



Subject:	Motion – City Tree Initiative
Date:	17 th December, 2019
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor/Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

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

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

1.0	Purpose of Report/Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a motion on a City Tree Initiative, which was referred to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 2 nd December.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is requested to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Consider the motion and if the proposal agreed a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed will be brought back.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	At the Council meeting on 2 nd December, the following motion was proposed by Councillor McLaughlin and seconded by Councillor O'Hara: <i>"This Council has ambitious plans to plant over one million trees over 15 years.</i>

	<p><i>However, it acknowledges that there are several sites across Belfast that breach current legal guidelines in terms of air pollutants.</i></p> <p><i>Air pollution is often hidden in plain sight, but it can have potentially life-threatening consequences. Exposure to high levels of air pollution can lead to chronic respiratory problems and increased risk of developing cancer. Having access to clean air is a human right.</i></p> <p><i>To reduce levels of air pollution, we need to reduce our reliance on carbon as well as finding innovative solutions to air pollution.</i></p> <p><i>One such innovative solution is to introduce the City Tree initiative, which is in many European cities such as Amsterdam, Brussels and London. The City Tree does the work of 275 trees in 1% of the space. Each tree holds 1,682 pots of moss, which extract particulate matter, soot, dirt and other pollutants from the air.</i></p> <p><i>This Council agrees that a report be submitted to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee which will identify sites in each quarter of the city that are heavily polluted, explore the costs associated with the purchase of the trees and the potential public-private partnership in regards to the advertising space which comes with the tree, which could be used to offset the cost of the purchase.”</i></p>
3.2	<p>In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred without debate to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.</p>
3.3	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None associated with this report.</p>
3.4	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices - Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>