

Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting

Delegated Officer Decision – 21 July 2023

Report Title

Tree Planting Location Plan

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

Assistant Director Approving Submission of the Report

Polly Hamilton, Assistant Director, Culture, Sport & Tourism

Report Author(s)

Andy Lee, Green Spaces Manager
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Ward(s) Affected

Borough-Wide

Report Summary

This report details the progress to date made against the Tree Planting Plan as agreed in the Year Ahead Plan 2022/23, alongside proposed future improvements.

Recommendations

1. That the progress to date is noted.
2. That the works are endorsed retrospectively.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 Equalities Impact Screening Part A
Appendix 2 Carbon Impact Assessment

Background Papers

N/A

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Improving Places Select Commission – 09 May 2023

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Tree Planting Programme

1. Background

- 1.1 In 2021 the Council adopted a policy of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. It has also made Climate Change and Biodiversity declarations in 2022.
- 1.2 Trees make a huge impact in balancing carbon outputs by sequestering atmospheric carbon, through the transpiration of carbon dioxide and the subsequent release of oxygen. With carbon then being locked up in the growing trees.
- 1.3 Trees also provide shade, increased biodiversity, physical and mental health benefits, reduce soil erosion, reduce water pollution and risk of flooding.
- 1.4 The Council has committed to plant 100,000 new woodland trees and 5,000 new trees in urban locations over a ten year period from 2021 to 2031.

2. Key Issues

2.1 Programme Delivery to Date

- 2.1.1 The Council committed £350,000 through its capital programme for tree planting across financial years 2021/22 and 2022/23 and this has been augmented by external funding from a number of funders, providing a total of £464,298 across the two planting seasons.
- 2.1.2 The following trees have been planted to date as a result of this programme:

2021/22 Planting Season

Ward	Site	Urban Trees	Woodland Trees
Kilnhurst & Swinton East	Swinton piccadilly		3887
Brinsworth	Bawtry Rd	116	
Boston Castle	Herringthorpe playing field, Broom Valley Rd, Iccles lock, Clifton park, college roundabout	168	2829
Rotherham East	Eldon Road	8	
Rotherham West	Wortley Road, Winterhill	11	4600
Wath	Newhill park	23	
Maltby East	Cherry Tree Park	70	
Anston & Woodsetts	Greenlands Park		2668

Sitwell	Brecks lane, Herringthorpe extension		6670
Greasborough	Greasborough junction	1000	
Aughton & Swallownest	Reservoir Road	58	
Dalton & Thrybergh	Ridgeway	2	1
Total number of trees planted			22,111

2022/23 Planting Season

Ward	Site	Urban Trees	Woodland trees
Aston & todwick	Florence Ave	10	
Kepple	Kimberworth Library, Redscope school	3	425
Sitwell	Brecks lane Orchard, Rotherham U3A Woodland		187
Rotherham West	Victoria Park	98	
Rother vale	Highfield	22	
Dinnington	Hangsman lane, Queen Elizabeth II Community Woodland	41	7700
Wath	White bear	32	
Boston Castle	Clifton Park, Broom Valley Rd, Fredrick St	557	
Greasborough	Greasborough Junction, Fenton Rd, The Crescent	1508	
Anston & Woodsett	Greenlands	2	301
Rotherham West	Winterhill		301
Dalton & Thrybergh	Hope fields		5
Hooper	Masefield Rd	17	
Brinsworth	Coronation Orchard	6	
Aughton & Swallownest	Reservoir Rd	58	
Hellaby & Maltby	Laburnum Parade	9	
Swinton & Rockingham	Memorial tree	8	
Total number of trees planted			11,290

3. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 3.1 Note the tree planting as outlined above that has already taken place in the 2021/22 and 2022/23 planting seasons.
- 3.2 This report provides a record of the expenditure of the agreed Capital programme.

4. Consultation on proposal

- 4.1 All works undertaken to date were done so in consultation with Ward Members and the Council's Neighbourhood Team via casework and informal escalation.
- 4.2 Where new works are proposed Ward Members have been made aware of the proposals.

5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 5.1 The planting programme has now completed. This report provides a record of the expenditure of the agreed Capital programme.

6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (Jon Baggaley, Service Manager, Finance and Karen Middlebrook, Head of Procurement)

- 6.1 As an update on retrospective activity, there are no direct procurement implications.

The Council has approved £350k capital funding to support this tree planting programme, in addition, the service has been successful in securing grant funding to supplement Council resources.

7. Legal Advice and Implications (Lesley Tattersall, Property Team Manager (acting))

- 7.1 There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report.

8. Human Resources Advice and Implications (John Crutchley, HR Business Partner)

- 8.1 There are no human resource implications arising from the recommendations within this report.

9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 9.1 None

10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications

- 10.1 An Equalities Impact Screening has been completed for the proposed guidance and can be found at Appendix 1.
- 10.2 The service will undertake the following actions:
- Continue to work with colleagues in Neighbourhoods, ward members to prioritise planting locations.
 - Continue to engage with individuals and groups to universally encourage tree planting and increases in tree cover across the Borough.

11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change

- 11.1 Trees play a vital role in supporting the mitigation of climate change through sequestration of atmospheric carbon and the trapping of airborne pollutants.
- 11.2 An iTreeECO survey will be commissioned in 2023/24 to identify a baseline of carbon already sequestered and future carbon take up projected.

12. Implications for Partners

- 12.1. Although most planting identified within this report is within Council ownership, Parish Councils have also been encouraged to provide additional land for tree planting and have in some cases been supported by the Council's Green Spaces team to implement planting on their land.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 Loss of existing habitat which is more valuable to the environment than the woodland that replaces it is a realistic consideration. In all cases of woodland planting a full environmental impact assessment has been undertaken.
- 13.2 We are aware that the change of landscape will not be welcomed by some in the community. A consultation and communication protocol has been developed and adopted to reduce the chances of challenge from the community post planting.

14. Accountable Officers

Leanne Buchan, Head of Creative Programming & Engagement
Andy Lee, Green Spaces Manager
Kevin Burke, Countryside & Ecology Manager

Approvals obtained on behalf of Statutory Officers: -

	Named Officer	Date
Chief Executive	Sharon Kemp	Click here to enter a date.
Strategic Director of Finance & Customer Services (S.151 Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.
Head of Legal Services (Monitoring Officer)	Named officer	Click here to enter a date.

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