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| <b>Title of Report:</b><br><br><b>Air Quality and Health Programme</b> | <b>Officer Presenting: Director of Health &amp; Community</b><br><br><b>Author: Head of Health &amp; Community Wellbeing</b> |
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## **1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations**

- 1.1 To seek members approval for the adoption of the Air Quality and Health Programme funded by the Public Health Agency.

## **2 Background**

- 2.1 Air pollution is a major environmental risk to health and wellbeing. The World Health Organisation estimated that Ambient (outdoor air pollution) in both cities and rural areas contributed to 3 million premature deaths worldwide per year in 2012; this mortality is due to exposure to small particulate matter of 10 microns or less in diameter (PM10), which cause cardiovascular and respiratory disease, and cancers.
- 2.2 By reducing air pollution levels, countries can reduce the burden of disease from stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, and both chronic and acute respiratory diseases, including asthma. The lower the levels of air pollution, the better the cardiovascular and respiratory health of the population will be, both long- and short-term.
- 2.3 In the Derry City and Strabane Council area in 2012-2014 there were 4,760 admissions to hospital due to circulatory disease, 2878 cases were male and 1882 were female. Admissions rates for respiratory diseases in the same time period were 4389; of this number 2394 were male and 1995 were female. Death rates for circulatory diseases from 2010 to 2014 in under75 year olds was 119 male and 48 female, respiratory diseases were 41 male and 33 female in the same time period.
- 2.4 Recent studies have quantified the benefits to human health from planting trees with improvements in air quality and the ability of trees to remove particulate matter arising from combustion and other sources. Trees also absorb Carbon Dioxide from the atmosphere thus contributing to the near- and long-term mitigation of climate change.

## **3 Key Issues**

- 3.1 This Project which will be funded by the Public Health Agency will help reduce the effects of air pollution on health and wellbeing for current and future generations. A Tree Sapling (Appendix 1) will be provided for each life event (Birth, Marriage, and Death) registration within the Derry City and Strabane District Council Area. There was 3935 life events registered in the Council area during 2016/17.
- 3.2 The project will initially run between September 2017 and March 2018 and The North West Regional College will assist with the delivery of the project through project based learning as part of the curriculum.
- 3.3 The tree saplings will be purchased from a grower of cell grown plants which will enable the trees to be planted all year round. This also ensures a high level of successful establishment when planted.
- 3.4 Discussions are currently taking place with a number of potential partners in relation to growing native tree saplings locally each year to help continue with the project long term.
- 3.5 Health Literature appropriate to each life event registered will also be distributed with each tree sapling in line with the Public Health Agencies key campaigns.
- 3.6 The public will be informed through appropriate PR and marketing of the project.

#### **4 Financial, Equality, Legal, HR, Improvement and other Implications**

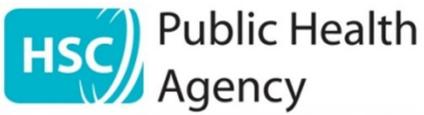
- 4.1 None. The Public Health Agency shall provide funding of £6000 for the programme.

#### **5 Recommendations**

- 5.1 That members approve the adoption of the Air Quality and Health Programme.

#### **Background Papers**

Appendix 1: Tree Sapling



Project supported by the PHA

