

Street Tree Planting

“Noting this Council’s pledge to plant one million trees by 2035 and the ongoing work to deliver that commitment on our own land, its declaration of a climate emergency in October 2019 and our commitment to work towards being carbon neutral by 2050. However, as highlighted in the Belfast Carbon Roadmap Pathway to Net Zero we can close the gap by 2033 through a range of innovative interventions, including planting trees.

Therefore this Council commits to drastically increasing the number of street trees across the Belfast City Council area.

Recognising that street tree planting is a function of the Department for Infrastructure, we will write to the Minister to join us in making this commitment and partner with us in drastically increasing their number across the city.

Working with our partners we will establish a strategy and action delivery plan (including maintenance), including setting a target for increasing the number of street trees in each of the 60 wards that comprise the 10 district electoral areas of Belfast City Council.

We will also write to the Minister for Infrastructure, as well as Ministers for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and Communities, to establish a rolling funding scheme for tree planting, maintenance and accompanying structural works (e.g. footpath widening) to enable more sites to be viable for street tree planting.

This Council will also join the new call for pledges to the UN Economic Commission for Europe’s ‘Trees in Cities Challenge’ joining other cities around the world including Barcelona, Bonn, Victoria (Canada) and Mexico City to demonstrate our intent internationally and to learn from and share learnings with other cities.”

Proposer: Councillor McMullan

Seconder: Councillor Long