carbon worth £2,903,234
 - removes 60 tonnes of air pollution, worth £278,200
 - provides avoided water runoff equivalent to 81,090m³, worth £79,728
- 4.5 Internal colleagues have been worked with to ensure the project remains viable, safe and compliant including Property Services, Corporate Health and Safety, Community Safety, Procurement, Democratic Services and Legal.

- 4.6 The supplier is able to deliver the project but has warned us there is a shortage of suitable trees for retail, caused by the Queens Green Canopy Jubilee celebrations, **and** puts the project at risk unless the orders are made imminently. This can be brought forward by a 50% payment to the supplier. Urgent approval is sought from the Leader of the Council so that the Urban Forest can be progressed without any further delay which would put the project at significant risk.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 With a view to adding as much value to the forest as possible, discussions have been held with several internal departments such as Derby Live, Down to Earth Derby and the Cathedral Quarter in a bid to integrate activity within the forest itself.
- 5.2 A communication plan will be developed and delivered throughout the project to ensure it received maximum exposure.

Other options

- 6.1 N/A

Financial and value for money issues

| 7.1 | Item | No | Sale Cost | Overall Cost |
|-----|------------------------------------|-----|------------|---------------------|
| | Trees (approx 2m-5m) | 150 | £ 250.00 | £ 37,500.00 |
| | Large Shrubs (1-2m) | 75 | £ 100.00 | £ 7,500.00 |
| | General Shrub / Ground Cover | 300 | £ 20.00 | £ 6,000.00 |
| | Mulch | 100 | £ 50.00 | £ 5,000.00 |
| | Zinco | 150 | £ 73.00 | £ 10,950.00 |
| | Straps | 150 | £ 15.00 | £ 2,250.00 |
| | Waste | 1 | £ 5,000.00 | £ 5,000.00 |
| | Telehandler | 1 | £ 1,000.00 | £ 1,000.00 |
| | Waterproof sheet | 1 | £ 3,800.00 | £ 3,800.00 |
| | Project Manager | 1 | £ 5,000.00 | £ 5,000.00 |
| | Site & Nursery tagging visits Vist | 1 | £ 1,000.00 | £ 1,000.00 |
| | Install Labour | 1 | £ 9,000.00 | £ 9,000.00 |
| | Derig Labour | 1 | £ 9,000.00 | £ 9,000.00 |
| | Tree Delivery | 1 | £ 4,000.00 | £ 4,000.00 |
| | Watering & Maintenance | 1 | £6,000.00 | £ 6,000.00 |
| | TOTAL COST | | | £ 113,000.00 |

These costs are to be funded from the Climate Change capital fund once approved.

- 7.2 It is anticipated that there will be additional costs to support the project. These costs include lighting, security, cleaning, marketing. Funding for these items will be around £50k which will be paid for from Derby Market Place reserves.

Legal implications

- 8.1 There are no significant legal implications associated with this project. Legal Services will advise on contractual terms as required.

Climate implications

- 9.1 Each tree will provide ecosystem benefits as follows (iTree Eco data):

| Item | Year 1 | Year 5 | Year 10 | Unit |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------|------|
| O2 | 0.8 | 1.29 | 2.07 | kg |
| CO | 0.0005 | 0.001 | 0.0013 | kg |
| SO2 | 0.00025 | 0.0005 | 0.00075 | kg |
| O3 | 0.0045 | 0.0075 | 0.38185 | kg |
| Carbon Storage | 0.67 | 3.8 | 12.8 | kg |
| NO2 | 0.0043 | 0.0073 | 0.011 | kg |
| PM2.5 | 0 | 0.0002 | 0.0002 | kg |
| PM10 | 0.00125 | 0.002 | 0.0025 | kg |
| Biodiversity Net Gain | 10 | 60 | 90 | % |

Other significant implications

- 10.1 The additional trees sourced via this project will provide the following ecosystem benefits both during the project and afterwards for Derby:

- Improved and increased biodiversity
- Improved air quality (pollution removal)
- Improved mental health (green therapy)
- Carbon storage and sequestration
- Avoided surface water runoff
- Habitat provision
- Increased amenity value
- Noise reduction
- Cultural value
- Educational value
- Temperature regulation
- Landscape enhancement
- Recreation

This report has been approved by the following people:

| Role | Name | Date of sign-off |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Legal | Emily Feenan | 27.05.2022 |
| Finance | Janice Hadfield | 26.05.2022 |
| Service Director(s) | Samantha Dennis | 26.05.2022 |
| Report sponsor | Samantha Dennis | 26.05.2022 |
| Other(s) | | |

Background papers: N/A
List of appendices: N/A