



Subject:	Requested tree planting in Victoria Park to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland
Date:	10 August 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager, East Belfast

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"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding a request by East End Great War Society to plant up to 6 chestnut trees in Victoria Park to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland and to mark the planting with a commemorative plaque.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Members of the Committee are asked to recommend that, in accordance with the Council decision of 4 th May 2021, the Chief Executive exercise her delegated authority to; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• consider the request from the East End Great War Society to plant six Chestnut trees, along with the commemorative plaque, within an agreed location in Victoria Park.

3.0	Main report
3.1	A Belfast City Council officer met with Stephen Gough from East End Great War Society on Wednesday 30 th June 2021, who detailed the request of the society and an overview of the proposal.
3.2	The East End Great War Society is a World War I commemorative project based in East Belfast. They have been involved in a range of educational and commemorative projects throughout the Decade of Centenaries, delivering events in City Hall as well as local projects and educational resources through funding from Good Relations. This request is part of their continued efforts to mark those key events from one hundred years ago in an open, respectful and dignified manner.
3.3	The society have asked that council plant between one and six chestnut trees in Victoria Park to mark the Centenary of Northern Ireland with a plaque attached. The plaque, which they have requested is provided by Council, is to include the name of the tree planting, 'Centenary Wood' and the names of the persons planting the trees.
3.4	This is in line with the agreed policy of tree planting which states: 'Permission for future tree planting requests may be granted by the People and Communities Committee on a request by request basis. Any tree planting proposals/request received by the Council should fit in and be aligned with the Council's 'Tree Management Plan' for that individual Park/Open Space as advised by Council Officers within City and Neighbourhood Services'
3.5	If Committee support the tree planting proposal, it will come under the tree management plan for Victoria Park, as part of a replacement planting programme and can be resourced from the related revenue budget. The additional trees will be included as part of the one million tree planting running total.
3.6	The Woodland and Recreation Officer will try to source the requested larger chestnut trees, however, may have to substitute with another variety if he cannot source the original tree species (chestnut). The planting season will be from November to March. Subsequent maintenance will be completed by the OSS team in East Belfast.
3.7	Based on the noted policy statement above, Committee is asked to accede to the request.

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.8	There are no known Equality/ Good Relation/Rural needs issues associated with this report
	<u>Financial Implications</u>
3.9	The total cost has been estimated as £552 (Trees £390 and plaque £162).
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None