

Motion was submitted to Council on the 4th March 2019:

Proposed by Councillor Heading,

Seconded by Councillor Long,

“The importance of trees to the ambience, amenity and beauty of cities and to the wellbeing of their citizens is universally recognised, as is the role they play in promoting public health by combatting the air pollution that is linked to a range of medical conditions including asthma, heart and lung diseases, and early onset Alzheimer’s.

Cognisant of these benefits, and consistent with this Council’s commitment to transform the way in which post-conflict Belfast is perceived by its citizens, potential investors, and visitors from home and abroad, the Council agrees to position Belfast as a leading sustainable, green city, by facilitating the planting of at least a million trees in Belfast over the next fifteen years.”

The motion was referred without discussion to People and Communities Committee where it was discussed on the 5th March 2019, with a further report submitted on the 4th June 2019.

On the 4th June 2019 P&C Committee:

- “agreed, in principle, that it would become the lead partnership facilitator for the project which had a goal to plant one million trees in the City over the next 15 years
- noted that the One Million Trees commitment was subject to further officer level discussions with Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group (BMRG) to clarify the level of officer resource required to support any facilitation role between the BMRG and the interested organisations, noting that there would be no Council financial contribution; and
- agreed to invite the Belfast Metropolitan Residents Group (BMRG) to a future meeting to discuss the One Million Trees initiative.