Report on	Tree Planting Scheme at Magheraglass Landfill Site
Date of Meeting	9th June 2020
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Waste Facility Service Manager

Is this report restricted for confidential business?	Yes	
If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	No	X

1.0	**Purpose of Report**
1.1	To update members on the establishment a new native broadleaf woodland at the former landfill site at Magheraglass, Cookstown.
2.0	**Background**
2.1	Magheraglass Landfill Site stopped accepting waste in May 2017 and was subsequently capped in the Autumn and Winter of 2018/19. The capped area along with other unused areas of the old sand pit provided 5.6 hectares of available space suitable for tree planting.
2.2	The Forest Expansion Scheme, which is operated by the Forest Service, provides up to 100% of the approved woodland creation costs in addition to a further 2 years of maintenance costs. The scheme is open to all landowners with a minimum of 5 hectares of available space.

3.0	**Main Report**
3.1	The Council partnered with the consultants Indiwoods to establish a new native broadleaf woodland at the former Magheraglass Landfill Site using locally sown and grown trees. The woodland covers an area of 5.6 hectares as shown within the red boundary on the accompanying map. The area adds to existing areas of regrowth forest already on-site and potential future wetlands. Planting was carried out in early April over a period of 2 weeks. Indiwoods had previously been involved with the establishment of a similar woodland at Ballymacombs Landfill Site.
3.2	The following species of trees were planted: ➢ Downy Birch ➢ Silver Birch ➢ Alder ➢ Rowan ➢ Wild Cherry ➢ Aspen ➢ Hazel ➢ Crab Apple ➢ Guelder Rose ➢ Willow ➢ Scots Pine ➢ Oak
3.3	The trees were specifically chosen to have shallow roots so as to prevent damage to the capping membranes. The only exception is the Oak will only be planted at the entrance to the woodland, outside the cap, to avoid penetration by the deep tap roots.
3.4	In total approximately 11,200 stems were planted. In terms of climate change mitigation this will equate to a future saving of around 1,866 tonnes of CO2 (1 tonne
3.5	per 6 trees). The trees were planted in single species circular clusters (2,000 stems per ha) with varied spacing to make the woodland look as natural as possible, with meandering paths throughout and perimeter access retained. Trees are protected with recycled clear plastic spiral guards and a cane with the Scots Pine protected using mesh guards with two canes. There is approx. 20% open space within the woodland that
3.6	will incorporate access tracks and open glades throughout the woodland. The trees were spot sprayed with glyphosate on completion of planting and there will be an ongoing maintenance for the next 3 years after including replacement of
3.7	dead or dying trees where necessary and glyphosate spray application. Plans were in place for local schools to participate in the tree planting on specially supervised days. Unfortunately however, the closure of the schools due to the COVID-19 lockdown restrictions meant that this was not possible at the time of planting.

4.0	**Other Considerations**
4.1	**Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications**
	Financial: The costs for the scheme are as follows (100% funded by the Forest Expansion Scheme) Tree Planting - £18,550 Year 1 Maintenance - £2,870 Year 2 Maintenance - £2,560 Total - £23,980
	Human: Some officer time on the Council side was required for project management duties
	Risk Management: None
4.2	**Screening & Impact Assessments**
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: None
	Rural Needs Implications: None
5.0	**Recommendation**
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report.
6.0	**Documents Attached & References**
6.1 6.2	Appendix 1 – Site photographs Appendix 2 – Site drawing

Appendix 1 – Site Pictures