



<b>Subject:</b>	The Queens Green Canopy – Tree Planting Initiative celebrating the forthcoming Queen’s Platinum Jubilee
<b>Date:</b>	10 <sup>th</sup> August 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Ryan Black, Director Neighbourhood Services.
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager.

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

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	Members are advised that this report sets out details of the Queens Green Canopy tree planting initiative (QGC) and it’s purpose the celebration of the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee in 2022.
1.2	Members are asked to consider a request received from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO to the Queen’s Green Canopy, inviting Belfast City Council to celebrate Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee and at the same time, promoting the importance of trees to the environment.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4 <sup>th</sup> May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree a number of tree planting events from November 2021 to March 2022 in the lead up to the official Platinum Jubilee celebrations planned for the 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022 and then a second smaller planting phase running from November 2022 to December 2022 which falls within National Tree Week and all of which can be included as tree numbers towards the Council’s One Million Tree planting initiative.</li> <li>• Agree that Council’s Outreach officers work with local communities to plan in and take part in the QGC initiative during the next tree planting season – November 2021 to March 2022.</li> <li>• Agree to the installation of a small QGC plaque at any of the larger tree planting sites.</li> </ul>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
3.1	On the 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 correspondence was sent out to all the Chief Executives in Northern Ireland from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO to the Queen’s Green Canopy inviting Councils to take part in the Queens Green Canopy initiative.
3.2	Colonel Dan Rex invited representatives from Councils and other interested parties to an on-line presentation which took place on the 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 2021 and this was attended by representatives from Belfast City Council; Mid Ulster Council; Ards and North Down Council; Lisburn and Castlereagh Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Council, Viscount Brookborough KG, The Earl of Caledon Lord -Lieutenant, Mathew Stewart, Abercorn Estate, Robert Scott Lord – Lieutenant Co Tyrone, Nicola Brady General Secretary.
3.3	<p>The presentation set out what the QGC project was all about:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Thanking the Queen for her exceptional service</li> <li>2. To celebrate Her Majesty’s Platinum Jubilee</li> <li>3. Promote the importance of trees to the environment</li> <li>4. Involving communities; charities; schools; youth groups and councils in tree planting; creating a lasting legacy in honour of the Queens leadership</li> </ol>
3.4	The QGC is particularly focused on supporting urban tree planting, in the most disadvantaged communities.

<p>3.5</p> <p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>The QGC currently has a number of key partnerships in place and more are getting involved as the initiative gathers momentum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Trees for Cities</li> <li>• Forest Canopy Foundation</li> <li>• Woodland Trust</li> <li>• Royal Horticultural Society</li> <li>• Royal Forestry Society</li> </ul> <p>Belfast City Council continues to forge ahead with the One Million Tree planting initiative which will run over the next 15-year period and the Council has a number of new planting sites earmarked for the 2021/2022 tree planting programme.</p> <p>If the Council was agreeable, it could divert some of this year and next year's One Million Tree planting sites to the Queens Green Canopy Platinum Jubilee tree planting initiative and still record these planting schemes as part of the One Million Tree running total.</p> <p>The QGC would like participants, if possible, to install a small plaque at any of the larger planting sites to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.</p>
<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p>	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None – Tree planting projects scheduled for 2021 and 2022 will come out of existing tree planting budgets and also out of a Woodland Trust 'Tree Emergency' fund.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p><b>4.0</b></p>	<p><b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b></p>
	<p>None</p>