

## DECISION ITEM

REPORT OF	MEETING	DATE	ITEM NO
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES DIRECTORATE	PLANNING COMMITTEE	13TH NOVEMBER 2019	8
<b>ARBORICULTURE AND LANDSCAPE STRATEGY FOR THE BOROUGH</b>			

### PUBLIC ITEM

This item is for consideration in the public part of the meeting.

### SUMMARY

On 13 September 2017, Committee resolved to establish an Arboriculture and Landscape Working Group to help steer the formulation of an Arboriculture and Landscape Strategy for the borough. A group of 5 members was established to work alongside officers in developing the strategy. The group met on a number of occasions, but following the election in May, a number of the members of the original group are no longer serving councillors. It is suggested that the membership of the working group be refreshed in order to finalise the strategy and to identify suitable sites on which the council may plant trees as part of the strategy in line with previously approved budgets. As a number of the aims and objectives of this working group are shared with the Environment, Health and Housing Committee, it is also recommended that an invitation be extended to that committee to nominate two members to attend this working group.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Committee nominate 3 members, to join the working group to assist in the development of the Arboriculture and Landscape Strategy in collaboration with officers and that the group meets at the appropriate times to progress its development.
2. That an invitation is extended to the Environment, Health and Housing Committee to nominate 2 members to join the Arboriculture and Landscape Strategy working group.
3. That Committee delegate authority to identify suitable sites to be brought forward for tree planting schemes to the Head of Planning & Housing in consultation with the Arboriculture and Landscape Working Group.
4. To approve the expenditure of £25,000 in respect to the tree planting programme in line with the approved scheme for this purpose within the Capital Programme for 2019/20.

### SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS DECISIONS

On **13 September 2017**, Committee RESOLVED:

1. To authorise the commencement and preparation of a strategy for arboriculture and associated landscape issues and that reports be brought to Committee, at the appropriate time, for updates and for the making of decisions in respect of the development of the Strategy.
2. To appoint Councillors Christine Akeroyd, Jan Barker, Neil Harvey, Kieran Mullholland and Ray Thomas, to a working group to assist in the development of the Strategy (in collaboration with officers) and that the group meets at the appropriate times to progress its development.

On **5 March 2019** Council RESOLVED: to approve a capital budget of £25,000 in respect of tree planting, fully funded from the Capital Investment Reserve.

#### CORPORATE PRIORITIES

Spending your money in the most efficient way to achieve excellent services ( <b>Value for Money</b> )	
Delivering the services that customers expect of an excellent council ( <b>Clean and Green</b> )	✓
Working with all partners ( <b>Vibrant Economy</b> )	✓
To make sure Fylde continues to be one of the most desirable places to live ( <b>A Great Place to Live</b> )	✓
Promoting Fylde as a great destination to visit ( <b>A Great Place to Visit</b> )	✓

#### REPORT

1. To help in the formulation of the Council's Arboriculture and Landscape Strategy, a small working group of officers and members was established to guide the project. On 13 September 2017, Planning Committee nominated Councillors Christine Akeroyd, Jan Barker, Neil Harvey, Kieran Mullholland and Ray Thomas to work alongside officers in developing the strategy.
2. The group met on several occasions and provided valuable guidance in developing the strategy. Despite changes in staffing and a requirement to prioritise other work streams meaning that work in progressing the strategy slowed, the strategy has now progressed to the final stages. A number of the members of the original working group no longer sit on the council and so it will first be necessary to re-establish the working group and so Committee is asked to nominate 3 members to represent the Planning Committee at meetings of the working group.
3. It has been suggested that the tree planting element of the emerging strategy has common links with the aims and objectives of the Environment, Health and Housing Committee. Accordingly, it has been suggested that the Environment, Health and Housing Committee be invited to nominate 2 members to attend the working group so that it becomes a cross committee working group.
4. In March 2019, Council approved a budget of £25,000 to carry out a programme of tree planting projects across the borough. A number of potential sites have been identified that would be suitable for and benefit from increased tree planting. The trees will need to be planted during the tree planting season (November to early March) and so Members are recommended to delegate authority to the Head of Planning & Housing, in consultation with the working group, to identify and secure agreement to suitable sites for tree planting that will fulfil the objectives of the tree planting strategy.
5. Potential sites could include: new and replacement street trees, planting within open spaces and communal areas in residential areas, suitable sites within town and district centres and along strategic corridors, community tree planting schemes.
6. A further report that confirms the selected sites will be presented to committee for information at a later date.

#### IMPLICATIONS

Finance	The tree planting will be carried out within the existing budget of £25,000 which is included within the approved Capital Programme for 2019/20.
Legal	None
Community Safety	None

Human Rights and Equalities	None
Sustainability and Environmental Impact	The planting of trees across the borough will add to the biodiversity of the borough.
Health & Safety and Risk Management	None

LEAD AUTHOR	CONTACT DETAILS	DATE
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BACKGROUND PAPERS		
Name of document	Date	Where available for inspection
None		