

# North Yorkshire Council

## Environment Directorate

### Corporate Director

25 September 2023

## Request to Bid for Coronation Living Heritage Fund

### Report of the Assistant Director – Environmental Services and Climate Change

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To request approval from the Director of Environment in consultation with the Assistant Director of Resources to make a bid of up to £50,000 to DEFRA's 'Coronation Living Heritage Fund' for the development of two 'micro' woods in Selby and Tadcaster.
- 1.2 As set out in the Forward Plan, to consider the additional bid for a 'Coronation Community Orchard' on behalf of Selby Town Council of up to £50,000, and if appropriate, to request approval from the Director of Environment in consultation with the Assistant Director of Resources to make a bid of up to £50,000 to the 'Coronation Living Heritage Fund' Community Orchard fund.

#### 2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This Coronation Living Heritage Fund offers capital funding to local authorities for tree planting projects to celebrate the King's coronation and produce a lasting legacy of the next generation of heritage trees. Funding is available for two different types of projects:
- Coronation Miyawaki woods: to plant miniature areas of woodland in urban areas using the Miyawaki method, usually the size of a tennis court.
  - Coronation community orchards grants: to provide grants for local people and groups to establish community orchards.
- 2.2 Between £10,000 and £50,000 is available per local authority for each of the above projects, and each authority may apply for up to two projects.
- 2.3 Applications are made to an online portal by 26 September 2023, 10am.
- 2.4 Planting may take place up to March 2025.

#### 3.0 REPORT

- 3.1 Selby District Council commissioned the Ground Work Trust to survey areas of public land in Selby District for the purpose of tree planting. A review of these surveys has identified two areas suitable for the creation of a coronation micro woods:
- Wighill Park, Parkland Drive, Tadcaster
  - Leeds Road Recreation Ground, Selby
- 3.2 Site plans are in Appendix A. The boundaries shown on the plans are suggested fence lines. The tree planting will be delivered within the fenced areas, but with pedestrian access inside, to allow for maintenance visits, so the actual planting areas smaller than the areas shown on the plans.

- 3.3 The sites have been selected as they are:
- Both sites sit on the edge of housing areas and provide links to wider habitats providing wildlife corridors.
  - They are also not too close to neighbours, so the risk of local opposition is mitigated.
  - There are opportunities to involve local schools and communities in the planting works, recording tree health and growth and longer-term maintenance, over and above the 3-year planned maintenance which forms part of the bid costs.
- 3.4 Proposed costing for both sites (with a breakdown of the costs per site) have been provided by Groundwork Trust including 3 years maintenance. These are in line with the Coronation Living Heritage guidelines. Competitive quotes for all materials costs to ensure value for money at the point of delivery will be sourced.
- 3.4.1 It is not proposed to use plastic tree guards. A rabbit proof fence is proposed in the initial planting stage, but if plastic tree guards are used, they will be collected and recycled at a known scheme.
- 3.5 If successful, it is proposed that the implementation would be procured for external delivery and would include encouragement of local people to volunteer in the planting and onwards maintenance and tree health checks.
- 3.6 It is therefore proposed that a bid for up to £50,000 be made to the Coronation Living Heritage Fund.
- 3.7 Local Authorities may make applications to the Coronation Community Orchard Fund on behalf of community groups or Town and Parish Councils that are not eligible to apply directly. Selby Town Council had indicated that they were at an early stage in developing a Community Orchard project at the Bondgate Woodland in Selby, which is in their ownership. However, further communication has indicated that this is now no longer required. It is therefore not proposed to apply to the Coronation Community Orchard Fund on behalf of Selby Town Council.

## **4.0 CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Selby Town Council and Tadcaster Town Council have been consulted on the proposals and confirmed support to proceed.
- 4.2 Selby Sustainability Partnership have been consulted and confirmed support to proceed.

## **5.0 CONTRIBUTION TO COUNCIL PRIORITIES**

- 5.1 Council Plan: A carbon neutral council
- 5.2 North Yorkshire Council Climate Change Strategy:
- 5(c) Communications and Engagement: Encouraging everyone to take climate responsible choices.
  - 7(f) Capturing and storing carbon
  - 9(e) Sustainable land use and greenspaces
  - (f) tree planting at scale

## **6.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1 Alternative sites were considered from the original tree survey
- 6.2 Not to bid: this was rejected as the funding scheme provides the opportunity for the Council to deliver on multiple objectives.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 This is a bid for a capital grant of up to £50,000 to DEFRA's 'Coronation Living Heritage Fund'. This is an external fund from HM Government DEFRA which does not require match funding from the Council. Ongoing annual maintenance revenue costs are covered by the grant for the first three years but, if successful in the grant application, these would become a cost to NYC after the third year. This is anticipated to be low cost and not more than £500per annum as the prescribed Miyawaki method of establishment results in reduced long term maintenance specification. This ongoing revenue cost can be met from existing budgets within the Parks and Grounds service.
- 7.2 If successful, funding would be provided in November 2023, in advance of project commencement.
- 7.3 Should the grant be offered, 'Grant Acceptance' protocols will be utilised to ensure that the terms and conditions of the grant are acceptable prior to acceptance of the grant.

## **8.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 If the bid is successful, acceptance of the funding may require NYC to enter into a formal grant agreement. Any legal agreement required to be signed, will be reviewed by legal services and if any of the terms and conditions present unacceptable risk for the Council then the grant offer would be declined.

## **9.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no anticipated equalities implications. An Equalities Impact Assessment Screening report as appended in Appendix B. This highlighted the need to improve access for wheelchair users at the Tadcaster site, which has consequently been included in the costings.

## **10.0 CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 A Climate Change Impact Assessment is in Appendix C.

## **11.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 11.0 The recommendations will enable tree planting in Selby and Tadcaster to proceed, providing improved public open space, biodiversity and opportunities for engagement with local people. It provides an opportunity to mark the ascendancy of King Charles III which contributes to civic pride in place.

## **12.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 12.1 To request approval of the Director of Environment in consultation with the Assistant Director - Resources to submit an application bid of up to £50,000 to the 'Coronation Living Heritage Fund' for the development of two 'micro' woods in Selby and Tadcaster.
- 12.2 To not apply or the Coronation Living Heritage Fund Community Orchard Fund.

## **APPENDICES:**

- Appendix A – Site plans  
Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment Screening  
Appendix C – Climate Change Impact Assessment

Jos Holmes  
Climate Change Policy Officer  
County Hall  
Northallerton

Date 20.09.23

Report Author and Presenter – Jos Holmes, Climate Change Policy Officer, Strategy and Performance.

Coronation Living Herigate report, site plans



Wighill Park, Parkland Drive, Tadcaster



Leeds Road Recreation Ground, Selby

<b>Initial equality impact assessment screening form</b>			
This form records an equality screening process to determine the relevance of equality to a proposal, and a decision whether or not a full EIA would be appropriate or proportionate.			
<b>Directorate</b>	Central Services		
<b>Service area</b>	Strategy and Policy		
<b>Proposal being screened</b>	Coronation Living Heritage		
<b>Officer(s) carrying out screening</b>	Jos Holmes		
<b>What are you proposing to do?</b>	Bid to the Coronation Living Heritage fund for tree planting in Selby and Tadcaster		
<b>Why are you proposing this? What are the desired outcomes?</b>	To tackle the causes of climate change and provide a local wooded space within two of North Yorkshire's towns.		
<b>Does the proposal involve a significant commitment or removal of resources?</b> Please give details.	It seeks external funding to implement the projects.		
<b>Impact on people with any of the following protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010, or NYCC's additional agreed characteristics</b>			
As part of this assessment, please consider the following questions:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To what extent is this service used by particular groups of people with protected characteristics?</li> <li>Does the proposal relate to functions that previous consultation has identified as important?</li> <li>Do different groups have different needs or experiences in the area the proposal relates to?</li> </ul>			
<b>If for any characteristic it is considered that there is likely to be an adverse impact or you have ticked 'Don't know/no info available', then a full EIA should be carried out where this is proportionate. You are advised to speak to your <a href="#">Equality rep</a> for advice if you are in any doubt.</b>			
Protected characteristic	Potential for adverse impact		Don't know/No info available
	Yes	No	
Age			
Disability		X	
Sex		X	
Race		X	
Sexual orientation		X	
Gender reassignment		X	
Religion or belief		X	
Pregnancy or maternity		X	
Marriage or civil partnership		X	
People in rural areas		X	
People on a low income		X	
Carer (unpaid family or friend)		X	
Are from the Armed Forces Community		X	
<b>Does the proposal relate to an area where there are known inequalities/probable impacts (e.g. disabled people's access to public transport)? Please give details.</b>	Potentially around access to green spaces for people with reduced mobility (see below)  The proposed sites are accessible by public transport		
<b>Will the proposal have a significant effect on how other organisations operate? (e.g. partners, funding criteria, etc.). Do any of these organisations support people with</b>	No		

<p><b>protected characteristics?</b> Please explain why you have reached this conclusion.</p>			
<p><b>Decision (Please tick one option)</b></p>	<p>EIA not relevant or proportionate</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Continue to full EIA:</p>
<p><b>Reason for decision</b></p>	<p>Since this is not taking away or altering any infrastructure/services then there is no negative impact on people with protected characteristics.</p> <p>It should, however, be noted that the creation of these small woodland spaces should provide a resource for all to experience and enjoy and so access for those with reduced mobility should be addressed.</p> <p>One of the locations (Selby) is to be sited adjacent to an existing pathway and so already has good access.</p> <p>The other site (Tadcaster) is at the far end of an existing open grass area where access would be difficult for people with, for example, wheelchairs or pushchairs. The bid for this site includes provision of new pathway which will rectify this issue.</p> <p>As this report is concerned only with the decision to bid for funding then there is no requirement for a full EIA. A full EIA can be completed on implementation ensure that the various access issues are resolved.</p>		
<p><b>Signed (Assistant Director or equivalent)</b></p>	<p>XX</p>		
<p><b>Date</b></p>	<p>25.09.23</p>		

## Climate change impact assessment

The purpose of this assessment is to help us understand the likely impacts of our decisions on the environment of North Yorkshire and on our aspiration to achieve net carbon neutrality by 2030, or as close to that date as possible. The intention is to mitigate negative effects and identify projects which will have positive effects.

This document should be completed in consultation with the supporting guidance. The final document will be published as part of the decision making process and should be written in Plain English.

If you have any additional queries which are not covered by the guidance please email [beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk)

**Please note: You may not need to undertake this assessment if your proposal will be subject to any of the following:**

Planning Permission  
Environmental Impact Assessment  
Strategic Environmental Assessment

However, you will still need to summarise your findings in the summary section of the form below.

Please contact [beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk](mailto:beyond.carbon@northyorks.gov.uk) for advice.

<b>Title of proposal</b>	Coronation living heritage fund
<b>Brief description of proposal</b>	Request to bid for external funding to plant trees at sites in Selby and Tadcaster.
<b>Directorate</b>	Environment
<b>Service area</b>	Climate Change
<b>Lead officer</b>	Jos Holmes
<b>Names and roles of other people involved in carrying out the impact assessment</b>	Jos Holmes, Climate Change Policy Officer
<b>Date impact assessment started</b>	<b>15.09.23</b>

## Options appraisal



Were any other options considered in trying to achieve the aim of this project? If so, please give brief details and explain why alternative options were not progressed.

A due nothing option was considered. It was felt that NYCC should make every effort to submit EoI for this funding to support the achievement of climate change ambitions and targets in both the NYCC operations and the region as a whole.

**What impact will this proposal have on council budgets? Will it be cost neutral, have increased cost or reduce costs?**

Please explain briefly why this will be the result, detailing estimated savings or costs where this is possible. It will be resource intensive in terms of officer resource, but will not have a capital or revenue implication.

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Minimise <b>greenhouse gas emissions</b> e.g. reducing emissions from travel, increasing energy efficiencies etc.</p>	<p>Emissions from travel</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>		<p>Trees will be sourced from bio secure Yorkshire nurseries to reduce road distance.</p>		
	<p>Emissions from construction</p>	<p><b>X</b></p>		<p>No single use plastic will be used. Labour will be largely human kind, so minimal machinery will be used.</p>		

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation</p>	<p>Positive impact (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p>No impact (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p>Negative impact (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>	
	Emissions from running of buildings		X				
	Emissions from data storage		x				
	Other	x			Tress will act as an additional local sink for Carbon Dioxide.		
Minimise <b>waste</b> : Reduce, reuse, recycle and compost e.g. reducing use of single use plastic		x					
Reduce <b>water</b> consumption		X					
Minimise <b>pollution</b> (including air, land, water, light and noise)	x			Tree planting has a positive impact on air quality			
Ensure <b>resilience</b> to the effects of climate change e.g. reducing flood risk, mitigating effects of drier, hotter summers	x			Tree planting has a positive impact on water storage and run off. It also provides shading of sustained hot periods.			
Enhance <b>conservation</b> and wildlife	X			Treeplanting will improve biodiversity and connect habitats, Varieties will be selected accordingly.			

<p>How will this proposal impact on the environment?</p> <p>N.B. There may be short term negative impact and longer term positive impact. Please include all potential impacts over the lifetime of a project and provide an explanation.</p>	<p><b>Positive impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p><b>No impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p><b>Negative impact</b> (Place a X in the box below where)</p>	<p>Explain why will it have this effect and over what timescale?</p> <p>Where possible/relevant please include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Changes over and above business as usual</li> <li>• Evidence or measurement of effect</li> <li>• Figures for CO<sub>2</sub>e</li> <li>• Links to relevant documents</li> </ul>	<p>Explain how you plan to mitigate any negative impacts.</p>	<p>Explain how you plan to improve any positive outcomes as far as possible.</p>
<p>Safeguard the distinctive characteristics, features and special qualities of <b>North Yorkshire's landscape</b></p>		<p>X</p>				
<p>Other (please state below)</p>	<p>X</p>			<p>The project will enable community engagement with local people around climate change, health wellbeing and education and training issues.</p>		

**Are there any recognised good practice environmental standards in relation to this proposal?** If so, please detail how this proposal meets those standards.

The Coronation Living Heritage Grant provides 'how to' guides with regard to planting and maintenance

**Summary** Summarise the findings of your impact assessment, including impacts, the recommendation in relation to addressing impacts, including any legal advice, and next steps. This summary should be used as part of the report to the decision maker.

This funding programme provides an opportunity to plant areas of micro woodland in urban spaces, with multiple environmental and community benefits.

**Sign off section**

This climate change impact assessment was completed by:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Jos Holmes</b>
<b>Job title</b>	<b>NYC Climate Change Policy Officer</b>
<b>Service area</b>	<b>Policy and Partnerships</b>
<b>Directorate</b>	<b>Central Services</b>
<b>Signature</b>	
<b>Completion date</b>	<b>15.09.23</b>

**Authorised by relevant Assistant Director (signature): XXX**

**Date: XXX**