Subject:	Motion – Tiny Urban Forests
Date:	5th December, 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Strategic Director City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?	Yes ☐ No ☒

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number ☐

1. Information relating to any individual

2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual

3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)

4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter

5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained

6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction

7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Sometime in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes ☒ No ☐

1.0	**Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues**
	To bring to Members' attention a motion in relation to Tiny Urban Forests, which the Standards and Business Committee considered at its meeting on 28th November.
2.0	**Recommendation**
	The Committee is asked to consider the motion.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	**Key Issues**
	The Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 28th November, considered the following motion which had been received for submission to the Council on 4th December:
3.2	**Tiny Urban Forests**
	"This Council notes the work that has begun in Plymouth to create 96 mini urban forests in the city and is pioneered by Japanese botanist Akira Miyawaki. The Miyawaki forestation method is a unique way to create an urban forest. With this method of plantation, an urban forest can grow within a short span of 20-30 years while a conventional forest takes upwards of 100 years plus to grow naturally. In the Miyawaki technique, various native species of plants are planted close to each other so that the greens receive sunlight only from the top and grow upwards than sideways. As a result, the plantation becomes approximately 30 times denser, grows 10 times faster and becomes maintenance-free after a span of 3 years.
	Tiny Forests are community-led tree-planting initiatives which aim to improve local access to green space and help communities to better understand the challenges faced by nature. These forests are very much suited for small pockets of unused wasteland in urban settings, as well in places such as schools, community centres etc. Urban forests bring many benefits to communities beyond their impact on biodiversity. Green spaces can help to improve people's mental health, reduce the harmful effects of air pollution, and even counter the phenomenon of heat traps in cities, where expanses of concrete and asphalt raise temperatures unnaturally high. We are already aware of a lack of tree coverage in our built up working class areas throughout the city and this offers an opportunity to tackle this, as well as enhancing our urban biodiversity and understanding of the importance of it.
	This Council will commit to working with its partners in the One Million Trees project to explore the viability of Tiny Urban Forests being incorporated into it."
	Proposer: Councillor Brian Smyth
	Seconder: Councillor Davy Douglas
3.3	**Financial and Resource Implications**
	None at this stage.

3.4	**<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u>** This motion, if agreed, may have potential equality, good relations and rural needs implications and should be subject to our normal screening process as appropriate.
4.0	**Documents Attached**
	None