

TREE PLANTING STRATEGY

Summary: North Norfolk District Council's (NNDC) Corporate Plan commits to planting 110,000 trees – one for each resident.

The tree planting strategy sets out a framework for how the 110,000 target will be met and considers issues such as the type of planting that the 110,000 tree project will deliver, the species that will be planted, the reasons for planting trees, and where trees will be planted.

Options considered: No other options should realistically be considered as this strategy is an essential step in delivering the 110,000 Corporate Plan objective.

Conclusions: The Tree Planting Strategy provides a framework from which to deliver the 110,000 tree project by 2023.

Recommendations: **To note the content of the draft Tree Planting Strategy.**

Reasons for Recommendations: NNDC's Corporate Plan commits to planting 110,000 trees by 2023.

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS AS REQUIRED BY LAW

(Papers relied on to write the report, which do not contain exempt information and which are not published elsewhere)

N/A

Cabinet Member: Cllr Nigel Lloyd
Ward(s) affected: District Wide

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1. Introduction

1.1 In April 2019 NNDC declared a climate emergency and committed to planting 110,000 trees by 2023. Since then over 20,000 trees have been planted across North Norfolk and an additional 40,000 trees are due to be planted by the end of March 2022.

1.2 A draft Tree Planting Strategy has been prepared and sets out a framework for how the overall 110,000 target will be met and considers issues including, but not limited to;

- the type of planting that the 110,000 tree project will deliver
- the species that will be planted
- the reasons for planting trees
- where trees will be planted

- legal framework for tree planting on ‘third party’, or ‘private land’

1.3 The draft strategy is now at a stage where it can be shared externally, prior to its adoption, following consideration of any representations. *Please see the draft version of the Tree Planting Strategy in Appendix One of this report.*

2. Current position

2.1 A Tree Planting Strategy, which outlines the aims of the 110,000 tree project, has been drafted alongside a legal framework which will ensure that trees planted on third party land are managed and maintained for a 10 year period. *Please see the draft version of the Tree Planting Strategy in Appendix One of this report.*

3. Corporate Plan Objectives

3.1 The table below demonstrates how the draft Tree Planting Strategy will meet key corporate priorities as contained within the Corporate Plan:

Corporate plan objectives	How the draft Tree Planting Strategy supports Corporate Plan Objectives
<p>Objective 5</p> <p>Planting 110,000 trees – one for each resident</p>	<p>The Tree Planting Strategy provides a framework from which to deliver the 110,000 tree project by 2023</p>

4. Financial and Resource Implications

4.1 Budget for the delivery of the 110,000 tree project has already been allocated and approved.

4.2 There are no further finance and resource implications associated with the adoption of the tree strategy and associated documents.

4.3 Procurement options for the 110,000 tree project are included within the tree strategy appended to this report

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 Chapter Six of the appended Tree Planting Strategy outlines the purpose of the legal agreements which landowners will be asked to enter into in order for trees to be planted on their land.
- 5.2 All of the legal agreements will stipulate the following basic requirements from landowners on whose land trees are planted.
- To assume responsibility and liability for ongoing management and maintenance of the trees planted
 - To replace on a like-for-like basis any trees which as a result of negligence, lack of maintenance or intentional damage die within the first five years from the date on which they are first planted at the Landowner's own cost
 - Not to fell or otherwise cause to be removed any tree planted for a minimum of 10 years from the date of this agreement unless prior written consent has been granted by the Council

6. Communication Implications

- 6.1 The Tree Planting Strategy will be made publically accessible and will be published on the council's website.

7. Risks

- 7.2 The draft Tree Planting Strategy sets the framework and direction for the delivery of the 110,000 tree planting project. Without a strategy the project risks not meeting its core objectives but also risks failure to deliver these objectives in a timely manner.
- 7.3 Failure to deliver a timely and well considered Tree Planting Strategy may also expose the Council to reputational damage.

8 Equality and Diversity

No matters relating to equality and diversity arise from the contents of this report.

9 Section 17 Crime and Disorder considerations

This report raises no matters of concern to crime and disorder.

10 Sustainability implications

No negative matters relating to sustainability arise from this report.

11 Conclusions

The draft Tree Planting Strategy is an important document which sets out a framework for how the 110,000 tree project will be delivered.

The draft Tree Planting Strategy considers issues such as the type of planting that the 110,000 tree project will deliver, the species that will be planted, the reasons for planting trees, and where trees will be planted.

It is recommended that the principles of the draft Tree Planting Strategy are noted so that the document can be finalised and made publically available on the Council's website.