HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Decision Report

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Policy and Resources	
Date:	25 January 2021	
Title:	Invest in Hampshire	
Report From:	Director of Culture, Communities and Business Services	

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Purpose of this Report

1. The report considers the use of Invest in Hampshire funding to support tree planting in Hampshire.

Recommendation

2. That the Executive Member for Policy and Resources approves funding of £0.5m from the Invest in Hampshire fund to support the planting of trees in Hampshire.

Executive Summary

3. A key part of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations is the Queen's Green Canopy – the planting of trees across the country. Tree planting is also a part of carbon sequestration and offset. The use of funds from Invest in Hampshire will support the planting of trees across Hampshire and the development of a Community Forest.

Contextual Information

4. Tree planting is being encouraged as a way to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The planting of trees is also a part of the solution to Climate Change as trees sequester carbon. While Hampshire is already one of the most 'wooded' counties in England there is scope to further develop biodiversity and carbon capture by planting more trees across the county. This could take many forms, from individual trees in gardens or

- other smaller sites to coppices and full woodlands where more land is available.
- 5. The funding will support the development of a Community Forest (a part of the Queen's Green Canopy) across Hampshire, supporting the planting of trees through direct funding but also through a Community Forest website and resource to encourage everyone in Hampshire to join in the tree planting in whatever capacity they can. Engagement with partner organisations will be key to the development of a Community Forest and the successful management of young trees to maturity.

Finance

6. The recommended awards can be met from within existing Invest in Hampshire budget provision.

Consultation and Equalities

7. A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The tree planting initiative will work to be as inclusive as possible in the development of a Community Forest.

Climate Change Impact Assessment

- 8. Hampshire County Council utilises two decision-making tools to assess the carbon emissions and resilience of its projects and decisions. These tools provide a clear, robust, and transparent way of assessing how projects, policies and initiatives contribute towards the County Council's climate change targets of being carbon neutral and resilient to the impacts of a 2°C temperature rise by 2050. This process ensures that climate change considerations are built into everything the Authority does.
- 9. The planting of trees contributes directly to carbon sequestration and offset. In certain locations and environments tree planting may also contribute to climate change mitigation.

Appendix 2 REQUIRED CORPORATE AND LEGAL INFORMATION:

Links to the Strategic Plan

Hampshire maintains strong and sustainable economic growth and prosperity:	no
People in Hampshire live safe, healthy and independent lives:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy a rich and diverse environment:	yes
People in Hampshire enjoy being part of strong, inclusive communities:	yes

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>Leader's Community Grants – Revised Criteria and</u>	8 July 2021
Management	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	Location
None	

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT:

1. Equality Duty

The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by or under the Act with regard to the protected characteristics as set out in section 4 of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation);
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic within section 149(7) of the Act (see above) and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity in which participation by such persons is disproportionally low.

2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

A high-level Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The funding is intended to have a positive impact and advance equality where possible.