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| <b>Subject:</b>           | Increased Provision for Tree Planting  |
| <b>Date:</b>              | 7 November 2017  |
| <b>Reporting Officer:</b> | Nigel Grimshaw, Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department  |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b>   | Rose Crozier, Assistant Director City & Neighbourhood Services Department<br>Alan McHaffie, Senior Woodland and Recreation officer |

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| <b>Restricted Reports</b>                                |   |
| <b>Is this report restricted?</b>                        | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b> |   |
| <b>After Committee Decision</b>                          | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <b>After Council Decision</b>                            | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <b>Some time in the future</b>                           | <input type="checkbox"/>  |
| <b>Never</b>   | <input type="checkbox"/>  |

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| <b>Call-in</b>                               |   |
| <b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b> | Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> |

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>  |
| 1.1        | An advanced issue was raised by Councillor Milne at the People and Communities Committee meeting on 12 <sup>th</sup> September 2017 to consider directing additional resources towards an appropriate tree planting programme throughout the city with the object of maintaining local biodiversity and urban habitat. Councillor Milne also proposed that the Council assess the feasibility of developing a programme of activities to tie in with National Tree Week which runs annually from the end of November through to early December. |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>  |
| 2.1        | The Committee is asked to <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Consider the content of the report.</li></ul>   |

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| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Main report</b>  |
| 3.1        | Belfast City Council is responsible for the management of 12,500 street trees on behalf of the Department for Infrastructure – Road Service and also manages over 60,000 plus Park trees throughout the city.   |
| 3.2        | As part of the Council’s Park tree management programme; health and condition tree inspections are undertaken on a cyclical basis of all our semi-mature, mature and over mature Park trees and from the survey findings, recommendations for remedial tree surgery works are highlighted which include the removal of dead, diseased and dying trees. As part of the tree surveys our Woodland officers also identify locations within our Parks for replacement/new tree planting however this recommended tree planting hasn’t happened in recent years due mainly to a lack of dedicated resources; that said resources have now been allocated from within existing budgets to the value of £20,000 per annum and this will allow the Council to undertake all outstanding replacement tree planting as well as planting new additional trees.   |
| 3.3        | <p>Looking back over the last three decades the Council has been credited in planting many thousands of new trees in our Parks and Open Spaces and has worked closely with schools, community groups and other interested parties which has served to promote the benefits of trees and increased our urban forest footprint. This year’s National Tree Week theme is ‘Tree Values’ and it will run between 25<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 (see appendix No1 – NTW poster). Our Parks outreach officers will be organising various tree planting and educational activities to promote the value of trees as part of NTW at the following locations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Sir Thomas and Lady Dixon Park</li> <li>▪ Grovelands</li> <li>▪ Half Moon Lake</li> <li>▪ Cherryvale</li> <li>▪ Cregagh Green</li> <li>▪ Loopriver</li> <li>▪ Glenbank</li> <li>▪ Cavehill</li> <li>▪ Water Works</li> </ul> |
| 3.4        | The replacement and new additional tree planting will further add to and provide much needed habitats for wildlife and biodiversity.  |

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|            | <b><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></b>   |
| 3.5        | An annual amount of £20,000 has been established for replacement and new tree planting out of existing budgets. |
|            | <b><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></b>   |
| 3.6        | No implications   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>  |
|            | Appendix 1 - 2017 National Tree Week poster   |