

<b>CONSENT TO URGENT DECISION</b>	<b>PART 1</b> (to be completed by the person seeking consent)	
<b>Proposed Decision Maker</b> <i>(please name person or body proposing to take decision, if an officer also state title)</i>	<b>Date for Decision</b>	
Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture	29/04/2024	
<b>Title:</b> <b>Local Authority Treescape Fund - Round 4</b>		
<p><b>Summary of matter</b></p> <p>After the successful delivery of the previous Local Authority Treescape Fund (LATF), WCC Ecology, Historic Environment &amp; Landscape and WCC Forestry are looking to apply for further funds in partnership with District and Boroughs plus Parish Councils. This will further the commitment to plant one for every resident of Warwickshire (in partnership with others).</p> <p>Forestry Commission funds include 3 year maintenance budgets post planting, which will support the creation of a dedicated Forestry Teams to plant and maintain the 566,000 tree planting climate change pledge. It is expected that two members of these teams will be apprenticeship posts.</p> <p>LATF Round 4 is set to be the last round being run. WCC is the lead applicant, working with the district and boroughs to develop the bids to identify suitable locations in predominantly parks, streets, and around LA housing stock that would benefit from increased tree planting.</p> <p>If the bid is successful, the supply, planting and maintenance of the trees will be predominantly delivered by WCC's Forestry team, with support from the Natural Capital team. It is anticipated that the LATF grant value would be around £850k to cover the capital costs of planting and establish about 2000 trees, half of which are large urban trees. The grant would cover one planting season and it will also importantly cover maintenance costs for three years after planting to help ensure the success of the trees.</p> <p>The costs to plant and maintain the trees will be covered by the grants. Some tasks will be carried out by the District or Borough.</p> <p>After the 3rd year's maintenance period the future maintenance will be either covered by the District, Boroughs' or Parish council maintenance budgets and/or from funds accrued from carbon and biodiversity net gain sales and other Nature Markets that are being established and will be presented in the Natural Capital Investment Strategy (in preparation).</p>		

**Proposed Decision**

That the Portfolio Holder for Environment, Climate & Culture approves the submission of a grant application will be submitted to the Forestry Commission for an estimated £847k (of which c.520k will be to cover 3 years maintenance) to further the commitment to plant one for every resident of Warwickshire (in partnership with others).

**Reasons for Urgency**

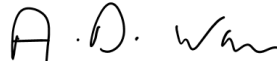
The decision is required under the Council's urgency procedure owing to the deadline of the grant round application.

**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework? [please identify relevant plan/budget provision]**

No

**PART 2** (to be completed by the person giving consent)**Name**

Office Held

**Councillor Adrian Warwick***Signed***Chair of the Resources and Fire & Rescue OSC***Date consent is given*

25/04/2024