

One Tree Per Child, Bristol. Background, project successes and proposal for 2020 onwards.

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1. Summary

Since 2015, One Tree Per Child (OTPC) has planted 57,000 trees and engaged all Bristol's primary schools in education about the benefit of trees.

In 2016, Bristol City Council agreed to fund OTPC until 2020.

OTPC has strong volunteer contribution, valued at £26,551 in 2017-18 (see detail below). £6,972 cash donations and in-kind contributions in 2017-18 have covered the cost to purchase trees and provide sundries.

Plans are being developed to continue OTPC beyond 2020, retaining the commitment to plant one tree per child (6,000 trees/year), but extending the programme to secondary schools; a need and feasibility assessment is underway with further testing during 2019-20.

The cost to continue OTPC beyond 2020 is around £45k/year, assuming a similar sized project team. Planting 6,000 trees per year will contribute 28% of the annual increase required in tree canopy to meet the One City Plan aspiration to 'increase tree canopy by 25% based on 2019 levels, by 2036'.

2. One Tree Per Child Bristol - background

One Tree Per Child was launched in 2015 as a key Bristol City Council led environmental and educational initiative under Bristol's 2015 European Green Capital programme. The dual target to plant 36,000 trees (one tree each for every primary school aged child) and give every child the opportunity to plant a tree and see it grow, were exceeded by 2016 when 39,500 trees were planted, and all Bristol's 122 primary school were engaged in the project (private, state and independent schools).

3. OTPC current programme 2016-2020

In 2016, Bristol City Council agreed to continue One Tree Per Child until 2020, recognising the significant environmental and educational benefits from the project. The target is to plant 6,000 trees per year (the number of children starting primary school per year) and involve all Reception and Year 5 children in education about the benefits of trees and giving the opportunity for as many children as possible to plant a tree.

The project is now at the end of its third year and remains on target.

The project has attracted significant sponsorship, donations and volunteer support.

3.1 Outputs (2016-2019):

- 18,000 trees planted since 2016 (57,000 since 2015)
- All Bristol's primary school's engaged and offered educational assemblies (academic and practical) and workshops;
- Over 300 community, student and corporate volunteers engaged each year;
- The cost of the trees and planting sundries met through third party sponsorship / donations including from Trees for Cities, Bristol Energy, Woodland Trust, Bristol Water and Eunomia
- Delivery of education packages with partner agencies including the Woodland Trust and Forest of Avon Trust.

3.2 Resources

The OTPC core team is 1.5 fte, BG 10, employed by Bristol City Council, of which c. 0.3 FTE is dedicated to TreeBristol (planting private tree sponsorship, s.106/ Cil/ project funded tree planting), which brings in c. £15,000 income / year from s. 106 (£76 for every tree planted using s.106 funds).

Annual staff cost is c. £41k [1.5 fte @ £56,744 (inc. 23% on-costs) - £15,000 cost recovery]. Plus c. £3,000 / year transport. Total c. **£45k / year**.

The cost of trees and planting sundries has been met by third parties.

4. One Tree Per Child after 2020

4.1 Policy context

Bristol's One City Plan (January 2019) target is to increase Bristol's tree canopy by 25% by 2036 from 2018 levels. By 2046 the target is to double tree canopy. The current tree canopy is around 12% (based on 2018 i-Tree assessment).

Bristol land area: 11,000 hectares

Tree cover at 12%: 1,320 ha

Tree cover at 15% (25% increase 2019 level): 1,650 ha

Required increase in tree cover to achieve 25% increase in Bristol tree: 330 ha

Require increase in tree cover to double canopy by 2046: 1,320 ha

Annual increase required to meet target by 2036: **19.4 ha / year**

Assuming 6,000 trees planted per year, if all these trees were planted to form woodland (at 1,100 trees per hectare), this is equivalent to 5.5 ha of woodland per year, equivalent to 28% of the required increase in area of trees (tree canopy) per year to achieve a 25% increase in Bristol's tree canopy by 2036 (planted area = 19 ha, cf. required area = 77 ha).

4.2 From 2020 OTPC will:

- Plant 6,000 trees per year (one tree for every child starting school per year)
- Expand to include secondary schools
- Focus on schools in more deprived communities

OTPC will visit all of Bristol's secondary settings, offering assembly and workshop packages around the benefits of trees, doing planting on sites and then develop a 'bank' of students with particular interests in science and environmental issues, (particularly schools' eco-clubs or green clubs), and develop as ambassadors to visit primary schools with and without the One Tree Per Child team to deliver peer-to-peer learning in primary school settings. These secondary school projects and ambassadors will operate under the name: 'Carbon Catchers'.

The project is anticipated to run for four years, subject to review.

Anticipated positive outcomes in schools:

- Firstly, the educational package around the benefits of trees will enhance learning across the curriculum;
- Secondly, the project will provide an 'extra-curricular offer' to students and we will focus this in more deprived areas where parents' and carers' may not afford this extra-curricular provision, and

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- Thirdly, the project will promote equalities bringing in local communities to schools forging important links between different and disparate groups within the local area thus promoting our role within Bristol City Council's commitment to the third element of the Public Sector Equality Duty: 'foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities'.

As with our primary programme this scheme will be promoted to schools highlighting the benefits of it in developing learning within the National Curriculum. Although the programme will, obviously, lend itself to the schemes of work in science, we will also be promoting the very effective, ways in which tree education and practical work around planting and maintenance can be used in learning around literacy, maths, art and history too.

OTPC will protect Bristol's natural heritage with a specific focus on the city's veteran trees. Educational packages with primary and secondary schools will include visits to areas with several veteran trees such as Ashton Court and Blaise Estate and to those sites with specific veteran trees such as the Luccombe Oak in Stoke Lodge, the Pilgrims' London Plane Tree in Brislington Brook or the veteran Horse Chestnut at Stoke Park where students can complete tree ID trails, learn about the history of these older trees as well as helping with some of the more basic maintenance work such as 'halo' clearing and ivy cutting and doing monitoring work such as measuring.

Proposed Outputs:

- 2,000 trees planted with primary school children on school sites;
- 2,000 trees planted with local communities alongside primary and secondary school children in green spaces in Bristol;
- 2,000 trees planted with secondary school children on school sites;
- Develop and increase lead and general volunteers to the project: 24 lead volunteers by March 2021 (10 current), and 200 general volunteers by March 2021 (35 current);
- 12 'Carbon Capture' Ambassadors from each secondary school (fewer in smaller specialist settings);
- Links and statistics from joint outcomes with other programmes such as Duke of Edinburgh award and Prince's Trust;
- All primary school year 5 students to receive tree education package;
- Improved GCSE results within Carbon Capture Ambassador cohort;
- Measurable contribution to BCC Doubling Canopy by 2050 target (see 4.1 above), and
- Measurable contribution to BCC Carbon Neutral by 2030.

4.3 Needs analysis

OTPC has engaged with the Secondary Schools' Science Heads' Network, with positive feedback and commitment to support the project from the beginning of 2019-20 planting season. Three 'trailblazer' secondary schools (10% - of 30 secondary schools in Bristol) have agreed to test the OTPC 2020+ programme, including:

- City Academy, Easton;
- Ashton Park School, Bedminster and
- Oasis Academy Brightstowe, Shirehampton)

During 2019-20 the OTPC team, subject to feedback, will develop the project across a further six schools (taking to 30% of all Bristol's secondary schools).

The project will be evaluated and rolled out across all 30 schools and academies between 2020-23 subject to agreement and funding (see 4.4 below)

4.4 Funding options

£90k required to extend the project for 2-years' from 2020, based on c. £45k annual costs.

Potential sources of funding that will be explored based on proposed OTPC 2020+ plan:

- National Lottery Heritage Fund (active conversation),
- City Fund (from April 2019),
- Bristol City Council (seeking contribution to core costs and used for match funding)
- Crowd funding (via the Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation)
- Small grant providers
- Landfill tax
- Corporate sponsorship
- Donations
- S.106 (via a city wide plan agreed by Area Committee's to assign dedicated s. 106 funds)
- One Tree Per Child - international
- Wessex Water – committed to plant ½ million trees in the region – exploring partnerships

5. **Partners and Supporters**

Woodland Trust – we work collaboratively with Woodland Trust in providing education and planting in schools through their commissioned education providers – **Forest of Avon Trust**. Both FoAT and Woodland trust are keen to continue this partnership post 2020

Trees for Cities – Trees for Cities have contributed almost £6000 this year to fund trees in schools and other large scale planting sites. Last season they funded several standard street trees. They are keen to continue sponsorship arrangements post 2020. They also brokered corporate volunteers from Price Waterhouse Cooper on a volunteering maintenance day at our large site in Seabank, Avonmouth where they contributed £500 for us to run this.

Eunomia – are an expanding Environmental Consultancy based in Bristol. They are primarily concerned with reducing carbon and advising companies how to do this. This year they sponsored over 1000 trees on a large planting site in Lawrence Weston and provided around 40 of their staff as volunteers to help with the scheme. They have already committed to sponsoring more planting schemes next year and providing further volunteers to help with this.

Bristol Water – OTPC worked with Bristol Water on a large scheme of mitigation planting around their contingency pipeline. They paid over £2,500 to provide support in transporting 12 schools from inner-city Bristol to the site to plant trees. All the trees on this scheme were funded by Trees for Cities.

University of Bristol and University of West of England – UB has sponsored over £20,000 worth of street trees last year and we hope to continue working arrangements around sponsoring OTPC. UWE provides student volunteers every year for two weeks in February called WOW weeks and this arrangement is set to continue.

RSPB – we have run joint sessions around ecology with RSPB in primary schools. This realises efficiencies in school visits and is something we're keen to continue with post 2020.

6. **Next step**

Appoint a fund raiser and develop a funding strategy for OTPC 2020+. The brief to include identification of key likely grant providers and following active dialogue and matching, plan to take applications forward.

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Pursue Partners' contribution.

Liase with Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation to identify OTPC is a 'Partner Project' and target funding.

7. Statements of Support

Learning City - 'I can confirm that the Learning City Partnership is in support for the continuation of the Bristol One Tree Per Child programme. This valuable activity provides opportunities for children to engage in outdoor activities that not only benefit the children, but also improve air quality in local areas.

This programme helps children to learn about sustainability and provides some of our city centre children with the opportunity to learn about nature and take part in activities outside the classroom. This is a key aspect of the UNs Sustainable Development Goals, a set of goals Bristol is committed to delivering.

The programme also brings communities together around a school to take part in tree planting involving parents and community volunteers.

It is my hope to see this programme continue into the future'.

8. Volunteer contribution (public and corporate)

	2018-19		
	Number Volunteers	No. hrs @5 hrs / session)	Value @£14.43 per hour
General volunteers	243	1215	£17,532
Corporate volunteers	125	625	£9,018
Total			£26,551

Detailed summary

Date	General Volunteers	Corporate Volunteers	Teachers	Children
Apr-18	12	4	0	0
May-18	14	0	0	0
Jun-18	12	50	0	0
Jul-18	18	0	0	0
Aug-18	15	0	0	0
Sep-18	11	7	0	0
Oct-18	18	3	0	0
Nov-18	18	18	5	38
Dec-18	14	8	20	267
Jan-19	21	3	18	117
Feb-19	72	27	2	34
Mar-19	18	5	12	126
TOTAL	243	125	57	582