

## SERVICE UPDATE

<b><u>Name of Function:</u></b>	Operational Delivery Committee
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	19 January 2022
<b><u>Title of Update:</u></b>	Draft Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan
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### **UPDATE:**

The draft Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment is currently undergoing public consultation.

The consultation will run until the end of January 2022.

It is important that the plan reflects the needs of all partners and be as comprehensive as it can be. All comments and suggestions for the plan will be considered.

The Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan and the Strategic Environmental Assessment will be updated and completed before going back to Operations Committee for sign off in June 2022.

### **Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan**

Aberdeen City Council in preparing the Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan, sets out the vision, priorities and an action plan stewardship and expansion of Aberdeen City's urban, street trees, rural trees, and woodlands. It provides a long-term framework for ensuring that their qualities are measurable, recognised, properly valued, protected, and permanently enshrined in the environmental fabric of the city.

The plan focuses strongly on implementation and helping to deliver against the City Council's other environmental strategies notably Goal 7 of Aberdeen Adapts and the ACC Open Space Strategy amongst others.

The production of such plans by local authorities has been encouraged by the Scottish Government via Forestry Commission Scotland (FCS) and supported by the FCS guidance document The Right Tree in the Right Place which has been used to help prepare the plan.

The plan will set out a vision, high-level themes and policy objectives for Aberdeen's tree and woodland resources and an overall framework for their management and future creation. It is a local expression, with a strongly urban emphasis, of the wider national objectives identified under the Scottish Government's "Scotland's Woodland Strategy 2019-29", covering issues and opportunities relating to climate change, biodiversity enhancement, health and well-being, timber production and business development, community engagement and other aspects of the environment. It includes issues relating to planning and development, as well as Council and privately-owned and managed woodlands.

### **Strategic Environmental Assessment**

A Strategic Environmental Assessment will be completed as required by the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 and will be completed in conjunction with the plan. Assessment findings are used to populate an Environmental Report.

### **Aberdeen City Tree Planting**

Once completed the Tree & Woodland Strategic Implementation Plan will provide officers with clear guidance on the future stewardship and expansion of Aberdeen City's urban, street trees, rural trees, and woodlands.

Whilst the work continues to complete the plan, local tree planting has continued. Officers have been able to make good use of council funding and grant funding to enhance the city woodlands and green spaces and add to street trees.

2021/22 tree planting:

- 4300 trees planted in Riverview Park, Dyce in partnership with the charity Future Woodlands Scotland and BP.
- 2500 native trees planted with the support of NorthStar Shipping and the local community at Seaton.
- 2000 trees planted in Garthdee in conjunction with local business sponsorship and the local community.
- 2500 planted at Woodside Country Park.
- 2500 trees planted Charleston/Wellington Road.
- January to March 2022 will see over 400 street trees planted in the city.

All the tree planting is aligned to Aberdeen City Council's Climate Plan and aimed at allowing people to get closer to nature in their local area.

A recent study by Forest Research highlighted that 90% of respondents said woodlands and street trees were important for helping them reduce stress and anxiety. This report makes it clear how important trees and tree planting is to the public and in Aberdeen, Environmental Services will continue to map out areas for new planting and identify green space and streets for replanting, where trees have been lost or damaged.