

Time started	10.30am
Time ended	11.12am

Urgent Leader of the Council Cabinet Member Meeting 30 May 2022

Present: Councillor Poulter (Chair)

In Attendance Councillors Care, P Ingall, Pearce, Shanker and Skelton
Lee Wheatley – Service Manager for Grounds Maintenance and
Arboriculture
Karl Smith – Grounds Maintenance Officer
Georgia Pulford – Communications and Marketing Officer

01/22 Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

02/22 Identification of Urgent Items to which Call-in will not apply

It was noted that the decision sought at 05/22 did not constitute a Key Decision and therefore call-in did not apply.

The reason for urgency was that due to the diminishing availability of tree stock (owing to increased national demand from the Queen's Jubilee Green Canopy initiative), any further delay would jeopardise the viability of the project due to sufficient stock. To maximise the time the forest could be on the Market Place meant that a decision was required immediately and could not wait until the next scheduled meeting of Council Cabinet.

03/22 Declarations of interest

There were none.

04/22 Minutes of the meetings held on 27 April 2022

The minutes of the meetings held on 27 April 2022 were agreed as a correct record.

Urgent Decision – Contract and Financial Procedure Matter

05/22 Grounds Maintenance – Forest for Change

The Leader of the Council considered an urgent report of the Director of Public Protection and Streetpride which stated that parks, open spaces and green spaces were valuable assets and were central to the lives of our communities. They provided opportunities for leisure, play, relaxation and exercise, but could also be influential in terms of community cohesion, physical and mental health and wellbeing, biodiversity, climate change mitigation and local economic growth. Urban settings were often deprived of these great green benefits.

An urban pop-up forest in the centre of Derby, would deliver interest, increase footfall, boost reputation and encourage partners to participate with complementary events which would enhance not only the forest and showcase Derby's rich culture.

It was noted that since the report had been published it had been established that the forest could be on the Market Place for 9 weeks rather than 6 weeks as originally thought.

Decision

1. To approve the installation of an urban forest within the Market Place for a duration of 9 weeks.
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 paragraph 7.1 of the report).
3. To delegate authority to Director of Public Protection and Streetpride to manage the operational decision making of the project.
4. To approve the use of the Derby Market Place reserve to fund approx. £50,000 to additional costs to support the project (see paragraph 7.2 of the report).

MINUTES END