

Report Title: AMENDED MOTION	
Motion by Councillor J Abbott - Targets for Tree Planting and Community Woodlands in Braintree District	
Report to: Council	
Date: 26 th July 2021	For: Debate
Key Decision: No	Decision Planner Ref No: Not applicable
Motion Presented by:	Councillor J Abbott
Motion Seconded by:	Councillor N Unsworth
Motion Support by:	Councillors Mrs J Beavis, S Hicks, Mrs J Sandum, P Thorogood, T Walsh, Ms M Weeks, B Wright
Enquiries to: Emma Wisbey, Governance and Members Manager	

1. Constitution provisions

Further to the publication of the Agenda, Councillor Abbott and Councillor Unsworth as the Proposer and Secunder of the original Motion have accepted an Amendment to the Motion which was proposed by Councillor Mrs Schmitt and seconded by Councillor Butland.

The Amendment was submitted in accordance with Rule 12:20 of Chapter 2 of the Constitution.

In accepting the Amendment, the amended Motion is the Substantive Motion for debate by Full Council and is set out in section 2 below.

For the avoidance of doubt in accepting the Amendment, there is no need for full Council to debate and vote on the Amendment.

2. Substantive Motion:

Targets for Tree Planting and Community Woodlands in Braintree District

Council notes the multiple benefits of planting trees and public access woodlands - including improved health for residents, habitat and species gain, improved air quality, reduced flooding and combating climate change.

Council also notes the national tree planting project for The Queen's Green Canopy (QGC) which is an initiative created to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022.

Council recognises and welcomes the Essex Forest Initiative being led by Essex County Council which aims to plant 375,000 trees by 2024 with an ambition for a million new trees by 2030 across the county. The Essex Climate Action Commission Interim Report states that “The main driver behind the Initiative is to lock up carbon and offset the carbon produced which is contributing to ongoing climate change”.

Council notes that as part of the county-wide tree planting Initiative, neighbouring authorities of Colchester and Chelmsford have set substantial tree planting targets.

Council therefore agrees that to demonstrate ambition in Braintree District and to support both national efforts and the wider Essex programme of aiming to plant a million new trees, this authority will set specific tree planting targets, which may include new community woodlands where achievable.

Council invites the Climate Change Working Group to develop the details of the targets, for consideration by Full Council.