



Subject:	Belfast One Million Trees Programme – Amendment to Funding Agreement
Date:	20th May, 2022
Reporting Officer:	John Tully, Director of City and Organisational Strategy
Contact Officer:	Richard McLernon, Climate Programme Manager City

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	The purpose of this report is to request an amendment to the approval given by the Committee in August 2021 to enter into a funding agreement with the Woodland Trust, to support the delivery of the Belfast One Million Trees Programme. Under the proposed amendment, which has been discussed and agreed with both the Woodland Trust and Belfast Hills Partnership, the Council will enter into a funding agreement with Belfast Hills Partnership, rather than the Woodland Trust.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is recommended to approve the amendment to the funding agreement to reflect that the Council would now work with Belfast Hills Partnership to deliver engagement and communication support services for the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.

3.0	Main Report
3.1	On 20th August 2021, the Committee approved the establishment of a funding agreement with the Woodland Trust to the value of £45,000 for the service of volunteer coordination, community outreach and support for PR and communication for the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.
3.2	Subsequent discussions between the Belfast One Million Trees delivery partners, namely, the Council, Belfast Hills Partnership and the Woodland Trust, have resulted in a request for a variation, and that the funding agreement is made with Belfast Hills Partnership rather than with the Woodland Trust.
3.3	Belfast Hills Partnership has acted as the primary support for the Council's Climate Unit in the delivery of the Belfast One Million Trees Programme. The Council will remain the co-ordinating body and will continue to lead the programme, act on behalf of the city steering group, and lead on funding and the administration of the programme.
3.4	A wide range of engagement activities are underway, with scope for this to increase with a dedicated support service being in place. Belfast One Million Trees Programme has established a schools programme working with the Education Authority, and in addition we are liaising with a wide range of business, community and voluntary sector organisations in relation to sponsorship, volunteering and other support activities. Two tree giveaway events have been held recently in Ormeau Park and the Waterworks Park. The potential for tree planting at interface areas is being scoped out at present. Belfast City Council is engaging with tree planting schemes and experts across the UK, ROI and globally to seek to ensure best practice is followed. It is intended that a Belfast Tree Count will be announced during the Urban Tree Festival on the 16 th May which will call on residents, developers and landowners who have planted trees over the last two years to submit numbers, species type, and location for inclusion in the Belfast target. In parallel a Belfast Land Call will be announced at the same event whereby landowners will be invited to submit land for assessment for tree planting potential. A dedicated support function provided by Belfast Hills Partnership will enhance these activities.
3.5	Roles and responsibilities, including reporting lines, will be set out in the funding agreement, to ensure services are coordinated, with the Council continuing to act as the coordinator and lead in the Belfast One Million Trees Programme.
<u>Financial and Resource Implications</u>	
3.6	Finance has been secured through the Emergency Tree Fund grant to the Council. No additional finance is required.

3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> There are no direct equality or good relations/rural needs implications.
4.0	Documents Attached
	None