

Report to:	Climate and Environment Advisory Committee 13/07/2021
Lead Cabinet Member:	Cllr Bridget Smith
Lead Officer:	Rebecca Weymouth-Wood

Six Free Trees Scheme

Executive Summary

This report provides the Committee with details on the Council's Six Free Trees scheme. It is provided to the committee for information.

Key Decision

1. No

Details

2. The Three Free Trees Scheme was successfully launched by the Council in 2019 to support community action on climate change.
3. Last year the scheme offered was available to all parish councils and was sufficient for three bareroot trees, but parishes could also opt for a larger single tree to suit their needs if this was preferred.
4. Parishes applied to us for a voucher which could be exchanged for trees at the following garden centres in South Cambridgeshire (plus one online based supplier based in Norfolk):
 - Oakington Garden Centre
 - Scotsdales Garden Centre
 - Coton Garden centre
 - Arrington nurseries
 - All growth Ltd
 - Apples and Orchards (online only tree supplier)
5. Trees could be planted on Parish Council land, or if agreed, land owned by South Cambridgeshire District Council, Cambridgeshire County Council or a local charity. Where no suitable land was available, parishes could donate their voucher to a neighbouring parish.
6. In total 54 parishes took up the offer and this equated to a total cost of **£3,360** including sundries.

7. This year, in line with the Council's aspiration to double nature, the Council will be offering every parish in the district six free trees to continue this work to increase the tree canopy cover in South Cambridgeshire.
8. This year Parish councils will be offered trees from a single chosen wholesale supplier. This is likely to result in higher quality trees and better value for money as it will be a bulk order; and will also make the scheme easier to administer. The supplier will also offer an after-sales service if any issues arise.
9. Parishes will be given a choice of native trees which can either be pot grown or bare rooted, to order directly through our chosen supplier. As with last year, parishes will again be given the option to choose one larger tree to the same value as the smaller trees where this suits their needs.
10. A procurement exercise is underway to select a supplier. The chosen supplier will deliver the trees directly to the parishes wishing to take up this offer. Delivery arrangements will be agreed by both the parish councils and the supplier at the time of ordering and will be during National Tree week (27 November - 5 December 2021) where possible, otherwise before the end of December 2021.
11. It is expected that parishes will be able to apply for their free trees from September to allow suppliers enough time to source the chosen trees.

Report Author:

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