

CABINET RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MOTION 848 – TREE PLANTING

AGENDA NO:

Cabinet Date	14 October 2020
Environment & Planning	Councillor Nigel Moor
Key Decision	No
Background Documents	<p>Leadership Gloucestershire (2018), ‘Gloucestershire 2050 - Ambitions’, Gloucestershire County Council</p> <p>Gfirst LEP (2019), ‘Draft Local Industrial Strategy’, Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership</p> <p>Committee on Climate Change (15 November 2018), ‘Land use: Reducing emissions and preparing for climate change’.</p> <p>County Council (27 November 2019), Printed Minutes: Item 71, ‘Motion 848 - Tree Planting’, Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>Cabinet (20 December 2019), Item 8, ‘Leading the response to the Climate Emergency: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2019/20 to 2024/25’, Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>County Council (12 February 2020), Item 7, ‘Policy and Budget Framework - Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Council Strategy’, Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>Inform Gloucestershire (2 July 2020), ‘Gloucestershire and districts mid-2019 population estimates’, Gloucestershire County Council.</p> <p>Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (September 2020), ‘Gloucestershire Tree Strategy’ (attached as Annex 1).</p>
Location/Contact for inspection of Background Documents	As above
Main Consultees	Forestry England Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust Environment Scrutiny Committee
Planned Dates	Environment Scrutiny Committee, 24 November 2020
Divisional Councillor	N/A

Officer	Colin Chick, Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Planning 01452 3286320 colin.chick@gloucestershire.gov.uk
Purpose of Report	To propose Cabinet's response to Council Motion 848 – Tree Planting.
Recommendations	<p>That Cabinet endorses the approach outlined in the report, in particular that officers continue to work with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP) and constituent partners to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage landowners quickly and develop the action plan for delivering the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy and vision therein; • Develop a Gloucestershire Natural Capital Investment Trust and associated carbon offsetting scheme; • Develop the Community Tree Planting scheme; and • Develop funding bids to the Climate Change & Air Quality Action Fund.
Reasons for recommendations	Delivery through the GLNP and constituent partners provides the best opportunity to position Gloucestershire at the leading edge nationally, leveraging in additional funding to deliver carbon offsetting and strategic tree planting at scale, to deliver the biggest benefits for Gloucestershire's people, economy and environment.
Resource Implications	<p>The council will utilise some of the existing £1 million Climate & Air Quality Action Fund to fund appropriate projects, subject to the assessment of funding bids and competing bids.</p> <p>Ongoing and some additional focused officer support to the GLNP in developing and taking forward actions as appropriate, including ongoing GLNP Board attendance, land agent advice, legal advice, communications support, etc.</p>

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Background

Motion 848 – Tree planting

1. County Council, at its meeting on 27 November 2019, agreed to refer the following motion to the Cabinet:

“This Council passed a motion on 15th May 2019 recognising that there is a climate emergency.

This Council committed to an 80% reduction in the corporate carbon emissions no later than 2030, striving to 100% with carbon offset by the same date. Research now shows that planting billions of trees is the best and cheapest way to tackle climate change.

This Council resolves to request Cabinet to develop a policy of tree planting; with a target of planting 1 tree for each Gloucestershire resident every year up to 2030, if not sooner, and to work with tenant farmers and encourage at least 2 trees per field for most pasture land.

A progress report is included in the annual Environmental report.”

Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy

2. Adopted by Cabinet in December 2019, this includes two relevant actions:
 - i. [By April 2020 to] launch the **Million Trees Challenge**, working with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, The Woodland Trust, public and private landowners to plant a million additional trees across the county by 2030. This has been delayed by the Coronavirus pandemic and is addressed in this report.
 - xxiv. [Medium and long-term measure to] develop options and recommendations for a Gloucestershire **Carbon Offsetting Scheme**.
3. The outline action plan for the 5-year rolling programme is being developed for Cabinet approval in December 2020, to be developed into a detailed plan in agreement with Leadership Gloucestershire for the following year by March 2021, implemented from April.
4. The proposed £1m Climate Change & Air Quality Action Fund was approved by County Council in February 2020, as part of the Council’s budget. Cabinet delegated authority to the Executive Director for Economy, Environment & Infrastructure to determine how the Fund will be used to support delivery of the Climate Change Strategy, in consultation with the:
 - Cabinet Members for Environment & Planning; Finance & Change; Public Health & Communities; and
 - Directors of Finance and of Public Health.

Gloucestershire County Council’s Rural Estate

5. The council’s rural estate, while principally focussed on agriculture, also has a very good track record of developing tree planting and other conservation/ carbon management opportunities with the Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG) and others.

Gloucestershire Tree Strategy

6. Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership¹ (GLNP) has developed the Gloucestershire Tree

¹ The [Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership](#) (GLNP) is formed of over 30 organisations from public, private and third sector bodies from across the county, all working together to recognise the importance of embedding nature's value in local decisions for the benefit of nature, people and the economy. The partnership provides a strong, innovative voice for the environment sector, with LNPs seen by the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) as the key figure in the local delivery of the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan.

Strategy, attached as Annex 1, co-created by its partners and adopted by the Board (of which the council is a member) in September 2020. Its purpose is to guide and inform tree planting, tree growing and new woodland creation in Gloucestershire, guiding a consistent approach by all GLNP partners. It will be launched to partners on 27 October 2020.

7. The UK Government’s Committee for Climate Change (CCC) suggests an increase in woodland cover to 19% nationally by 2050. As Gloucestershire already has a higher proportion of tree cover than the national average, as well as strong ambitions to lead, GLNP partners have agreed to adopt a target of 20% tree cover by 2030.
8. The Gloucestershire Tree Strategy’s vision is to bring about:

“A thriving network of sustainably managed trees and woodlands covering at least 20% of the county, delivering resilience and connectivity for people, wildlife and the economy.”
9. Its ‘Guiding Principles’ are:
 - i. Establish the right tree in the right place for the right reason, through both active planting and natural regeneration as appropriate.
 - ii. Nurture lifelong connections between trees and people, recognising health and wellbeing benefits.
 - iii. Champion the recovery of the county’s nature and wildlife, aiming for at least 20% canopy cover by 2030.
 - iv. Support Gloucestershire to become Net Carbon Zero and be resilient to the impacts of climate change.
 - v. Consider alternatives to tree planting and woodland creation when investing in carbon sequestration.
 - vi. Promote the economic use of woodland to provide sustainable materials that will fund and support the ongoing positive creation and management of woodlands.
 - vii. And finally – continue to ensure that existing woodlands and important trees are promoted, protected and well managed.
10. Table 1, taken from the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy (Annex 1, s2.2.1), shows that to increase Gloucestershire’s woodland from 13.5% to 20% would require over 35 million trees to be planted on over 17,600ha of land.

Table 1: Achieving the 20% Tree Cover Target for Gloucestershire

	Current Woodland (ha)	Current Woodland (%)	20% Land Cover (ha)	Ha Needed to 20% by 2030	Trees Needed to reach 20% by 2030 (2,000 trees per ha)
Gloucestershire (270,678 ha)	36,490	13.48%	54,135	17,645	35,290,000

NB the above data does not include in-field trees, street-trees or hedgerows

11. Whilst the 20% tree cover target is of the total area of Gloucestershire, not all of the county is available for tree planting, as some isn’t land and some is already other priority habitat that need to remain so.
12. This is why GLNP has developed the Natural Capital (NC) and Nature Recovery Network (NRN) Maps, to understand where the county can get the most benefit from trees and where they definitely should not go.
13. The NRN Map maps what is there and shows where the best areas for tree planting are. This mapping takes account of the 20% tree cover target, calculating the number of trees required

to be planted and where they should go, giving confidence that the target is deliverable on the land available.

14. Table 2, taken from the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy (Annex 1, s2.2.1), shows this by district, where achieving the 20% tree cover target requires broadly a 50% increase in the number of trees per district.

Table 2: Achieving the 20% Tree Cover Target, by District

	CURRENT WOODLAND (ha)	CURRENT WOODLAND as a % of total area	Area of new woodland needed to reach 20% tree cover countywide (ha) (c50% increase in tree cover per district)
Forest of Dean	13,646	24%	6,599
Stroud District	5,391	11%	2,607
Cotswold District	13,648	11%	6,600
Tewkesbury District	3,398	8%	1,643
Gloucester	163	3%	79
Cheltenham	242	5%	117

NB the above data does not include in-field trees, street-trees or hedgerows

15. Funding – Public money alone is not sufficient to realise the Tree Strategy Vision. The Tree Strategy identifies multiple potential funders/ investors (Annex 1, s6.1):
- i. Agri-environment schemes (Countryside Stewardship, Woodland Grant Scheme/ Environmental Land Management Scheme/ Nature for Climate fund)
 - ii. Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) – major growth projects required to demonstrate carbon neutrality
 - iii. County & District Councils (budgetary contributions as part of a climate emergency response)
 - iv. Environment Agency
 - v. Forestry Commission
 - vi. Woodland Trust
 - vii. Biodiversity Net Gain offsetting
 - viii. Community Infrastructure Levy
 - ix. Section 106 (especially with Neighbourhood Development Plans)
 - x. Timber Trade Federation
 - xi. Corporate funding (offsetting, carbon credit schemes)
16. GLNP is developing a Natural Capital Investment approach for Gloucestershire. This will enable multiple funding streams to be utilised to deliver multiple benefits, through a wide range of delivery partners, whilst ensuring delivery of this strategy. This approach will help match public investment with the large and growing potential for investment through corporate offsetting.
17. The County Council has also, with many other partners, signed up to the GLNP’s Green Infrastructure Pledge, which is informing work and plans including the council’s new Local Transport Plan (in development).

Options

Option 1 – Do Nothing (not recommended)

18. This would be unacceptable, going against the Council Motion and Cabinet's commitments under the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy, developed following the Climate Change Summit in May 2019 and the subsequent public consultation.

Option 2 – Adopt Motion 848 – Tree planting unilaterally (not recommended)

19. Based on Gloucestershire's current population and forecast growth to 2030, the Motion would require 6,581,291 trees to be planted from 2021 to 2030; requiring an annual average of 658,129 trees to be planted each year. At 2,000 trees per hectare, this would require 329ha per year to be made available and planted; 3,290ha by 2030.

20. To put this into context:

- i. The council owns around 2,800ha of land, which is shared between around 80 separate farm tenants.
- ii. The Forest of Dean covers over 9,300ha.
- iii. Forestry England² estimates planting 1 million trees would require 500ha of land, at a cost of around £10.5m for the land, around £2.5m to plant, and a further £5m to maintain for 10 years (£0.5m a year); equating to £18m per 1 million trees planted.
- iv. To meet the requirements of the motion and plant 6,581,291 trees, 3,290ha would be required. This would cost around £69m for the land, around £16.5m to plant, and a further £33m to maintain for 10 years (£3.3m a year) equating to over £118m to plant 6.58m trees.

21. From this it can be seen that the council does not own enough land or have the financial resources to secure the land and tree planting requirements of the Motion. The council cannot deliver the requirements of the motion on its own.

Option 3 – Deliver through the GLNP and constituent partners (recommended)

22. The council is a key partner and member of the GLNP Board. The approach being developed under its Gloucestershire Tree Strategy provides the opportunity for the GLNP to act as a broker in helping to deliver an effective countywide approach to tree planting and maintenance and the associated benefits.

23. Council officers have been working with GLNP partners and can propose a range of mechanisms to be explored through the GLNP in support of delivering the Tree Strategy. Examples of some of these mechanisms are outlined below.

24. It should be noted that it has not been possible to carry out detailed costings so, while these figures are provided, **they are for illustrative purposes only** – detailed figures will not be available until after we start working with the GLNP:

- i. A) Landowner engagement
 - Securing land for tree planting is a fundamental requirement. GLNP partners (Glos Wildlife Trust (GWT), Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), National Farmers' Union (NFU), Cotswold Conservation Board (CCB), National Trust (NT)) are already engaging big landowners; additional funding would enable them to access more landowners **FAST** to secure some planting in the current season (late September – late February).
 - For example, dividing the county between the 6 partners:

² Forestry England meeting with officers and the Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning, 31 January 2020.

- £30k between them, £5k each to each engage 10 landowners, with an overall potential area of 3,000ha.
- If 1% becomes trees (conservative estimate and using the 2,000 trees per ha assumption) this would result in c60,000 trees, almost 10% of the Motion's annual 680,000 tree target.
- This approach could be scaled up. It would secure some planting this season and lays the foundation for September 2021 onwards.

i. B) Maintenance/ management

- This is essential, otherwise the trees will die and the planting (and resources) is wasted.
- There is already money available to provide trees, through commercial organisations, The Woodland Trust, etc.
- The Woodland Grant Scheme (WGS) pays for tree maintenance and management, but it isn't enough to incentive landowners to switch over to tree planting.
- The Council could top up the WGS funding, but only for landowners/ occupiers delivering at scale.
- The number of trees that could be delivered and the overall cost depends on landowner take-up and the maintenance and incentive models agreed.

ii. Community tree planting – £100k has been earmarked from the council's £1m Climate Change & Air Quality Action Fund:

- This scheme is in development and could be delivered relatively easily and quickly. However, it will not deliver the number of trees required and the council is not best placed to run it.
- Community groups may be eligible for funding from The Woodland Trust, or from funding raised locally, which the council could match to fund the maintenance – some parishes may have fields for say 200 trees.
- Trees would need to be planted in the right place, using GLNP mapping.
- It would result in plantings this season.
- It requires an organisation (e.g. The Woodland Trust or GWT) to manage it on behalf of the council.

iii. County Council Land

- Farm tenants may wish to diversify or the council could buy additional land, albeit there are no plans to do this currently.
- 30ha at an estimated cost of £250k would secure land for around 60,000 trees (10% of Motion annual target).
- Other organisations/ companies would pay to plant trees if we own the land; or we could adopt an approach to natural regeneration.
- The council doesn't need to retain ownership of purchased land; it could subsequently be transferred to an appropriate charitable/ conservation organisation with a covenant to manage as woodland in perpetuity.

iv. 'Forest Without Frontiers' (Annex 1, s8.2)

- Cross-border forestation project between England and Wales, 160,000ha, expanding the Forest of Dean into South Wales and northwards into the Wyre Forest in Worcestershire and on to Herefordshire.
- Stage one delivery area is 38,500ha centred on the Wye Valley Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) and the Forest of Dean. This will expand the existing visitor space, taking pressure away from the central forest and providing enhanced accessible woodlands for a larger number of communities.
- Aims to expand and connect the existing forest areas to create a mosaic of wooded and open habitats. This will be delivered alongside enhancement of existing ancient woodland that is degrading due to lack of management.
- Estimated 160,000 new trees in stage 1, of which 60,000 will be planted, the remainder natural regeneration; estimated to cost £500k and take 5 years. There is the potential for another 500,000 new trees in years 5-10.
- There is the potential to bid into the Government's £680m Natural Solutions Programme. To be successful this requires a strong voice from a broad coalition of stakeholders – the county and district councils, environmental Non-Governmental Organisations (eNGOs) and Forestry Commission; as well as those beyond our own county, including Monmouthshire, Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Malvern Hills, and Wyre Forest.

v. 'Great Gloucestershire Forest' (Annex 1, s8.3)

- From Gloucestershire into South Gloucestershire, running from Westonbirt Arboretum down to GWT's Lower Woods Nature Reserve and across the border; total project area 2,300ha.
 - This aims to expand one of the largest ancient woodlands in Southern England and connect fragments of ancient woodland over the project area. It will create a mosaic of wooded and open habitats resulting in a major new recreation space.
 - Estimated cost to initiate and deliver the first two years of this project is £150,000 resulting in around 25,000 new trees, with most of these being planted rather than natural regeneration. A further 150,000 trees would be planted in years 3-5.
- Both the Forest Without Frontiers and Great Gloucestershire Forest projects will be based on a strong partnership and will require time to engage and secure buy-in of landowners. They will either need to include land acquisition for public ownership or create a business model that encourages landowner participation.
- Pooling developer and other funding for tree planting and environmental gain could be administered through the GLNP via the proposed Gloucestershire Natural Capital Investment Trust (see vi. below). Funding landowner engagement (i. A) above) supports these ideas.
- US-owned corporate funders want to invest in major UK-based reforestation projects and both have \$500k-\$1m to invest, expecting a return of approximately \$1 per tree in the ground. It is a competitive process but Gloucestershire stands a reasonable chance of accessing funding that way, particularly if we can move quickly. The investors are strict about only funding the actual trees, so the GLNP would need to look at the flexibility of other funding options and to build it into a realistic project.

vi. Carbon offsetting voluntary contributions website

- GLNP is seeking support to develop a Gloucestershire carbon sequestration scheme, where people and companies could offset their carbon.
- This would be delivered via the GLNP website, alongside community tree guidance, where the GLNP then becomes a one-stop environment shop.
- Funding would be required to develop the offsetting webpage and contributions function (costs to be established).
- This would deliver the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy action to develop a Gloucestershire Carbon Offsetting Scheme.

vii. Gloucestershire Natural Capital Investment Trust

- To deliver tree planting at scale and over time, we need funding from elsewhere, including from out of county.
- A Gloucestershire Trust is needed to develop a joined-up approach to Biodiversity Net Gain – a key planning requirement that will deliver money for nature enhancement, including additional trees through active planting but also by encouraging them to colonise suitable areas more naturally. Without such a Trust funding will go out of the county, funding planting elsewhere.
- A Gloucestershire Trust means we can benefit from development in counties without one; e.g. Surrey, where with all their development (and airports) they do not have enough land to deliver biodiversity and carbon offset.
- We need to position Gloucestershire at the front of the queue – the GLNP has developed initial thinking on this. Oxfordshire already has such a Trust.
- Natural England is running a trial at the moment to develop a pipeline of nationally managed sites for those areas who can't deliver through their own Natural Capital Investment Trust.

viii. Wetland creation/ reedbeds/ wet woodland

- The key land-use intervention that has significant potential for carbon storage at a much lower cost than woodland creation is wetland creation. The Severn Estuary is a vital ecosystem and natural capital resource for the region. The creation of natural functioning wetlands on the floodplain such as to the north of Gloucester has the potential to deliver multiple benefits, such as reducing flood risk, sequestering carbon, habitat creation and connectivity and public amenity provision. Natural climate solutions such as natural flood management are consistent with GLNP's Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework as well as some emerging Local Development Plans. GLNP could develop a scoping project on suitable sites in the Severn Vale and other areas of the county.

ix. Encouraging Agro-ecological farming practices

- Evidence shows that land management changes, such as organic conversion or grassland restoration, can sequester more carbon for a lower cost per hectare than woodland creation; which may be more appropriate ecologically in parts of the county and allow for continued/ enhanced food production. GLNP would help to identify and broker such approaches.

25. GLNP and its constituent partners are well placed to deliver the best outcomes for Gloucestershire, having existing good links with large landowners and farmers, having

developed the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy and started developing an approach to carbon offsetting.

26. If the council was to commit to such an approach, this would place Gloucestershire at the leading edge nationally, leveraging in additional funding to deliver carbon offsetting and tree planting at scale, together with the associated ecological, social and economic benefits.

27. The approach:

- Provides the best opportunity to lever multiple different funding streams to deliver tree planting at scale; and
- Links well to the Local Industrial Strategy and Gloucestershire 2050 Vision, to be a magnet county and providing greenspace in accordance with the Green Infrastructure Pledge.

Risk Assessment

28. The key risks to delivering tree planting at scale are land availability, followed by maintenance and then funding. Effective tree planting is about planting the right tree in the right place for the right reasons.

29. The council does not own enough available land or have the financial resources to secure the land and tree planting requirements of the Motion. The council cannot deliver the requirements of the motion on its own.

30. The Council is not best placed to deliver the scale of tree planting and associated activities, with a significant risk of failing to deliver these effectively.

31. GLNP is well placed to develop and coordinate actions to deliver this, having an effective partnership. The council is a key strategic partner with two places on the Board (the Executive Director of Environment, Economy & Infrastructure and the Lead Commissioner for Public Health). It has an excellent reputation with the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra) and has a good track record.

32. The council's Climate Change & Air Quality Action Fund could be used to fund significant land owner and community engagement and lever in significant additional funding. Given the current economic climate there is limited opportunity to invest more council funds towards this at this point in time.

Officer Advice

33. Option 3, 'Deliver through the GLNP and constituent partners', provides the best opportunity to position Gloucestershire at the leading edge nationally, leveraging in additional funding to deliver carbon offsetting and strategic tree planting at scale, to deliver the biggest benefits for Gloucestershire's people, economy and environment.

34. Adopting and championing the 'Forest Without Frontiers' and 'Great Gloucestershire Forest' concept – the GLNP would align behind such an ambitious, forward thinking environmental strategy.

35. The council's Climate Change & Air Quality Action Fund provides existing funding to deliver this approach, funding significant rapid land owner and community engagement and leveraging in substantial additional funding. A small amount of development investment will get the right trees planted, more quickly, in greater numbers and in the right places. GLNP would develop such proposals.

36. Early priority actions for the council would be to:

- Launch the Community Tree Planting Scheme, which is in development;

- Commission GLNP partners to engage with landowners quickly to maximise planting opportunities;
- Support GLNP to establish a Gloucestershire Natural Capital Investment Trust to lever multiple funding streams to enhance biodiversity, sequester carbon, reduce flood risk and increase access to green space;
- Work with GLNP to further develop proposals, liaising with the Cabinet Member for Environment & Planning and the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure;
- Continue work to identify suitable opportunities for land purchase and planting; and
- Support GLNP in seeking endorsement of the Gloucestershire Tree Strategy, Strategic Green Infrastructure Framework, the Natural Capital Baseline mapping and Nature Recovery Network by Leadership Gloucestershire, to aid a county-wide approach.

Equalities considerations

37. There are no direct equalities implications arising from the recommendations of this report. However, climate change has the potential for significant implications for people's health, wellbeing and safety; particularly for those on low incomes, vulnerable people especially the young and the elderly, and people with additional learning, physical and mental needs. It therefore follows that working with the GLNP to increase tree planting will have a positive impact.
38. The council will work with GLNP partners to ensure effective engagement of all demographic groups and protected characteristics to understand their specific needs and how these can be addressed effectively, to enable and encourage access/ involvement across all sectors of society.

Consultation feedback

39. Forestry England, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust and Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership welcome the council's support and proposed approach, which is central to securing the benefits outlined in the report.
40. A letter of support from the Chair of the GLNP Board is attached as Annex 2.

Performance Management/Follow-up

41. The actions identified in the report will form part of the outline action plan for the 5-year rolling programme, which is being developed for Cabinet approval in December 2020. This will be developed into a detailed plan in agreement with Leadership Gloucestershire for the following year by March 2021, implemented from April.
42. Updates will be provided to Environment Scrutiny Committee as part of the Executive Director of Economy, Environment & Infrastructure's reports.

Report Title	CABINET RESPONSE TO COUNCIL MOTION 848 – TREE PLANTING
Statutory Authority	Section 1 (1) Localism Act 2011
Relevant County Council policy	Cabinet (20 December 2019), Item 8, 'Leading the response to the Climate Emergency: Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy 2019/20 to 2024/25' , Gloucestershire County Council.
Sustainability checklist:	
Partnerships	Working with the Gloucestershire Local Nature Partnership (GLNP), formed of over 30 organisations from public, private and third sector bodies from across the county.
Decision Making and Involvement	GLNP Board will make decisions on prioritising and taking forward actions.
Economy and Employment	Forestry as a business provides: timber production – a sustainable and environmentally friendly resource; employment in growing trees, harvesting, sawmilling and processing; and tourism and sport – active sports, eco-tourism, weekend breaks, etc.
Caring for people	Nurture a lifelong connection between trees and people, recognising health and wellbeing benefits with improved access to quality open spaces.
Social Value	The proposed approach will provide significant social, economic and environmental benefits, as outlined here.
Built Environment	Urban trees and woods improve people’s health and wellbeing, reduce urban heating, improve air quality by filtering pollution and producing oxygen, and can reduce soil contamination.
Natural Environment including Ecology (Biodiversity)	The right tree in the right place for the right reason, through both active planting and natural regeneration as appropriate. Drive nature’s recovery, aiming for at least 20% canopy cover by 2030. Trees and woodland can help slow surface water flows, and encourage greater movement to ground water. Well managed sites will improve biodiversity helping to link fragmented ecosystems.
Education and Information	Regular updates will be published on how the Gloucestershire Climate Change Strategy is progressing.
Tackling Climate Change	Carbon Emissions Implications? Positive Vulnerable to climate change? Maybe
Due Regard Statement	Has a Due Regard Statement been completed? No
Human rights Implications	None
Consultation Arrangements	None, however the development of tree planting and woodland schemes will require consultation in some cases.