

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2329

Author:

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Department:

Communities

Contact:

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Subject:

Neighbourhood Tree Improvement Programme

Total Value:

£305,000 (Type: Capital)

Decision Being Taken:

1. Approve the Neighbourhood Tree Improvement Programme (NTIP) as detailed in Appendix 1 and develop a detailed schedule of tree works in accordance with the NTIP.
2. Approve the addition to the capital programme resulting from 1 above and consequent update to the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP).
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Sport and Culture to tender out works packages and enter into contracts relating to the detailed tree works schedule.
4. Approve the transfer from revenue to capital of £125k contingency already approved for this scheme.
5. Approve the transfer of revenue to capital of £95k from the HRA revenue budget.

Reasons for the Decision(s) As part of the implementation of the Urban Forestry Strategy, the Parks Service is looking to create a more sustainable way to balance both the ongoing challenges and benefits of trees within urban housing areas.
NTIP sets out a framework for the delivery of a scheduled plan for tree works which will bring about:-

Real improvements in terms of quality of life.
Improved citizen / neighbourhood satisfaction levels.
A realistic and deliverable methodology designed to significantly break the ongoing cycle of increased demand for tree maintenance work.
A transformational and detailed plan for tree rationalisation and appropriate replacement planting opportunities.

The NTIP has been developed following a review of ongoing and repeated requests for tree maintenance work and has been informed by consultations with Ward Councillors, neighbourhood teams and the community.

The programme has been designed to deliver environmental improvement benefits for the community as it will help prevent damage to properties, roads & pavements etc.

Briefing notes documents: Appendix 1 NTIP Briefing Note -.pdf

Other Options Considered: As the NTIP offers the opportunity significantly to help improve the City's tree canopy by removing inappropriately placed trees and introducing new trees to more sustainable locations around the City, the option of not pursuing this project has been rejected.

Background Papers:

Unpublished background papers: UFS.pdf

Published Works: Nottingham Urban Forestry Strategy

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Consultations: The precursor to the NTIP is the Urban Forest Strategy which was approved in January 2013 by Councillors Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure) and Urquhart (Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transport) under DD 0600. More detailed policy documents in relation to trees were adopted by the same delegated decision. The NTIP has been informed by consultations from Ward Councillors commencing in September 2015. Such consultations are ongoing in relation to development of detailed proposals, and all Ward Councillors will be consulted on the schedule of tree works for their area as it is established, prior to the works being undertaken.

Crime and Disorder Implications: The tree works which the NTIP will help to deliver will enhance community safety by improving visibility and lighting to some areas.

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: There are no detrimental impacts to the community from these proposals

Decision Type: Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In: Yes

Call In Expiry date: 16/02/2016

Advice Sought: Legal, Finance

Legal Advice:
1. The decision is within the financial threshold stipulated for the Portfolio Holder within the Council's Constitution.
2. The decision is within the terms of reference of the Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture.
Advice provided by Judith Irwin (Senior Solicitor) on 28/01/2016.

Finance Advice:
See attached financial advice Advice provided by Steve Ross (Finance Analyst) on 18/01/2016.
Advice documents: Financial Advice - Neighbourhood Tree Improvement Programme..xlsx

Signatures
David Trimble (Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture)
SIGNED and Dated: 08/02/2016
Andrew Vaughan (Corporate Director Commercial and Operations)
SIGNED and Dated: 03/02/2016