

Title of Report: Queen's Green Canopy	Officer Presenting: Director of Environment & Regeneration Author: Natural Environment Regeneration Manager
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1 Purpose of Report/Recommendations

- 1.1 To seek Members approval to endorse the Queen's Green Canopy (QGC).

2 Background

- 2.1 The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) was launched on the 17th May 2021. The Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Derry/ Londonderry has written to the Chief Executive seeking Council support for this campaign, with the CE advising that an item would be taken to ER Committee in September for Members consideration.
- 2.2 The QGC is a unique, UK-wide tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee in 2022, by inviting people to 'plant a tree for the Jubilee'.
- 2.3 A copy of the QGC proposal are enclosed in Appendix 1 for Members information.

3 Key Issues

- 3.1 Councils' Green Infrastructure Plan 2019 – 2032, outlines the need to increase the number of trees planted within the District, under the Biodiversity Theme Section of this Plan, 'to minimize habitat loss and fragmentation, to include priority habitats and species.' Action 6.8 seeks to - 'Identify areas of land to increase the number of trees planted and woodland created by an additional 150 ha from the baseline, to increase ecosystem services, for example, trapping air pollution, habitat for wildlife, recreation provision, store water and carbon'.

- 3.2 Since the implementation of the Green Infrastructure Action Plan in 2019, 30 ha have been planted across GI Stakeholders' land. The QGC provides an opportunity to increase the number of trees planted and contribute towards this action of planting 150 ha of woodland within the District by 2032.
- 3.3 The programme is also consistent with the DAERA ambition of planting 30 million trees across the region over the next 10 years as presented in a separate item to Members today.

4 Implications

Equality, Rural Needs, Climate Change and Data Protection

- 4.1 Tree planting is beneficial to the environment and a net contributor to improving air quality and climate action.

Financial, Legal, HR, Improvement and Other

- 4.2 As part of the QGC, The Woodland Trust will be providing saplings free of charge to schools and communities on a first come-first served basis.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Members' are requested to endorse the Queen's Green Canopy.

Background Papers

Appendix 1 – QGC Proposal