

## **CABINET – 27 June 2013 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF AGENDA ITEM 7**

**Report title:** Bristol European Green Capital 2015  
**Wards affected:** Citywide  
**Strategic Director:** City Director  
**Report Author:** Alex Minshull, Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager

### **RECOMMENDATION for the Mayor's approval:**

1. Acceptance of the European Green Capital Award 2015 on behalf of the City of Bristol.
2. Development of a Programme for Bristol European Green Capital 2015.
3. Commencement of a planning and commissioning process for the Programme using £1.2m of one-off funding and that secured from external partners (as referenced in the Finance and Performance outturn report included at agenda item 8)

### **Key background / detail:**

#### a. Purpose of report:

1. Acceptance of the European Green Capital Award 2015 on behalf of the City of Bristol.
2. Development of a Programme for Bristol European Green Capital 2015.
3. Commencement of a planning and commissioning process for the Programme using £1.2m of one-off funding and that secured from external partners.

#### b. Key details:

1. Bristol entered the European Green Capital Award 2015 and on the 14th June 2013 was announced as the winner of that award. This is a great achievement and is based on the efforts of citizens, businesses, universities, the City Council and many others in making Bristol a green city and a huge opportunity to:
  - Engage a wide range of Bristol citizens, businesses and organisations to further improve the environment of Bristol.
  - Promote Bristol as an inward investment location and to promote Bristol businesses on a European and Global stage.
2. To achieve these goals the City Council, with partners, will develop a programme for 2015, using a combination of resources from the city council, private and public sector sponsors, grant funding and in-kind and volunteer resources.
3. It is proposed that the Council commences work on the commissioning of the Programme. This will initially involve analysis of priorities, needs and opportunities and planning how to achieve these priorities.
4. One project has already been identified and will proceed from Autumn 2013. The TreeBristol 'Pips' project will involve all 36,000 primary school aged children in Bristol in a tree-based education programme that will explore the benefits of trees and see each child plant a tree.

### BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL CABINET 27<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**REPORT TITLE:** Bristol European Green Capital 2015

**Ward(s) affected by this report:** Citywide

**Strategic Director:** City Director

**Report author:** Alex Minshull, Sustainable City and Climate Change Manager

**Contact telephone no. & e-mail address:** 01179224453  
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**Purpose of the report:** Bristol has been awarded the title of European Green Capital 2015. This report approves council funding for a programme of work to maximise the benefits to Bristol of this award. This includes initiating fundraising work to secure resources from partners.

#### **RECOMMENDATION for the Mayor's approval:**

1. Acceptance of the European Green Capital Award 2015 on behalf of the City of Bristol.
2. Development of a Programme for Bristol European Green Capital 2015.
3. Commencement of a planning and commissioning process for the Programme using £1.2m of one-off funding and that secured from external partners (as referenced in the Finance and Performance outturn report included at agenda item 8)

#### **The proposal:**

1. Bristol entered the European Green Capital Award 2015 and on the 14th June 2013 was announced as the winner of that award. This is a great achievement and is based on the efforts of citizens, businesses, universities, the City Council and many others in making Bristol a green city.
2. This is also huge opportunity for the city to:
  - Engage a wide range of Bristol citizens, businesses and organisations to further improve the environment of Bristol.
  - Promote Bristol as an inward investment location and to promote Bristol businesses on a European and Global stage.
3. To achieve these goals the City Council, with partners, will develop a programme for 2015. This will include, but not be restricted to:
  - Activities for other cities and European Institutions which will share the good practice and experiences of Bristol across Europe and beyond, accelerating learning and the implementation of good environmental practices.

- Public events and activities which will engage citizens and local organisations in celebrating achievements and encouraging further action to make Bristol an even greener city.
  - Business events which will promote Bristol as an inward investment location and will promote Bristol businesses.
4. The “Programme” will include activities during the 2015 year, preparatory activities in 2013 and 2014 and evaluation and other work in 2016.
  5. Experience from other cities who have held this title is that a combination of city council and other resources are required to develop and deliver the programme. It is envisaged that the programme will be resourced through a combination of resources from the city council, private and public sector sponsors, grant funding and in-kind and volunteer resources.
  6. It is proposed that the Council commences work on the commissioning of the Programme. This will initially involve analysis of priorities, needs and opportunities and planning how to achieve these priorities.
  7. The programme will be developed as part of this process but the City Council has identified one practical element of the project which it will proceed with from Autumn 2013. The TreeBristol ‘Pips’ project will involve all 36,000 primary school aged children in Bristol in a tree-based education programme that will explore the benefits of trees and see each child plant a tree. Trees will be planted as close as possible to schools, including school grounds, publicly accessible green space, children’s gardens and other land. This project will cost an additional £328k and will be met from the £1.2m funding allocated from the 2012/13 underspend and sponsorship. Further details are included in Appendix 1.

### **Consultation and scrutiny input:**

#### **a. Internal consultation:**

Management teams in City Development and Neighbourhoods and City Director’s Department have been involved in the development of the European Green Capital bid. All management teams will be consulted during the commissioning process.

For the TreeBristol Project teams across Environment and Leisure have been consulted.

#### **b. External consultation:**

Bristol’s European Green Capital bid has been well publicised and received considerable support from a wide range of stakeholders. The commissioning and programme development processes will involve consultation with communities, businesses and others.

The TreeBristol project has consulted the Tree Forum, Forest of Avon Trust, Woodland Trust and Schools including focus group discussion. Partners are supportive of the project principles. Further discussion with stakeholders and potential partners is required to agree roles and refine project outputs.

## Other options considered:

For the overall Programme:

- The level of council funding was considered in the light of experience from other cities. A lower level of resource was considered inadequate to realise the objectives.
- Starting the commissioning process later was considered but this was rejected as starting earlier will enable us to achieve better value for money by securing stronger support from partners.

For the TreeBristol project

- Some form of challenge fund has been considered as an alternative delivery mechanism. In this scenario, bids would be invited to deliver the desired project outcomes. It is preferred, however, that the project builds on the existing TreeBristol programme and via partnerships.

## Risk management / assessment:

<b>FIGURE 1</b>							
<b>The risks associated with the implementation of the European Green Capital 2015 Programme decision :</b>							
No.	RISK Threat to achievement of the key objectives of the report	INHERENT RISK (Before controls)		RISK CONTROL MEASURES Mitigation (ie controls) and Evaluation (ie effectiveness of mitigation).	CURRENT RISK (After controls)		RISK OWNER
		Impact	Probability		Impact	Probability	
1	That delivery of an effective programme requires more resource than is planned for.	Med	Medium	The commissioning and procurement process will develop and test robust cost estimates and cost control mechanisms	Low	Low	Alex Minshull
2	That external resources are not secured at a level necessary to deliver the planned programme.	High	Medium	The programme will include fundraising resources to secure an appropriate level of external funding and resources.	Med	Med	Alex Minshull
3.	That the Programme fails to achieve the objectives	Med	Med	The commissioning and procurement process will include rigorous work to establish effective plans and governance arrangements	Low	Low	Alex Minshull
<b>The risks associated with the implementation of the TreeBristol Project are:</b>							
1	Schools cannot accommodate the project	High	Medium	A project officer will work with schools and adapt to their needs / programmes. The project will help deliver the national curriculum.	Low	Low	Project manager
2	Children outside of the 'LA education system' are hard to reach	Medium	Medium	Adaptive approaches are required, tapping into established networks	Medium	Medium	ditto
3	Insufficient tree planting sites found / agreed	High	High	Project officer dedicated to finding tree planting locations. Partner support sought. BCC offers land suitable for woodland planting. Adherence to good design principles. Effective consultation. The project seeks to 'involve' every child; it does not guarantee to plant 36,000 trees for the resources outlined.	Low	Medium	ditto
4	Insufficient time to deliver the project	Medium	Medium	Improve efficiency of agreeing site based tree planting plans. NP give active support	Medium	Medium	

				Option for funding beyond year three.			
5	Planted trees are vandalised as cost model assumes that trees when planted will be small with minimal physical protection	Medium	Medium	Site based risk assessment – option to upgrade protection subject to NP funding. Engender good community support. Role for Tree Champions / Tree Wardens	Low	Medium	ditto
6	Insufficient resources due to increased costs / failure to attract business sponsorship	Medium	Medium	Corporate support given to secure a corporate sponsor. Project promoted by senior political champion. Partners assist in seeking sponsorship.	Medium	Low	

## FIGURE 2

### The risks associated with not implementing the European Green Capital 2015 Programme decision:

No.	RISK Threat to achievement of the key objectives of the report	INHERENT RISK (Before controls)		RISK CONTROL MEASURES Mitigation (ie controls) and Evaluation (ie effectiveness of mitigation).	CURRENT RISK (After controls)		RISK OWNER
		Impact	Probability		Impact	Probability	
1	Deciding not to allocate the proposed level of Council resource to the Programme, but maintain the programme size.	High	High	An alternative strategy would need to be developed to secure higher level of external funding. This increases the risk of not being able to deliver the programme.	High	Medium	Alex Minshull
2	Deciding to develop a smaller programme with the same level of Council resource.	High	High	An alternative strategy would need to be developed to realise some of the programme objectives. A smaller programme may lack the critical mass to achieve the objectives and represent poorer value for money.	High	Medium	Alex Minshull
3.	Deciding not to develop a Programme at all. The City would fail to realise the benefits of achieving the Award and would suffer significant reputational damage.	High	High	None.	High	High	Alex Minshull
1	Not able to deliver at any scale the pledge to plant a tree for every primary school aged child in Bristol	High	High	Consider alternative delivery mechanisms	High	Medium	Mayor

## FIGURE 2

### The risks associated with not implementing the TreeBristol Project:

1	Not able to deliver at any scale the pledge to plant a tree for every primary school aged child in Bristol	High	High	Consider alternative delivery mechanisms	High	Medium	Mayor
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### Public sector equality duties:

The Bristol European Green Capital decision initiates a commissioning process which will have due regard to the City Council's equalities duties. This will include equalities assessment and consultation with appropriate equalities groups.

The TreeBristol project is not expected to have any adverse social impacts. The educational element will be provided equally and adaptively to each school. Tree planting locations will be selected in accordance with good design principles; any adverse impacts would be identified on a site by site basis and mitigated accordingly.

## **Eco impact assessment**

The significant impacts of the European Green Capital 2015 Programme are:

- Emission of climate changing gases and pollutants; production of waste; consumption of resources through the hosting of new events, festivals and conferences
- Practical projects (yet to be developed) are likely to deliver environmental improvements, for example air quality and biodiversity
- The programme aims to accelerate the uptake of positive environmental policy and action in Bristol and in other European cities, contributing a potential positive impact.

The proposals include the following measures to mitigate the impacts:

- Festivals will be certified to the sustainability standard ISO20121:2012
- Technologies such as video-casting will be used in order to reduce the need to travel.

The net effects of the proposals are unknown.

The significant impacts of the TreeBristol Project are:

- Positive impacts on children's environmental awareness and the benefits of more trees in the city
- Negative impacts of growing and planting the trees, including vehicle use etc

These will be managed and mitigated by a range of measures described in the appendix.

## **Resource and legal implications:**

### ***Finance***

#### **a. Financial (revenue) implications:**

The under-spend of £1.2m in 2012/13 has been allocated to provide for the one-off costs of the award of European Green Capital to Bristol, including planting a tree for every primary school child in Bristol.

#### **b. Financial (capital) implications:**

N/A

**Advice given by** Peter Robinson, Service Director Finance

**Date** 14 June 2013

#### **c. Legal implications:**

Any contracts entered into will need to comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 and the Council's Procurement Rules and in any event, the tendering arrangements will still need to comply with the general obligations of transparency, equal treatment and non discrimination.

**Advice given by** Shahzia Daya Service Manager: Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer

**Date** 31<sup>st</sup> May 2013

**d. Land / property implications:**

For the TreeBristol project discussions will continue to identify and declare surplus / change use any BCC land for the purpose of establishing woodland.

**Advice given by** Jeremy Screen, Corporate Property Manager  
**Date** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**e. Human resources implications:**

The Bristol European Green Capital Programme will require staff resources within the City Council and in any delivery arrangements. This will be identified during the commissioning process.

The TreeBristol project requires the appointment of three project officers on three-year contracts. The Tree Bristol Project Officer is one of the three positions and already exists as a part-time post (0.6 FTE). However, this part-time position would be increased to a full time position as part of this proposal. One Tree Maintenance Officer is required after 1 year of the project to provide tree maintenance for 6 months in each of the following three years (years 2-4). This means that the Tree Maintenance Officer will continue to provide maintenance for one year after planting has ended.

This project provides an opportunity for diverse recruitment through job share and positive action. The project supports the full participation of employees working within the local community.

Bristol City Council's HR policies and procedures will be followed throughout the programme and project, which includes the requirement to undertake Trade Union consultation.

**Advice given by** Sandra Farquharson, People Business Partner  
**Date** 4<sup>th</sup> June 2013

**Appendices:**

- 1. Details of TreeBristol Pips Project**
- 2. Eco-impact assessment**

**Access to information (background papers):**

**None**

## Appendix 1: TreeBristol Pips Project

1. The project will work with 36,736 children aged 4-11 years in Bristol, comprising 30,794<sup>1</sup> children attending 126 state primary schools and 5,942<sup>2</sup> children not in state education. [<sup>1</sup> Number of children 'on roll' at 126 'state' primary schools at March 2011, <sup>2</sup> Number of children calculated to be outside the state education system taken from the 2011 Population Census].
2. The project will deliver a tree-based education programme tailored to schools' needs with the opportunity for each child to plant a tree or be involved in planting a tree, subject to resources and suitable planting locations.
3. The educational element will include teaching to the whole school and teaching to Year / special interest groups. Some adaptive approaches will be required to include children who do not attend conventional schooling including home taught children.
4. The project is anticipated to run over three years. During April to October, the project will focus on logistic planning and teaching. During November to March the project will focus on tree planting events involving school children. Given the need to define and agree a large number of planting locations, the majority of trees will be planted in year two and three.
5. The project will be a TreeBristol ([www.treebristol.com](http://www.treebristol.com)) initiative and will complement and integrate existing projects including TreeBristol 'Parks' and TreeBristol 'Streets'.
6. The project will include partner led elements, e.g. Forest of Avon 'Garden Forest' initiative (subject to discussion and agreement). Potential partners will be invited to develop, support and deliver aspects of the project.
7. Trees will be planted in school grounds, parks / green space and in private gardens. Trees will be small when planted and given minimal protection to reduce costs to a minimum. Use will be made of 'free-tree' schemes. Tree planting will adhere to BCC's tree-planting design principles.
8. The project will require active support from schools and Neighbourhood Partnerships. Focus group discussions with schools to date have helped formulate this project; these discussions will continue.
9. Land, including council owned, will be required for woodland planting. If found, this land will assist considerably in accommodating some of the 36,000 trees to be planted, in that 1 hectare planted at 'woodland spacing' would accommodate 2,500 trees.
10. The project will need to attract additional resources, principally via business sponsorship.



## Appendix 2: Eco Impact Checklist

<b>Title of report: Bristol European Green Capital 2015</b>				
<b>Report author: Alex Minshull</b>				
<b>Anticipated date of key decision: 27 June 2013</b>				
<b>Summary of proposals:</b> Bristol has been awarded the title of European Green Capital 2015. This report approves council funding for a programme of work to maximise the benefits to Bristol of this award. This includes initiating fundraising work to secure resources from partners.				
Will the proposal impact on...	Yes/No	+ive or -ive	If yes...	
			Briefly describe impact	Briefly describe Mitigation measures
Emission of Climate Changing Gases?	Y	-ve	Staging of new events, conferences etc will result in the emission of gases from heat, power and travel	Festivals will be certified to ISO 20121:2012 (Event sustainability management systems)  Sustainable modes of travel will be promoted
		+ve	Existing festivals are likely to have a reduced environmental impact compared with previous years	Conferences and events will be video-casted to reduce the need to travel
Bristol's vulnerability to the effects of climate change?	?		Dependent on projects yet to be developed	
Consumption of non-renewable resources?	Y	-ve	Staging of new events, conferences etc will result in the consumption of resources, for example through the production of publicity materials	Festivals will be certified to ISO 20121:2012 (Event sustainability management systems)
Production, recycling or disposal of waste			Staging of new events, conferences etc will result in the production of waste.	Festivals will be certified to ISO 20121:2012 (Event sustainability management systems)
The appearance of the city?	?		Dependent on projects yet to be developed	
Pollution to land, water, or	Y	-ve	Staging of new	Festivals will be certified

air?			events, conferences etc will result in the emission of air pollutants, primarily from travel.	to ISO 20121:2012 (Event sustainability management systems) Sustainable modes of travel will be promoted  Conferences and events will be video-casted to reduce the need to travel
Wildlife and habitats?	?		Dependent on projects yet to be developed	

**Consulted with: Steve Ransom and Tanya Saker**

**Summary of impacts and Mitigation - to go into the main Cabinet/ Council Report**

The significant impacts of this proposal are...

- Emission of climate changing gases and pollutants; production of waste; consumption of resources through the hosting of new events, festivals and conferences
- Practical projects (yet to be developed) are likely to deliver environmental improvements, for example air quality and biodiversity
- The programme aims to accelerate the uptake of positive environmental policy and action in Bristol and in other European cities, contributing a potential positive impact.

The proposals include the following measures to mitigate the impacts:

- Festivals will be certified to the sustainability standard ISO20121:2012
- Technologies such as video-casting will be used in order to reduce the need to travel.

The net effects of the proposals are unknown.

**Checklist completed by:**

Name:	Alex Minshull
Dept.:	Bristol Futures
Extension:	24453
Date:	17 <sup>th</sup> June
Verified by Sustainable City Group	Steve Ransom



				minimise waste
The appearance of the city?	Yes	+ve	The right tree in the right place has positive impacts on the appearance of the city	Tree design guide considers opportunity to locate trees and select the best species to improve the appearance of the city
Pollution to land, water, or air?	Yes	+ve	Trees can remove between 0.5% and 15% of a range pollutants from the air, depending on cover. Trees can support water management strategies.	Tree design guide considers opportunity to locate trees away from watercourses and select the best species for pollution removal
		-ve	Some species can emit volatile organic compounds (VOCs), but can also reduce VOC emissions by shading parked vehicles. VOCs mix with NOx to form ground level ozone, although trees can also remove ozone, so this impact is trivial against overall pollution reduction.  If trees are planted near watercourses, applying nutrients and pesticides may cause pollution	
Wildlife and habitats?	Yes	+ve	Native trees support wildlife	Tree species and varieties will be selected and spaced to promote biodiversity and resistance to likely pests and diseases. The health of new trees will be assessed before planting, to avoid introducing pests and disease from outside Bristol
		-ve	New trees could introduce new tree pests and diseases if not checked before planting <a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pestsanddiseases</a>  If planted in monocultures, or incorrectly spaced, new trees could be at greater risk of attack by pests and diseases.	
<b>Consulted with: Tanya Saker (Environment Officer), Andy Edwards (Air Quality Co-ordinator)</b>				

## Summary of impacts and Mitigation

The significant impacts of this proposal are:

- Promoting a lifelong understanding of the positive roles of trees through teaching children
- Trees planted will leave a positive legacy of:
  - pollution reduction
  - increased biodiversity
  - carbon capture
  - a better looking city
  - a reduction of the urban heat island effect
  - better control of stormwater runoff
  - a reduction in mean windspeeds
- The potential introduction of pests and diseases
- Materials and wastes arising from stakes, cages, identification aids, etc.

There will be a range of impacts associated with growing and transporting trees prior to planting. These have not been included in this assessment, but include:

- Inputs of pesticides and nutrients
- Emissions from the use of vehicles.

If this project will source trees using the council's tree supply contract (currently being set up), these impacts must be considered during the tendering of this contract.

The proposals include the following measures to mitigate the impacts:

- Land designated for tree planting should be located as close to schools as reasonably possible
- Tree design guide considers opportunity to locate trees and select the best species to support climate change resilience, improve the appearance of the city
- The impact of pesticide, or nutrient inputs will be minimised through the use of methods such as mulching, or using organic fertilisers, or green manures  
Products will be selected so that the materials, size and biodegradability of supportive, protective and identifying packaging and planting features will minimise waste
- Tree design guide considers opportunity to locate trees away from watercourses and select the best species for pollution removal
- Trees will be selected and spaced to promote biodiversity and resistance to likely pests and diseases. The health of new trees will be assessed before planting, to avoid introducing pests and disease from outside Bristol

The net effects of the proposals are positive in the areas identified.

<b>Checklist completed by:</b>	
Name:	Tanya Saker and Giles Liddell
Dept.:	Environment Team
Extension:	24659
Date:	30/05/13
Verified by Sustainable City Group	Steve Ransom