

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**TREE PLANTING AND THE NORTHERN FOREST**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To update Cabinet on progress towards tree planting targets.
- 1.2 To outline future approaches to the Northern Forest and other tree planting initiatives.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2.1 The Northern Forest is the government's 25-year vision to plant 50 million trees across the North of England, stretching from Liverpool to Hull. This is set out in the 25-year Environment Plan:

- £5.7 million of government funding;
- Delivered through the Community Forests in urban areas and the Woodland Trust in rural areas;
- Involving landowners, farmers and key forestry stakeholders;
- Balancing the various environmental, social and economic benefits of forestry, including for agroforestry and bio-energy production purposes.

2.2 National Forest Inventory data provides the following baseline information for North Lincolnshire:

- Area of tree cover: 4263 hectares
- Percentage tree cover: 4.9% of land surface.
- Ancient Woodland: 0.4% of land surface

2.3 From that baseline, the Council has set a target to plant a further 172,000 trees: one for each resident. Within Economy and Growth, we have identified six main approaches to maintaining and increasing tree cover in North Lincolnshire,:

- 1. Urban Areas- identifying and planting on suitable Council and partners' land**
- 2. Urban Areas- identifying and planting suitable locations for street trees**
- 3. Rural (& some Urban) Areas- Targeting tree planting according to the Biodiversity Opportunity Map:**
  - a. Avoid important open habitats, archaeology, open landscapes, landfill sites and other constraints.
  - b. Target and support landowners through the Woodland Trust.
- 4. Green Infrastructure/Ecosystem Service standards for new development:**
  - a. Local Plan (Policies DQE2p, DQE3p, DQE8p, DQE12p & DQE13p).
  - b. Supplementary Planning Documents
  - c. Design Codes (e.g. Lincolnshire Lakes)
- 5. Tree Protection and Replacement**
  - a. No loss of Ancient Woodland
  - b. Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Areas
  - c. Planting a specified number of trees for every tree lost
- 6. Natural regeneration and natural habitat change**
  - allowing native trees to spread naturally, creating scrub and new woodland.

2.4 In 2020, we carried out an OJEU procurement to tender for a call-off framework arrangement with a single provider over 4 years. The provider delivers tree ordering, volunteer recruitment, tree planting, aftercare and the coordination and leadership of volunteers and community groups. The successful bidder was TCV (The Conservation Volunteers).

2.5 In the 2020/21 planting season, we planted around 25,600 trees on Council-owned land. These were largely on the Ironstone Walk in Scunthorpe, with 800 in Brigg. The largest projects were funded by the Defra Trees for Climate programme and Northern Forest (Year 3) and were arranged in partnership with HEYWoods- the local Community Forest. Their primary focus is on Hull and East Yorkshire, but North Lincolnshire is in their "halo" area. Details of the sites are set out in Appendix1.

2.6 At the same time, we launched a tree counter and tree planting map on our website, allowing partners, businesses, landowners and members of the public to record the trees that they had planted. By the end of the season, the tree counter was at over 61,400 trees. Significant contributions included the following:

- 3300 trees at Baysgarth School, Barton-upon-Humber, planted by Plant a Tree Today Foundation, Green Task Force veterans and Army volunteers
- 3825 trees near Brigg on private land.
- 1350 trees at Wren Kitchens, Barton-upon-Humber.

2.7 Last year's planting exhausted the most significant options for tree planting on Council-owned land. For the 2021/22 planting season, the focus has shifted to working with the Woodland Trust to plant trees on sites put forward by private landowners and town and parish councils. We have also joined with other local authorities, with support from the Community Forests, to make a bid to the Urban Tree Challenge Fund for standard trees in urban areas. These are large trees at the time of planting that will make a significant impact in the street scene. If successful, we will plant 233 standard trees over the next two years. Further details of the main projects planned for 2021/22 are set out in Appendix 2.

2.8 Recently we launched our landowner leaflet, providing guidance and offers of support for those seeking to plant trees. The leaflet has been distributed thanks to help from the National Farmers Union (NFU) and has been promoted on our website. In the first fortnight, this has resulted in a steady stream of enquiries.

2.9 Looking to future planting seasons, we will continue to develop and deliver a pipeline of tree planting projects, working with landowners, businesses community groups and our partners in HEYWoods, the Woodland Trust, the Forestry Commission and TCV. We will continue to protect existing trees and woodlands and promote a high standard of new landscaping, street tree provision and green infrastructure, through the Local Plan, Development Control and Biodiversity Net Gain.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

3.1 Cabinet is invited to note the contents of this report and support the continued delivery of priority actions towards the tree planting target.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

4.1 Not applicable.

### **5. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (e.g. LEGAL, HR, PROPERTY, IT, COMMUNICATIONS etc.)**

5.1 £100k of capital funding has been allocated from the Council resource, with a target of drawing in £667k of match funding through HEYWoods and the Woodland Trust, and ultimately Defra. Funding programmes include Woodland Trust MoreWoods, Trees for Climate, Northern Forest, Urban Tree Challenge Fund and various Forestry Commission grants. The spend has been profiled over four years, tying in with the

framework agreement with TCV. A high level of match funding was achieved in the 2020/21 planting season, with the largest schemes being 100% funded in cash terms.

- 5.2 No additional staffing resource has been identified for tree planting and the Northern Forest. Much of the partnership-building and project development has been carried out through existing staff in Investment and Delivery, with support from Neighbourhoods & Bereavement Services, Marketing and Communications and Asset & Estate Management. Capacity to order trees, recruit and lead volunteers and plant and care for trees has been built through the framework agreement with TCV- The Conservation Volunteers.
- 5.3 The first 25,600 trees planted on Council land required about 11 hectares of land. This was largely amenity grassland, often closely to existing woodland, that was serving little clear purpose in its pre-existing condition. To move from the currently-recorded 63,000 trees to the 172,000 tree target will require between 44 and 68 hectares of land, assuming typical planting densities. This is likely to require significant contributions from businesses and private landowners.
- 5.4 Communications have been coordinated by both TCV and our own Marketing and Communications staff. Key messages have been disseminated using our website, social media, press releases, recruitment posters and the landowner leaflet.

**6. OTHER RELEVANT IMPLICATIONS (e.g. CRIME AND DISORDER, EQUALITIES, COUNCIL PLAN, ENVIRONMENTAL, RISK etc.)**

- 6.1 Safer Neighbourhoods staff have helped to carry out community consultation around the planting schemes in urban areas and have screened the proposals to consider any implications in relation to anti-social behaviour. Where there have been significant problems in relation to the vandalism of planted trees, Safer Neighbourhoods have helped to reduce problems through work with the Police and the use of CCTV. Working with volunteers and local people has helped to increased effort around tree aftercare and reversing the effects of vandalism, whilst building support and civic pride.
- 6.2 Central to TCV's framework agreement is the active engagement of local people including those from diverse backgrounds, especially those who have been more significantly affected by COVID 19 and who have experienced greater levels of isolation due to age, ethnicity/race, gender, sexuality or health/disability.
- 6.3 Planting significant blocks of new woodland and street trees in the ideal locations will increase habitat connectivity, enhance amenity and increase the delivery of ecosystem services such as carbon storage, rainfall interception and temperature moderation. Well-planned tree planting may therefore represent an important contribution to carbon

sequestration and climate change adaptation, alongside other natural solutions, such as the restoration of saltmarsh and the conservation of lowland peat. However, poorly planned tree planting has the potential to cause significant harm to fragile habitats, open landscapes, archaeology and features of historical importance. For this reason, all council-supported proposals are carefully planned and assessed in relation to possible impacts and benefits. Where appropriate, Environmental Impact Assessment screening is carried out.

6.4 The tree planting programme has strong links to the Council Plan:

- The provision of new blocks of woodland, particularly where there is public access, helps to keep people safe and well by providing cleaner and greener space for people to enjoy and use.
- The volunteer tree planting schemes help to enable resilient and flourishing communities where residents can be proud of where they live and experience a strong sense of belonging. We achieve this by working in partnership with voluntary and community groups and organisations.

## **7. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) was carried out for the tendering process for the framework provider. The IIA recorded largely positive impacts. For example:

- Volunteering tends to enhance health and wellbeing, social inclusion and acquisition of skills.
- Increasing woodland cover will increase the provision of ecosystem services such as the interception of rainwater.
- Absorption of air pollution.
- Capture and storage of carbon; regulation of temperature.
- Contact with nature and improved physical and mental health and well-being.

7.2 Negative impacts can be avoided through targeting tree planting away from underground services, residential boundaries, existing priority habitats and historic environment assets.

## **8. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED**

8.1 Extensive internal consultation has taken place.

8.2 Through the Local Plan Preferred Options consultation, the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE), Environment Agency, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Severn Trent Water, Town and Parish

Councils and several individuals all expressed support for significant tree planting in North Lincolnshire.

- 8.3 For each significant planting site, consultation is carried out with the Historic Environment Record, Lincolnshire Environmental Records Centre, Environmental Health, Safer Neighbourhoods and Asset & Estate Management. Planting schemes are publicised on the Forestry Commission Public Register for 28 days. Schemes only go ahead once it can be demonstrated that any negative impacts have been eliminated or minimised and positive benefits have been maximised.
- 8.4 Due to Covid 19 restrictions, the degree of public consultation around 2020/21 planting schemes was less than we would usually aim for. Despite this, negative feedback was generally balanced by an equal volume of positive public feedback. For future planting schemes, we hope to increase the level of public consultation and thus engender greater local support for the projects.

## **9. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 9.1 That cabinet note the content of the report and support the continued delivery of priority actions.

### **DIRECTOR: BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT**

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Date: 08 November 2021

### **Background Papers used in the preparation of this report –**

Defra 2018 A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment

## Appendix 1: 2020/21 Planting Season- Trees Planted (Main Sites only)

Item	Notes												
Other Sites/Non-Council Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3300 trees at Baysgarth School, Barton-upon-Humber, planted by Plant a Tree Today Foundation, Green Task Force veterans and Army volunteers</li><li>• 3825 trees at Brigg on private land.</li><li>• 1350 trees at Wren Kitchens, Barton-upon-Humber, planted by TCV.</li></ul>												
Hempdykes (Ferry Road to Doncaster Road, Scunthorpe)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The total for this site is 10,270 trees and shrubs, planted by TCV.</li></ul> <div><div><div><div><div>Key</div><div><div><div></div></div>Tree Planting Area</div><div><div><div></div></div>6 metre Buffer Around Services</div><div><div><div></div></div>Surface Water</div><div><div><div></div></div>Foul Sewer</div><div><div><div></div></div>Culverted Watercourse</div></div></div><div></div><div><table><tr><td colspan="2">Title: Hempdykes Tree Planting &amp; Severn Trent Assets 2020</td><td>Drawing No:</td><td>Version: 1</td></tr><tr><td>Drawn by: Andrew Taylor</td><td>Date: 02/11/2020</td><td>Scale @A4 1:5010</td><td></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"><div><div><div>N</div><div></div></div><div>© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey 0100023650</div></div></td><td colspan="2"><div><div><div><div></div><div>NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE</div><div>01509 22222</div><div>www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</div></div></div><div>Director of Business Development Helen Manderson</div></div></td></tr></table></div></div></div>	Title: Hempdykes Tree Planting & Severn Trent Assets 2020		Drawing No:	Version: 1	Drawn by: Andrew Taylor	Date: 02/11/2020	Scale @A4 1:5010		<div><div><div>N</div><div></div></div><div>© Crown copyright and database rights 2020 Ordnance Survey 0100023650</div></div>		<div><div><div><div></div><div>NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE</div><div>01509 22222</div><div>www.lincolnshire.gov.uk</div></div></div><div>Director of Business Development Helen Manderson</div></div>	
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Hardy Road Woods  
(West Common  
Lane to  
Manor Park,  
Scunthorpe)

- The total for this site is 10,815 trees and shrubs, planted by TCV.



Sheffield Park

- TCV planted 46 native and ornamental standard trees in Sheffield Park, Scunthorpe.





Grange  
Lane North

- Neighbourhoods staff, TCV and Rotary Volunteers planted around 2450 trees and shrubs.
  - High winds and the resulting essential tree safety works at the end of March meant that our staff were not able to finish planting the bare rooted trees. The remaining trees are all heeled-in ready for planting in 2021/22. The only blocks left unplanted are block F and part of block E (about 200 trees remaining unplanted)
- 
- The map shows Grange Lane running vertically through the center. To the west of the lane are residential streets including St. Andrew's Road, St. James' Road, and St. Mary's Road. To the east are roads like North Lincolnshire Council and Lincolnshire Council. Various areas along the lane are highlighted with different hatching patterns corresponding to planting groups A through F. A key in the top left corner identifies these groups: Group A (red diagonal lines), Group B (blue diagonal lines), Group C (green diagonal lines), Group D (purple diagonal lines), Group E (yellow diagonal lines), and Group F (pink diagonal lines). A scale bar at the top right indicates 0m to 250m. A north arrow is located in the bottom left corner.
- |  |                  |  |   |
|--|------------------|--|---|
| Title: Grange Lane Planting Groups 2020                                      |                  | Drawing No:                                    | Version: 1  |
| Drawn by: Andrew Taylor  | Date: 11/11/2020 | Scale @A4 1:3000                               |   |
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## Dudley Road

- TCV and Scunthorpe Pentagon Rotary Group planted all 2060 trees in 1½ days.



## York Road, Brigg

- The total for this site is 800 trees and shrubs planted by TCV and local volunteers.



## Appendix 2: 2021/22 Planting Season- Proposals (Main Sites only)

Site Name	Parish	Predicted number of trees	Proposer
Epworth Cemetery	Epworth	TBC	Parish Council
Haxey Triangle	Haxey	1200	Parish Council
Althorpe Playing Field & Cemetery	Keadby with Althorpe	80	Parish Council
Keadby Playing Field	Keadby with Althorpe	195	Parish Council
Messingham Playing Field	Messingham	1000 combined	Parish Council
Messingham Allotments	Messingham		Parish Council
New Holland Lincoln Castle Way	New Holland	TBC	Parish Council
Scawby Playing Field	Scawby Parish Council	110	Parish Council
West Butterwick Playing Field	West Butterwick	4	Parish Council
Barton Orchard	Barton upon Humber	6	Town Council
Bull's Field	Bottesford	10	Town Council
Gravel Pit Lane Bottesford	Bottesford	TBC	Town Council
Kirton Lindsey North Cliff Road	Kirton in Lindsey	TBC	Town Council
Little Grange	Barton upon Humber	TBC	Private Landowner
Beck Field, Bottesford	Bottesford	3,400	Private Landowner
Newdowns Farm, Bottesford	Bottesford	535	Private Landowner
Broughton Bridge	Broughton	27450 (Already on Tree Counter)	Private Landowner
Horkstow Road	South Ferriby	800	Private Landowner
Walcot	Alkborough	TBC	Private Landowner
Regal Fish Supplies	Barton upon Humber	TBC	Regal Fish Supplies
Wren Kitchens	Barton upon Humber	TBC	Wren Kitchen
British Steel Coal Handling Plant	Scunthorpe	TBC	British Steel
Land adjacent Belton Landfill	Belton	500	North Lincolnshire Council
Phoenix Parkway Local Nature Reserve	Scunthorpe	500	North Lincolnshire Council
Top Field	Barton upon Humber	10	North Lincolnshire Council

Brigg Streets	Brigg	40	North Lincolnshire Council
York Road Phase 2	Brigg	30	North Lincolnshire Council
Everest Road Park	Scunthorpe	43	North Lincolnshire Council
Healey Road Park	Scunthorpe	345	North Lincolnshire Council
Queensway/Chestnut Way	Scunthorpe	40	North Lincolnshire Council
Manifold Road	Scunthorpe	10	North Lincolnshire Council
Spalding Road Park	Scunthorpe	15	North Lincolnshire Council
West Common Lane	Scunthorpe	15	North Lincolnshire Council
Redbourne A15 Storage Area	Redbourne	TBC	North Lincolnshire Council