

<b>Committees:</b> Corporate Projects Board - for decision Open Spaces Committee – for decision Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee – for decision <i>Projects Sub-Committee equivalent</i>	<b>Dates:</b> 06 April 2022 29 April 2022 03 May 2022 <i>May Date tbc</i>
<b>Subject:</b> Cool Streets and Greening Programme: City Greening and Biodiversity Project  <b>Unique Project Identifier:</b> 12332	<b>Gateway 2:</b> <b>Project Proposal</b> Regular
<b>Report of:</b> Executive Director Environment  <b>Report Author:</b> Melanie Charalambous	<b>For Decision</b>
<h1>PUBLIC</h1>	

## Recommendations

<b>1. Next steps and requested decisions</b>	<p><b>Project Description:</b> This project (City Greening and Biodiversity) is part of the Cool Streets and Greening programme which has been approved by committees.</p> <p>This project proposes the introduction of more greenery (trees and planting) in the public realm of the City, including climate-resilient planting, along with measures to enhance biodiversity.</p> <p><b>Next Gateway:</b> Gateway 3/4, along with initial tree planting Gateway 5 report planned for autumn 2022 to enable tree planting to take place in the next planting season.</p> <p><b>Next Steps:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish project team and develop programme and methodology;</li> <li>• Identify opportunities for greening across the City using data from the cubic mile project alongside site assessments and survey work;</li> <li>• Work with colleagues from the City Gardens team to identify deliverables from the City's biodiversity action plan to be included within the project;</li> <li>• Develop proposals for phased implementation across 3 years with initial tree planning taking place in 2022/23 planting season.</li> </ul> <p><b>Funding Source:</b> Cool Streets and Greening Programme (OSPR funded). Total programme cost is £6.8m</p>
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	<p><b>Requested Decisions:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approve the commencement of the project;</li> <li>2. Approve the release of £80,000 from the Cool Streets and Greening programme for staff costs, fees and site investigations to reach the next gateway;</li> <li>3. Note that delivery will be phased across 3 years with an initial Gateway 5 (Chief Officer approved) report in autumn 2022 to enable tree planting to take place in the next planting season;</li> <li>4. Note the total estimated cost of the project at £1.5-2.5m.</li> </ol>																
<p><b>2. Resource requirements to reach next Gateway</b></p>	<table border="1" data-bbox="528 663 1390 1312"> <thead> <tr> <th>Item</th> <th>Reason</th> <th>Funds/ Source of Funding</th> <th>Cost (£)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Staff time</td> <td>Project management &amp; development of proposals</td> <td>OSPR</td> <td>£50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fees and trial holes</td> <td>Technical assessments, including any surveys, trial holes and utility enquiries</td> <td>OSPR</td> <td>£30,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>£80,000</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Costed Risk Provision requested for this Gateway:</b> Not requested at this stage of the project although an un-costed risk register is included with this report in <b>Appendix 2</b>.</p>	Item	Reason	Funds/ Source of Funding	Cost (£)	Staff time	Project management & development of proposals	OSPR	£50,000	Fees and trial holes	Technical assessments, including any surveys, trial holes and utility enquiries	OSPR	£30,000	<b>Total</b>			<b>£80,000</b>
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<p><b>3. Governance arrangements</b></p>	<p><b>Spending Committee:</b> Streets and Walkways Sub-Committee  <b>Senior Responsible Officer:</b> Melanie Charalambous, City Public Realm  <b>Project Board:</b> No</p> <p>This project forms part of the Cool Streets and Greening Programme which has been approved by Committees and includes the delivery of a number of projects.</p> <p>The last programme report was approved in February 2022 and included details of this City Greening and Biodiversity project which is now being formally initiated through this report.</p>																

## Project Summary

<p><b>4. Context</b></p>	<p>4.1 The Cool Streets and Greening Programme was approved by Committees in 2021 as part of the Climate Action Strategy. It is a four-year programme to create resilient streets and open spaces in the Square Mile. Several projects have already been approved as part of this programme and these are set out in Appendix 3.</p> <p>4.2 Natural urban greening measures such as trees, planting beds and vertical greening aid in softening the built environment and have the potential to improve environmental conditions offering shade, pollutant filtration and habitat creation as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. A more varied, species rich natural environment can not only reinforce existing habitats within the City but also provide a natural resilience to future climatic variations and challenges.</p> <p>4.3 The Climate Action Strategy acknowledges that access to green space and nature is linked to improving the health and wellbeing of individuals. There is also significant evidence of the economic benefits of introducing trees and planting into the public realm.</p> <p>4.4 Biodiversity resilience relies on corridors and routes for the movement of insects, birds, and other species. Linking up existing green spaces both within the Square Mile and to the Green Grid beyond the City's boundaries will assist in protecting and enhancing biodiversity.</p> <p>4.5 The Queen's Green Canopy is a tree planting initiative created to mark Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee. The City of London are organising a range of events to plant a number of trees both within the City and our wider Open Spaces, such as Epping Forest and Hampstead Heath. The initiative will see an increase in greening throughout the City in line with the City's Climate Action Strategy and focus on sustainability whilst celebrating the jubilee of the Queen.</p>
<p><b>5. Brief description of project</b></p>	<p>To introduce more trees and planting in the public realm across the City and enhance biodiversity as part of the delivery of the Cool Streets and Greening programme.</p>
<p><b>6. Consequences if project not approved</b></p>	<p>The City's climate is changing. We need to adapt the City's environment to hotter drier summers, warmer wetter winters, sea level rise and more frequent extreme weather events.</p> <p>If this project is not approved, the City would not be able to deliver on its commitment to tackle climate resilience through the Climate Action Strategy. We will miss the opportunity to prepare for the inevitable change in the climate resulting in increased climate risks, higher insurance costs through lack of</p>

	preparedness and higher costs of action.
<b>7. SMART project objectives</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve the Square Mile’s Urban Greening Factor (which provides a quantifiable measure of the overall level and environmental benefit of greening in the City);</li> <li>• To plant a minimum of 100 new trees across the City;</li> <li>• To Increase the amount of climate resilient planting in the City;</li> <li>• To improve opportunities and corridors for biodiversity and deliver on the outcomes of the City’s Biodiversity Action Plan</li> </ul>
<b>8. Key benefits</b>	This project will contribute directly to an increase in the Urban Greening factor for individual sites and for the whole Square Mile and will provide additional benefits to managing overheating and flooding, increasing climate resilience, combatting biodiversity loss and the prevalence of new pests and diseases. The project will also contribute to enhancing the health and wellbeing of the City community and soften the built environment, creating a more pleasant and attractive public realm.
<b>9. Project category</b>	7a. Asset enhancement/improvement (capital)
<b>10. Project priority</b>	A. Essential
<b>11. Notable exclusions</b>	<p>The project will focus on adding trees and greenery and improving biodiversity to streets and spaces within the public realm that are maintained by the City.</p> <p>Private land is not included within the remit of this project.</p>

### Options Appraisal

<b>12. Overview of options</b>	<p>12.1 Options will be developed that focus on maximising the benefits of greenery and biodiversity for the City in accordance with Climate Action Strategy goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>that the Square Mile’s buildings and public spaces and infrastructure are resilient to climate change.</i></li> <li>- <i>Make the Square Mile public realm more climate change ready through adding in more green spaces, urban greening, flood resistant road surfaces, adaptable planting regimes and heat resistant materials.</i></li> </ul> <p>12.2 This will be achieved through:</p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improving the Urban Greening Factor at individual sites and for the Square Mile as a whole;</li> <li>• Capitalising on sites suitable for tree planting as identified through the Cubic Mile project and site assessments/surveys;</li> <li>• Introducing more varied and resilient planting and adapting soils to respond to the changing climate. This will include replacing bedding plants with more resilient planting in some locations;</li> <li>• Creating biodiversity corridors and introducing appropriate trees, plants and habitats to encourage target species. Suitable sites will be identified to focus biodiversity enhancement in the most effective places and contribute to the implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan.</li> </ul> <p>12.3 Options will need to take account of constraints including the prevalence of utilities and basement structures underground. The project will also need to allow for additional maintenance costs to ensure that the new trees and planting areas are established and well looked after.</p>
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### **Project Planning**

<b>13. Delivery period and key dates</b>	<p><b>Overall project:</b> The implementation of the project will be phased over 3 years to maximise the benefits of the tree planting season (October – March).</p> <p><b>Key dates:</b></p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 70%;">Task</th> <th>Date</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Set up project team and develop programme and methodology</td> <td>spring/summer 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Undertake initial site assessments and surveys</td> <td>Summer/autumn 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gateway 5 Phase 1</td> <td>Autumn 2022</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tree planting phase 1</td> <td>Winter 2022/23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Develop further proposals (Phases 2 and 3)</td> <td>Early 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gateway 3/4 Phase 2 and 3</td> <td>Mid 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Implementation Phase 2 and 3</td> <td>2023 - 2024</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Task	Date	Set up project team and develop programme and methodology	spring/summer 2022	Undertake initial site assessments and surveys	Summer/autumn 2022	Gateway 5 Phase 1	Autumn 2022	Tree planting phase 1	Winter 2022/23	Develop further proposals (Phases 2 and 3)	Early 2023	Gateway 3/4 Phase 2 and 3	Mid 2023	Implementation Phase 2 and 3	2023 - 2024
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<b>14. Risk implications</b>	<p><b>Overall project risk:</b> Low</p>																

	<p>An early un-costed risk register has been included with this report in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The main risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planting restrictions as a result of utilities and underground structures; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Mitigation: carry out site assessments and surveys (including assessing existing data) to identify locations for planting and undertake trial holes</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Development sites and other projects impact programme; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Mitigation – coordinate proposals with other projects and construction sites. Phased approach to delivery will assist.</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Objections to proposals from stakeholders or local occupiers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Mitigation – Engage with occupiers and stakeholders at an early stage ahead of confirming planting locations</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>15. Stakeholders and consultees</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local stakeholders, building owners and occupiers;</li> <li>• All required internal stakeholders;</li> <li>• Ward Members;</li> <li>• Relevant groups such as the Friends of City Gardens.</li> </ul>

**Resource Implications**

<p><b>16. Total estimated cost</b></p>	<p><b>Likely cost range (excluding Risk):</b> Between £1.5m and £2.5m</p>									
<p><b>17. Funding strategy</b></p>	<p>All funding fully guaranteed</p>	<p>Internal - Funded wholly by City's own resource</p>								
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<b>18. Investment appraisal</b>	Not applicable
<b>19. Procurement strategy/route to market</b>	<p>Any work to the public highway will be undertaken by the City's highway term contractor. The term contractor has been chosen through a competitive tender process and represents good value for money.</p> <p>Elements of soft landscaping will be undertaken by the City Gardens team.</p> <p>The City's procurement strategy will be adhered to.</p>
<b>20. Legal implications</b>	None
<b>21. Corporate property implications</b>	None
<b>22. Traffic implications</b>	None
<b>23. Sustainability and energy implications</b>	<p>5. The project will achieve best practice/ industry leading standards</p> <p>The project will meet the following Climate Action Strategy Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Square Mile's buildings, public spaces and infrastructure are resilient to climate change</li> <li>• People in the Square Mile and beyond benefit from a clean, green and safe environment</li> </ul> <p>Relevant Climate Action Strategy Action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make the Square Mile public realm more climate change ready through adding in more green spaces, urban greening, flood resistant road surfaces, adaptable planting regimes and heat resistant materials</li> </ul> <p>The Biodiversity Action Plan (2021-26), Tree Strategy SPD (2012) and City Gardens Management Plan are also relevant as well as the Climate resilient planting catalogue that is currently being prepared.</p>
<b>24. IS implications</b>	None.
<b>25. Equality Impact Assessment</b>	An equality impact assessment (EqIA) will be undertaken for this project
<b>26. Data Protection Impact Assessment</b>	not required

## **Appendices**

<b>Appendix 1</b>	Project Briefing
<b>Appendix 2</b>	Risk Register
<b>Appendix 3</b>	Cool Streets and Greening programme funding summary

## **Contact**

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