



Subject:	Update - The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) Tree Planting Initiative celebrating the forthcoming Queen's Platinum Jubilee and a request for Belfast City Council to submit an application for consideration to become a (QGC) Champion City
Date:	7 December 2021
Reporting Officer:	Ryan Black, Director Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Stephen Leonard, Neighbourhood Services Manager

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"/>
Some time 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 or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To update members regarding the planned Queen's Green Canopy tree planting event in Belmont Park which was agreed at the People and Communities committee meeting on the 10 th August 2021 and ratified on the 7 th September 2021; where 500 small native trees will be planted between November 2021 – March 2022 and a plaque installed to mark the occasion.
1.2	To update Members of a subsequent request received by Council from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO asking the Council to consider submitting an application to becoming a Champion City under the (QGC) initiative.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the content of this report by way of update.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p>At the People and Communities Committee meeting on the 10th August 2021 Members were asked to consider a request received from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO to the Queen's Green Canopy, inviting Belfast City Council to celebrate Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and at the same time, promoting the importance of trees to the environment by planting trees in one of our Parks.</p>
3.2	<p>Members agreed that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There would be one (QGC) tree planting event proposed for Belmont Park, where 500 small native trees would be planted between November 2021 – March 2022 in the lead up to the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. That all 500 trees planted as part of the (QGC) event would automatically be added to the Council's One Million Tree planting running total. The Council's Outreach officer for east Belfast, work with local community groups and plan/oversee the proposed (QGC) event. Agree to the installation of one small (QGC) at the Belmont Park planting site.
3.3	<p>The above recommendations were ratified on 7th September 2021.</p>
3.4	<p>Members are advised of a subsequent request received from Colonel Dan Rex MVO, CEO to the Queen's Green Canopy, inviting the Council to consider submitting an application to become a Champion City under the (QGC)</p>
3.5	<p>The Champion City goals are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To inspire Cities and encourage proactive community engagement within urban environments around the UK. To promote the importance of urban trees and woodland, and the benefits they bring to mental health, physical health, air quality, flood defences, microclimate and more.

<p>3.6</p> <p>3.7</p> <p>3.8</p>	<p>3. To exemplify best practice and the core principles of the (QGC) including stewardship, inclusivity and education.</p> <p>The (QGC) panel have asked that any city offered Champion City Status will commit to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively promote engagement with the (QGC) and its goals 2. Arrange an iconic tree planting which emphatically embody the spirit of the (QGC) 3. Ensure an ongoing maintenance plan for trees planted under the (QGC) initiative. <p>As a result of the short deadline for submissions in advance of National Tree Week which runs from the 27th November to the 5th December 2021, a presentation was made to Party Group Leaders on the 11th November 2021 to enable a decision to be made under delegated authority to submit an application to become a (QGC) Champion City, and an application was swiftly forwarded to the (QGC) panel for consideration due to the time limit.</p> <p>The outcome of the Council's application was that we were successful and have been selected as one of the (QGC) Champion Cities along with other cities such as Manchester, Leicester, Cardiff, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Southampton, and York. (See appendix 1 - QGC Champion Cities Media Release 16th November 2021).</p>
<p>3.9</p> <p>3.10</p>	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None – Tree planting at Belmont Park will come out of the existing/annual tree planting budget.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>None</p>
<p>4.0</p>	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>Appendix 1 – QGC Champion Cities Media Release 16th November 2021.</p>