
Woodland Creation Application

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillors Bernard McEldowney and Shirley Webb
Portfolio Holder Consulted	
Relevant Assistant Director	Pete Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive and Section 151 Officer
Report Author	Job Title: Deputy Chief Executive Contact email: peter.carpenter@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk
Wards Affected	All wards
Ward Councillor(s) consulted	N/A
Relevant Council Priority	Environment
Key Decision	
If you have any questions about this report, please contact the report author in advance of the meeting.	
This report contains exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, as amended	

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that:-

In principle the Woodland Creation Application initiative be approved and if the bid be successful included in the 2025/6 Tranche 1 MTFP.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 This report provides an overview of the Woodland Creation initiative for Members' consideration.

3. OPERATIONAL ISSUES

3.1 The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is running a multi-million pound grant funding competition to identify a new forest for the nation.

3.2 The competition is inspired by the achievements of the National Forest, which has transformed the landscape across 200sq miles of the Midlands since the 1990s.

3.3 This Woodland Creation opportunity will connect more people to nature through woodland creation and woodland management.

3.4 The initiative is being considered in two stages. The first stage was completed in spring 2024 and the second stage is due to be completed in the autumn 2024.

3.5 DEFRA is welcoming applications from both public and private sector organisations in this process.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Any financial implications arising will be considered in relation to the Council's budget setting process in due course should the bid be successful.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Legal implications are detailed in the exempt appendix to this report.

6. OTHER - IMPLICATIONS

Relevant Council Priority

6.1 This supports the Council's priority to support the Environment.

Climate Change Implications

6.2 Any climate change implications arising have been addressed in the exempt appendices to the report.

Equalities and Diversity Implications

6.3 No specific equalities and diversity implications have been identified.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

7.1 Any risks arising in relation to this initiative are detailed in the exempt appendix.

8. APPENDICES and BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix 1 – Background Information (Exempt)

Background Papers:

Guidance from the Government - [Guidance Link](#)

9. REPORT SIGN OFF

Department	Name and Job Title	Date
Portfolio Holder	Councillors Bernard McEldowney, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Climate Change and Shirley Webb, Cabinet Member for Health and Well Being and Strategic Housing.	
Lead Director / Assistant Director	Pete Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive	
Financial Services	Pete Carpenter, Deputy Chief Executive	
Legal Services	Nicola Cummings, Principal Solicitor (Governance)	
Climate Change Team (if climate change implications apply)		