



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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REPORT TO CLIMATE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

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Date	29th June 2022
Subject	Task 1 – My Tree Promise

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To inform and update Members on the progress of the My Tree Promise task (Task 1)

BACKGROUND

2. The Climate Emergency Committee decided to consider a project that involved giving fruit trees to residents of Todmorden.
3. The trees would be some sort of fruit tree and might be required to be a dwarf variety.
4. Tasks which needed to be considered in this were; -
 - Tree Type
 - Who could have them?
 - How would they get them?
 - What size pot would be required?
 - If funding available from other sources?
 - How do you ensure that it is fair to all residents?
 - What are the costs of this project?
 - How many households would want one?
5. There are many varieties of trees but possible a dwarf apple tree would be the most appropriate and there are several varieties of these and that would influence the pot size.
6. The Town Clerk has contacted two garden centres to date about if they would be interested in partnering on this project with the Town Council and is awaiting a reply.
7. Consideration was previously given to a application process for the trees. The process could include terms such as
 - Must have signed up to the Pledge prior to apply
 - Must be a resident of Todmorden

- Must be over the age of 18
 - Only one tree per household
 - First come first serve basis
 - The tree must be situated within Todmorden and on land which is owned by or control by the applicant (eg Garden)
 - Evidence of a suitable growing area such as a area with some natural light (Picture of location)
 - The tree must not be used to fulfil a landscape condition imposed with any planning permission or enforcement action.
 - An undertaking must be made to look after the tree in the future.
 - If you do not collect your tree in the designated time, the Council reserves the right to re-allocate the tree and you may be liable for the cost of the tree. (If the Council could not arrange set delivery days.)
 - Trees will be delivered on set days, for which the date would be provided in advance (this is based on being able to arrange delivery)
 - The tree should ideally be visible from the road or public footpath/bridleway.
 - Applicants will be required to pick up their allocated tree direct from the plant nursery. (. (If the Council could not arrange set delivery days.)
 - It is the responsibility of the applicant to look after the tree provided.
 - A picture of the tree is provided in its new home that the Council can use for promotional purposes
8. Members have previously mentioned that they could do face-to – face or door knocking to inform people of the project, (Appendix 1 – Mock up of Flyer) a mock up has been created to show Members what can be produced at minimal costs.
 9. Members could then take a bundle and distribute the flyers prior to the application process or during it to inform people of the initiative.
 10. Applications would be managed through the Officers ensuring GDPR Compliance.
 11. Trees sequester carbon, reduce energy usage, remove air pollutants, filter stormwater, and cool hot city streets by providing shade and releasing water vapor.
 12. The mental and physical benefits of trees for residents are numerous. A growing body of evidence links exposure to vegetation with reduced rates of mortality, cardiovascular disease, stress, and depression.
 13. Living in greener areas is associated with higher levels of happiness, cognitive development, and learning outcomes. These benefits are related to a decrease in exposure to air pollution, noise, and heat, increased contact with nature, and strengthened social cohesion.

FINANCIAL

14. There is a budget of £7500 for special projects within the Climate budget. As there are two tasks set it would be fair to assume that it is £3750 per project currently.
15. The costs of the tree/pots/compost/ delivery is still waiting to be confirmed and this would then confirm the number of trees that could be purchased and distributed.

RECOMMENDATION

16. That Members note the progression of this project.
17. That the Climate Officer in conjunction with the Town Clerk come up with a formal application process for the trees that would cover all residents of Todmorden for the next Climate Committee meeting.
18. That the Town Clerk work with the Climate Officer to confirm the costs of the trees and the number the Town Council Would be able to provide.
19. That the applications process be open until the 30th September as tree planting is best between October and April subject to being able to source the trees.
20. That delegated authority for the tree choice be given to the Chair of Climate emergency in conjunction with the Climate Office and Town Clerk after consultation with experts. And it should be a single tree variety that the Council are offering.
21. That final details, Terms and Conditions, application forms be presented to the Climate Committee at the next meeting.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

22. That the project can be taken forward within the current financial year.
23. That there is no discrimination to the residents of Todmorden and the application process is fair.
24. That the project stays within budget.
25. That's all personal data is held within GDPR requirements.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

26. n/a

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION:

27. Climate Committee
28. Two garden Centre to date

CLIMATE CHANGE:

29. The aim of this project is to increase the tree coverage in urban areas. Trees sequester carbon, reduce energy usage, remove air pollutants, filter stormwater, and cool hot city streets by providing shade and releasing water vapor.
30. The more residents who are effectively engaged in this, the higher the probability of reaching regional net-zero targets. It will also cultivate a community-based approach to delivering the most appropriate climate-related action points.

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT

31. The trees would be available to all resident of Todmorden (all rate payers) so not to discriminate those from more or less affluent areas of Todmorden.
32. This further enables local authorities to reach out to a wider audience and beyond those voices they most often or more likely to hear from.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

- Appendix 1 - Mock-up of a flyer which Councillors could distribute to inform people about the applications process
- Appendix 2 – Fact sheet about dwarf fruit trees
- Appendix 3 – Draft, Estimated costs

FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT: Rachael Crane