

Report on	Funding for Tree Planting Scheme at Magheraglass Landfill Site
Date of Meeting	8 th October 2019
Reporting Officer	Mark McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Contact Officer	Karl McGowan, Tullyvar 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 inform members of an application for grant funding from the Forest Expansion Scheme to establish a new native broadleaf woodland at the closed landfill site at Magheraglass.
2.0	Background
2.1	Magheraglass Landfill Site stopped accepting waste in May 2017 and was subsequently capped during the winter of 2018/19. Grass has now started to establish on the capped area (as shown on attached photograph). The capped area along with other unused areas of the old sand pit provide over 5 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 and is part financed by the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development through the Northern Ireland Rural Development Programme 2014 -2020

3.0	Main Report
3.1	It is proposed to create a new native broadleaf woodland at the former Magheraglass Landfill Site using locally sown and grown trees. The woodland will comprise of 5.6 Hectares of woodland within the red boundary as shown on attached site map. The area adds to existing areas of forest regrowth already on-site and the future potential wetlands.
3.2	<p>The species list will be as follows:</p> <p>Downy Birch Silver Birch Alder Rowan</p>

	<p>Wild Cherry Aspen Hazel Crab Apple Guelder Rose Willow Scots Pine Oak</p>
3.3	<p>The trees have been specifically chosen to have shallow roots so as to prevent damage to the capping membranes. The only exception is the oak which will only be planted at the entrance to the woodland, outside the cap, to avoid penetration by the deep tap roots.</p>
3.4	<p>The trees will be 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. Trees will be protected with recycled clear plastic spiral guards and a cane and the Scots Pine will be protect using mesh guards with two canes. There will be 20% open space within the woodland that will incorporate access tracks and open glades throughout.</p>
3.5	<p>The trees will be spot sprayed with glyphosate on completion of planting with ongoing maintenance for 2 years including replacement of dead or dying trees where necessary.</p>
3.6	<p>The Council is partnering with the consultants Indiwoods who will prepare the application for funding and submit same before the deadline of the 30th September. Indiwoods will also be responsible for the planting and maintenance of the woodland for the first 2 years. If successful the planting works shall be carried out on site between January to May 2020.</p>
3.7	<p>Indiwoods had previously been involved with the establishment of a similar woodland at Ballymacombs Landfill Site. As with the Ballymacombs woodland there may be an opportunity for local schools to be invited to participate in the tree planting works on site.</p>
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	<p>Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications</p>
	<p>Financial:</p> <p>The total capital costs for works (100% funded from the Forest Expansion Scheme) are:</p> <p>Tree Planting £19,121 Year 1 Maintenance - £2,802 Year 2 Maintenance - £2,466</p> <p>Total - £24,389</p>

	<p>Human:</p> <p>Some officer time on the Council side will be required for project management duties e.g. liaising with consultants, attending site meetings, arranging schools visits etc</p>
	<p>Risk Management:</p> <p>None.</p>
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	<p>Equality & Good Relations Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
	<p>Rural Needs Implications:</p> <p>None.</p>
5.1	Members are requested to note the content of this report and to endorse delivery of the tree planting project at Magheraglass, subject to the funding application being successful.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Photograph of capped area at Magheraglass landfill site
6.2	Site drawing showing extent of proposed tree planting at Magheraglass landfill site.