

## FBC – Capital Bid 2023/24

Prepared by/Bid Originator – Lisa Foden

### Scheme: Tree Planting Programme

A tree planting budget to the sum of £25,000 was approved for the 2021/2022 financial year. Part of the £25,000 budget was allocated to parish council's to facilitate their own planting plans. It was agreed by the Carbon Neutral Working Group that left over funds could be utilised to undertake two important realms of work. Firstly, a tree canopy survey at the cost of £2,000 to provide longer term baseline information about the extent of borough wide tree cover, whilst highlighting areas of low cover to inform future planting proposals. Secondly, the identification of strategic green spaces that would benefit from immediate in-season tree planting to enhance landscape, heritage and ecological value.

A visual survey of green spaces was undertaken by the Parks and Coastal Service to identify priority areas for planting during the winter of 2022/23. Consultation was also undertaken with key officers, Members and partners, culminating in a tree planting proposal which advised upon key locations, sites and tree species to be planted. The approved proposal was costed to the value of £8,000, with a £1,000 contribution from the Parks and Coast Service.

The planting programme was delivered from November 2022 to January 2023 on Ashton Gardens, Lowther Gardens, Fairhaven Lake, Hope Street Park, Park View, Robin and Sparrow Parks and Crescent Gardens by the Tree Team and Ranger Service. A number of community tree planting events were also organised and promoted during National Tree Week and proved a success. A total of 600 trees were planted during this period.

Following the success of the 2022/23 planting programme, the Budget Working Group has requested the investment of a further £25,000 additional revenue to enable the continuation of tree planting in the financial year of 2023/24. It is proposed that baseline data from the tree canopy survey combined with in-house knowledge of low canopy areas is used to formulate a new tree planting proposal for delivery in winter 23/24. A planting plan will be formulated between the Parks and Coast Service and Regeneration Service for consideration by the Carbon Neutral Working Group and will be subject to consultation with key officers, Members and partners. Further community events will be organised.

#### Capital Cost Plan:

Cost Heading	Description	Total £
Tree planting programme	To carry out a borough wide tree planting programme.	£25,000
<b>Total Scheme Cost:</b>		<b>£25,000</b>

#### Outputs (i.e. details of what the investment will specifically deliver):

- Design and production of tree planting plan.
- Consultation with Members, partners and stakeholders.
- Tender and procurement of trees.
- Operational delivery of borough wide tree planting.
- Delivery of community tree planting events.

**Outcomes (i.e. details of the broader benefits achieved by the investment, for example community or environmental benefit, health and safety compliance, or statutory obligations):**

Ongoing and sustained investment in tree planting programmes will enable to Council to achieve a number of corporate and departmental goals, including those stipulated within the Arboriculture and Landscape Strategy and Corporate Plan. This work also forms a key part of the Council's commitment to reducing carbon.

These outcomes include:

- Expansion of tree canopy cover and sustainable management of tree stock.
- Improved landscape, heritage and ecological benefits of green spaces.
- Exceeding Green Flag Award and In Bloom goals.
- Enhanced civic pride and appreciation.

**Contribution to corporate objectives (i.e. how does the project achieve or help deliver priorities within the corporate plan):**

**Environment**

- Enhancing the natural environment.
- Providing high quality parks and open spaces.
- Providing safe, clean and accessible coast and countryside facilities.

**Efficiency**

- Championing and enhancing the reputation of the council.

**Tourism**

- Delivering and supporting a diverse programme of events across the Fylde Coast and Countryside.

**Budget Resource Requirements**

Breakdown of initial capital costs and future revenue implications

Estimated Total Capital costs of bid (£000's): £25,000

Annual additional Revenue costs arising from the bid (£000's): £ Nil

OR

Future Annual Revenue Savings achievable as a result of the bid: (£000's): £ Nil

**Please provide any further details of revenue savings below:****Value and phasing of bid:**

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	
£25,000	£000	£000	Additional capital investment required (i.e. the value of the bid)

**Existing resources in the Capital Programme relating to this scheme:**

2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	
£000	£000	£000	

**Estimated timescales for the bid:**

Start Date: April 2023

Completion Date: March 2024

**Project Risks (outline any risks to delivery of the project and how these will be mitigated)**

Risk	Impact	Mitigating Action
None	None	None