

Title of meeting: Cabinet Member for Planning, Regeneration and Economic Development

Date of meeting: 6th November 2018

Subject: 2018-19 Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan

Report by: Assistant Director of City Development

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council Decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to set out a proposed approach to the delivery of short term green infrastructure improvements and general greening in the city over the next year, and to seek the authority to progress with the approach outlined.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 **That the portfolio holder for PRED approves the approach for greening the city over the next year as set out in the 2018-19 green infrastructure delivery plan document (attached as an appendix).**

3. Background

- 3.1 Portsmouth's green infrastructure network has a role in providing the city with a range of valuable benefits beyond simply the aesthetic. Green infrastructure within the public realm, such as trees, shrubs and greenspaces like parks, can promote physical health and wellbeing through encouraging people to take up more active lifestyles, but has also been associated with better mental health including reductions in stress, anxiety and depression. Incorporating high quality green infrastructure within the public realm can also make a positive contribution to improving air quality through absorbing some of the harmful pollutants that contribute to poor quality air with subsequent health benefits for people as a result. Beyond health and wellbeing, greening urban areas can also bring about gains in biodiversity, build resilience to climate change and contribute to economic development by encouraging greater investment in an area.
- 3.2 The Council is committed to developing and enhancing Portsmouth's green infrastructure network. Doing so will not only contribute to creating better quality, healthier spaces for people within the city, but can also support other ongoing

objectives for the Council, such as improving air quality and encouraging greater physical and mental health of Portsmouth's residents. In the longer term, developing green infrastructure in the city will be guided by the policies set out in the emerging Local Plan, and supported by other documents such as the Parks and Open Spaces Strategy. The purpose of the 2018-19 Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan, is to begin to lay the foundations for this work, by setting out how the Council will actively aim to deliver greening more immediately in the city over the next year.

- 3.3 The plan sets out how the Council will work to develop Portsmouth's green infrastructure in the short term and promote greater greening of the city. The plan will be delivered through a number of measures that have been identified including additional tree planting around the city and enhancements to a selection of green spaces which will be identified and subject to a site-by-site analysis of existing quality and opportunities for improvements. The delivery of the measures set out in the document will be subject to the allocation of appropriate funding.
- 3.4 Longer term, a range of measures for addressing green infrastructure provision in the city are being investigated through the work in support of the emerging Local Plan.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 The approval of the approach set out in the delivery plan will enable the Council to progress work on the delivery of these short term greening measures over the next year.
- 4.2 The investment in the delivery of green infrastructure in the city is intended to contribute not only to the development of Portsmouth's natural environment, but also to the delivery of a variety of benefits for the city's residents, visitors and businesses. Greening measures such as those highlighted in the plan should respond positively to various challenges facing the city at present including those relating to health and wellbeing of its residents; adapting to climate change; improving air quality; and promoting greater biodiversity.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

- 5.1 An equality impact assessment is not required as the recommendations do not have a disproportionately negative impact on any of the protected characteristics as described in the Equality Act 2010. At this point, the delivery plan proposes a broad approach for delivering greening to the city only, however, once specific locations have been identified and any particular improvements selected for an area, the need for an EIA will be revisited, though the position is not expected to change as any measures proposed will be designed to avoid negative impacts.

6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the recommendations in this report. Site-specific legal issues may need to be considered once details of specific

improvements are identified and further advice will be sought when this is necessary.

7. Director of Finance's Comments

- 7.1 There are no financial implications as a result of approving the recommendation within this report.
- 7.2 If the approach is approved a funding source will need to be identified in order to deliver any measures that contribute to this initiative.

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Signed by:

Assistant Director of City Development

Appendices: 2018-19 Green Infrastructure Delivery Plan

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/
rejected by on

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Signed by: