APPENDIX F

Eco Impact Checklist

Title of report: Tree Strategy and Tree Planting Plan
Report author: Richard Ennion
Anticipated date of key decision : 8th February 2022
Summary of proposals: Cabinet is being asked to approve the development of a Tree Planting Plan and Tree Strategy that will provide a clear idea of the degree to which the council can contribute to the One City target of doubling the tree canopy within its own landholding and ability to commit resources and identify what may be required by others and the feasibility of achieving this. The Planting Plan will consider the impact and benefits of tree planting on access to green space, habitat and the nature recovery network, landscape heritage and quality, resilience to climate change including mitigating heat, tree species and age structure. It will integrate tree planting aspirations and objectives with other land use objectives – for example sport and recreation, food growing, low carbon energy production and surface water management. The Plan should identify priority tree planting areas to reflect environmental justice (high deprivation / low canopy cover). The Plan and Strategy would be adopted by cabinet in Spring 2023.

Will the proposal impact on...	Yes/ No	+ive or -ive	If Yes…	
			Briefly describe impact	Briefly describe Mitigation measures
Emission of Climate Changing Gases?	Yes	+ive	The development of a tree planting plan will help accelerate tree planting in the city and subsequent Co2 sequestration and help mitigate the impact of Ash Dieback over time.	There should be an Eco-IA mitigation to consider verifying the carbon sequestration from woodland creation and management and planting of standards. The Eco-IA should recognise the short term carbon costs in terms of emissions from vehicles used and growing the saplings to the point they are planted. The embodied carbon from additional highway infrastructure should also be considered. Mitigations could include considering peat-free growth media, local sourcing of native

				species, using mulch mats to avoid regular initial watering visits, etc.
Bristol's resilience to the effects of climate change?	Yes	+ive -ive	The development of a tree planting plan will help accelerate tree planting in the city anticipated in green spaces, streets and in private property. New street trees have the potential to generate harmful impacts should also be mentioned for leaves blocking drains, root damage and falling branches.	The proposal will commit £75K of funds to increase the rate of tree planting in the city during 22/23 with the expectation that planting rates will accelerate through grant fundraising from 22/24 onwards. Trees planted will support the city's resilience to climate change (e.g. urban cooling / shading, slowing storm water runoff). The choice of species, placement and planting techniques to avoid these impacts being an issue are all relevant mitigation.
Consumption of non-renewable resources?	No			
Production, recycling or disposal of waste	No	-ive	When new trees are planted, materials such as tree stakes or guards and mulch mats, etc. can create waste. Growing plants requires a compost base and pots. Generally a mulch bed to suppress weeds is also used when trees are planted.	Planting plans can consider plant-based mulch mats that decompose in situ. Plant pots can be used again as can tree stakes. Mulch is derived as a by-product from other tree works and is a form of re-use.
The appearance of the city?	Yes	+ive -ive	The development of a Tree Planting Plan and Tree Strategy will seek to identify suitable and sufficient tree planting locations across the city and make a considerable contribution to the One City objective to double the	The proposal will commit £75K of funds to increase the rate of tree planting in the city during 22/23 with the expectation that planting rates will accelerate through grant fundraising from 22/24 onwards.

			city's tree canopy.	The Council is working towards a suite of policy documents that will support positive landscape change – a Green Infrastructure Strategy, revised Parks and Green Space Strategy and Tree Strategy. This will bring together tree planting opportunities with other objectives such as implementing a Nature Recovery Network for Bristol and implementing Liveable Neighbourhoods. These will combine to ensure the city's landscape is transformed and all neighbourhoods are positively impacted.
Pollution to land, water, or air?	Yes	+ive -ive	Potential deposition of particulate pollution on leaves and providing wind tunnels speeding up pollutant dispersion. However tree placement may also slow pollutant dispersion and some species creating VOCs.	Impacts will not be significant enough to require mitigation.
Wildlife and habitats?	Yes	+ive -ive	The development of a Tree Planting Plan and Tree Strategy will seek to identify suitable and sufficient tree planting locations across the city. There is potential for tree planting to have both positive and negative effects on individual habitats depending on location and local conditions.	Ecological considerations will be part of the audit work for a Tree Planting Plan. During development existing SNCI habitat condition surveys can be used as well as individual species records through BRERC data and information relating to the WoE Nature Recovery Network. A tree planting programme may benefit from the Biodiversity net Gain principle for new development. The Strategy will seek to take advantage of this where practicable when the legislative framework is clearer.

Consulted with: The West of England Ash Dieback Working Group. BCC Nature Conservation Officer. BCC Trees and Woodlands Manager.	
Summary of impacts and Mitigation - <u>to go into the main Cabinet/ Council Report</u>	
It is expected that the carbon, climate resilience and biodiversity gains afforded through an ambitious tree planting programme mean that the Strategy can be expected to be beneficial overall. The potential positive impacts from tree planting will be enhanced through the feasibility and audit work and the potential negative impacts mitigated. This will form part of the Eco-Assessment for the adopted Strategy in March/April 2023.	
Checklist completed by:	
Name:	Richard Fletcher
Dept.:	Growth and Regeneration
Extension:	NA
Date:	18th January 2022
Verified by	Environmental Performance Team