



North Devon Council Strategy and Resources

Report Date: 4 July 2022

Topic: New woodland at Frankmarsh, Barnstaple

Report by: Head of Environmental Enhancement

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Update on the provision of a new woodland at Frankmarsh, Barnstaple

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1. To note the contents of the report

2.2. To recommend that Council vary the Capital Programme by £63,631 as set out in section 5.1 and that funds be released

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1. To update councillors on the progress of the new woodland

3.2. To ask councillors to vary the Capital Programme in order that funding can be allocated and spent

4. REPORT

4.1. The Council purchased 18ha of farmland and existing mature woodland adjacent to the existing Yeo Valley Community Woodland in June 2020 following a report by the Head of Resources and Corporate Property to Strategy and Resources dated 2nd December 2019, Acquisition of Corporate Property.

4.2. The Forestry Commission awarded funding to North Devon Council in April 2022 to plant approximately 24,000 trees on the land. The funding has come through the "England Woodland Creation Offer" funding stream and is worth £211,000.

4.3. The new woodland is primarily designed to absorb CO₂ and calculations indicate approximately 3500 tonnes will be sequestered over the next 100 years helping to offset some of the Council's carbon emissions. The scheme will be monitored through the Woodland Carbon Code. The new woodland will also offer informal recreation and biodiversity improvements.

4.4. Infrastructure for the woodland will be installed from September 2022 and planting will commence at the end of 2022. The council have two years from the date of the agreement to plant the trees, although it is hoped to complete all the planting over the winter of 2022/ 2023.

4.5. The funding will pay for capital costs ie the deer fencing around the site, the supply and planting of the trees and a contribution towards a surfaced path through the site. Additional contributions are paid for public access, being close to a settlement, water quality improvements and nature recovery benefits.

- 4.6. The scheme also offers maintenance payments over a 10 year period for the establishment of the trees.
- 4.7. Capital items are claimed retrospectively each year.
- 4.8. It is hoped to encourage the community to participate in the planting with the Parks team, operating through a contractor funded through the external grant, contacting schools, colleges and community groups to take part over the winter. Contractors and in House staff will complete any planting not undertaken by volunteers.
- 4.9. Tree species have been selected that will adapt and grow in a changing climate.
- 4.10 Trees planted before the 20th December 2022 can be included in the Queen's Green Canopy.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. The anticipated capital cost of the project is £164,631 (there is already £101,000 within the existing Capital Programme and this report is increasing the budget up to £164,631) and will be fully funded from the external grant.. There will also be 10 years of annual maintenance payments totalling £46,560 which again will be fully funded from the external grant.

6. EQUALITIES ASSESSMENT

- 6.1. Please detail if there are/are not any equalities implications anticipated as a result of this report. If so, please complete the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Summary form available on Insite and email to the Corporate and Community Services Team at equality@northdevon.gov.uk.

EIA form completed.

7. ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

- 7.1. Please undertake an Environmental Assessment and complete the checklist (EAC) form available on Insite. If there are no environmental implications arising from your proposals please state that there are none. If after completion of the assessment there are environmental implications please provide a brief summary. If you require any further information please contact the Sustainability and Climate Change Officer. Email completed EACs to donna.sibley@torridge.gov.uk

An Environmental Impact assessment screening decision was undertaken by the Forestry Commission as part of the eligibility checks for the scheme and an EAC form has been completed and approved.



8. CORPORATE PRIORITIES

8.1. What impact, positive or negative, does the subject of this report have on:

8.1.1. The commercialisation agenda: N/A

8.1.2. Improving customer focus and/or N/A

8.1.3. Regeneration or economic development N/A

9. CONSTITUTIONAL CONTEXT

9.1. Part 3 Annexe 1(d) (Delegated)

9.2. Article 4.5.19 (Referred)

10. STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

This report contains no confidential information or exempt information under the provisions of Schedule 12A of 1972 Act.

11. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report:
(The background papers are available for inspection and kept by the author of the report).

12. STATEMENT OF INTERNAL ADVICE

The author (below) confirms that advice has been taken from all appropriate Councillors and Officers: Mark Kentell, Head of Environmental Enhancement