

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Monday 31st January 2022

ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM COUNCIL NOTICES OF MOTION

1. **Meeting Date:** Council, Thursday 21st November 2019

Notice of Motion: Cultural Development Fund Bid

Actions:

- Once the bidding criteria has become available for the Cultural Development Fund, a bid is to be developed with all party involvement from key stakeholders, and finalised after consultation involving all Members of the Council

Update:

An expression of interest was submitted to this fund in 2021, however the Arts Council did not invite the Council to develop a further bid for submission.

2. **Meeting Date:** Council, Thursday 21st November 2019

Notice of Motion: Trees

Action(s)

- To prepare a report on how the Council could encourage more trees to be planted in Gloucester

Update:

Following the unanimous support expressed for tree planting in Gloucester at September 2021 Full Council, the Climate Change Manager undertook a review of the City's approach to urban forestry, with the aim of simplifying, expediting, and bringing greater strategic rigour to the process. In previous years, it had been the custom to plant trees on a request basis by

Councillors. However, this approach – often narrowly focused on relatively expensive ‘specimen’ trees - had not delivered the canopy cover increases consistent with Gloucester’s weighted contribution to the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy.

To rectify this, the Climate Change Manager, undertook visual surveys of all 18 wards in order to identify peripheral space for tree planting in green spaces that would not impact upon the amenity value of those spaces. Some 40,000 square metres was identified, and reports prepared for all ward Councillors alongside a short consultation period to allow for Councillor feedback. At the start of the process, there was an internal budget of some £16,000 for tree planting in the borough, sufficient to plant approximately 4,000 saplings, or ‘whips, under contract, including mulching. However, following collaboration with the Royal Forestry Commission, the Woodland Trust, and the County Council, an additional £118,142 and 9,000 saplings have been secured for the delivery of 12,800 saplings and 100 ‘standard’ specimens this season.

Members have received regular correspondence from the Climate Change Manager throughout this process, including via the Members’ Bulletin, e-mail, and telephone calls to individual Members, and will be notified shortly (potentially prior to this Scrutiny session) of the dates on which contractors will be planting in their wards – should they wish to attend – and in the case of the small number of wards that wish to conduct community planting when City Council officers will be able to attend and assist. The relevant Cabinet Member (Cllr Cook), the City Council MD, the Head of Communities, and the Open Spaces Manager have been fully engaged in this process.

When the planting season ends on 31 March 2022, attention will turn to the creation of a green infrastructure plan, including a tree strategy, which will strengthen the city’s approach to both woodland creation/enhancement and street trees, which Cllr Cook and the Climate Change Manager have already begun engaging with the City’s Highways Authority (Gloucestershire County Council) on. Should any members of the Scrutiny Committee wish to discuss the matter in further detail, they should contact Gloucester City Council’s Climate Change Manager, Jon Burke, at jon.burke@gloucester.gov.uk.

