

## **THIS ITEM IS FOR INFORMATION ONLY**

**(Please note that "Information Only" reports do not require Integrated Impact Assessments, Legal or Finance Comments as no decision is being taken)**

<b>Title of meeting:</b>	Climate Change & Environment
<b>Subject:</b>	Urban Tree Challenge Fund
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2023
<b>Report by:</b>	Zoe White - Public Health development manager - Green & Healthy City Coordinator
<b>Wards affected:</b>	All

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1. **Requested by-** the Cabinet member for Climate Change and Environment to provide detail of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund and the progress of the council's application.

### **2. Information Requested**

- a. To update the Cabinet member for Climate Change and the Environment on the detail of the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF).
- b. To brief the Cabinet member on the outcome of the grant application funded by the Forestry Commission and the financial award made to the Council.
- c. To provide an update on the planting locations and use of the grant.

### **3. Background**

3.1 The Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTCF) is a key component of the Government's £750m Nature for Climate Fund and provides funding to plant trees outside of woodlands.

UTCF supports planting of large 'standard' trees in urban areas which make an immediate impact to communities. It is available to anyone who has management control of the land, including local authorities and private landowners, to level up access to nature across the country. Tree planting can take place in urban areas, with higher scores awarded for planting in socially deprived areas with low canopy cover, in proximity to healthcare or educational facilities.

3.2 The Urban Tree Challenge Fund provides a contribution toward funding of standard costs for planting large trees and their establishment costs for 3 years

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following planting. The funding supports the cost of buying and planting a tree, the cost of basic protection and the labour required to plant it.

3.3 Trees outside of woodlands are very valuable because they provide such a wide range of benefits, such as:

- Reducing noise and air pollution from busy roads
- Providing shade and windbreaks
- Protecting our rivers' fish stocks from heat and pollution improving water quality
- Aiding sustainable urban drainage
- Mitigating flooding
- Connecting habitats and making a home for nature
- Bringing the wellbeing benefits of nature to the heart of communities

3.4 Trees for Cities completed a block bid for the UTCF 2022 funding as part of the Forgotten Places programme, working in partnership with coastal towns and cities. Portsmouth City Council were invited to be part of this bid.

**4. Outcome**

4.1 In November 2022, Trees for Cities confirmed that the block bid grant application was successful. Portsmouth City Council have been awarded £61,000 for tree planting during the winter seasons of 2022/2023 and 2023/2024.

4.2 Planting will take place in the following locations:

Location	Planting numbers 2022/23	Planting numbers 2023/24
East West active travel corridor	16	
Moorings Way School	17	
New Horizons School	6	5
King George V Playing field		38
Great Salterns	40	
Alexandra Park	25	

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- 4.3 New trees will help remove carbon from the atmosphere and deliver a greener and healthier environment. Improved green space offers possibilities of increased social activity, improved community cohesion and local attachment. It's also recognised nationwide that better managed green space close to where people live increases amenity value and has the potential to improve quality of life and wellbeing. Introducing trees into these areas will improve the local environment and contribute to the health and wellbeing of communities.



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Signed by (Director)

**Appendices:**

**Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972**

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location