

Transformation Programme Project Proposal Form



1. Proposal Details

BDC TP Reference	BDC/TP
Project Name	Greenspace management for carbon sequestration, health and wellbeing and ecosystem function.
Project Owner / contact details (Sponsor)	Matthew Connley, Special Projects Officer, Leisure Services
Project Manager and contact details (if different from above)	
Proposal	To diversify the management of urban greenspace by creating a mosaic of alternative habitats, such as pictorial meadows and species rich grasslands alongside amenity grassland to enhance the potential for carbon sequestration, improving biodiversity and to provide improved health and wellbeing for local residents. Such an approach will also provide ecosystem functions such as improved natural drainage.
Date Received	
Transformation Governance Group Consideration Date	18 December 2019
Date Passed to Project Owner	
Date to Complete and Return Form (to Transformation@bolsover.gov.uk)	
Date Completed and Returned by Project Owner	

2. Project Owner Considerations Overview:

What if we do, what if we don't...

Political: Is there political will? What policy factors need to be considered from the various perspectives (National, Regional, Local Govt; Partner Agencies)?	Yes. This idea was generated from the Climate Change Transformation Group and is in line with action B1 (Develop a wild planting policy for parks and public open space areas) in the Bolsover District Council Carbon Reduction Plan 2019-2030.
Economic: Are there financial opportunities or barriers to the proposal's delivery? What is the likely saving?	At this stage it is difficult to estimate the potential financial savings through a reduced maintenance regime. It should be noted that the project's overarching aim isn't necessarily to reduce costs. However, it is anticipate some small savings may be achieved. The initial project should be a pilot project to fully understand the opportunities and potential risks.

<p>Social: Are there benefits to the local community or sectors (e.g. residents, businesses, staff) or likely to be arising concerns? Will the issue be affected by existing or changing demographics? Is any further consultation required?</p>	<p>Yes, enhancing the appearance of marginal, vacant and underused sites would be beneficial for local residents and visitors as well as to wildlife, particularly pollinators.</p> <p>Consultation with local residents will be key in establishing engagement with the project and its benefits.</p> <p>It would be possible to involve community groups in the nomination of sites as well as the development of species rich grasslands and pictorial meadows.</p>
<p>Technological: Are there ICT, logistical or transport solutions or restrictions? Can barriers be overcome?</p>	<p>Possibly, may require additional / different equipment for maintenance if carried out in house.</p> <p>Barriers can be overcome by engaging with partners such as Derbyshire Countryside Service, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust or contractors who have experience of managing similar areas.</p>
<p>Legal: Is the activity required by law? Are there restrictions to what can be achieved? Is Planning Permission or other permissions or licences required?</p>	<p>No. There may be restrictions if planting on land not owned by BDC (e.g. cultivation licences for roadside verges). However, it is suggested that initially the project is only focussed on BDC owned and controlled land.</p>
<p>Environmental: Are there internal or external factors which need to be considered such as, weather, climate, geographical position, climate change, pollution, energy efficiency?</p>	<p>Yes. Weather, climate and geographical location need to be considered as do the current use(s) of individual sites (and adjoining land), e.g. recreational / non-recreational / vacant / road side verges / etc.</p> <p>The main purpose of the project is to increase carbon sequestration and improve biodiversity.</p> <p>However, there are additional ecosystem functions, such as mitigating the impact of high intensity rain events, which will increase as a result of climate change.</p>

3. Need and Approach

<p>Is there a clear Justification of Need?</p>	<p>There is a significant need identified locally nationally and internationally to reduce carbon and increase carbon sequestration. This project has the potential to reduce carbon through reducing the amount of time and frequency of</p>
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	<p>the current mowing regime, and in the process increasing the potential of local greenspace to sequester carbon.</p> <p>This need is identified in the Bolsover District Council Carbon Reduction Plan 2019-2030.</p>
<p>How does the proposal fit with internal/external Strategic Plans (Corporate Plan, Service Plans etc.)?</p>	<p>The proposals aligns with a range of local, national and international climate change and environmental policies , including the Bolsover District Council Carbon Reduction Plan 2019-2030, specifically Theme 7 (Biodiversity).</p>
<p>Are there another options that require investigation?</p>	<p>At this stage this will be considered a potential joint project with NEDDC.</p>

4. Resource Requirements

<p>Financial:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the likely costs? • Is there a funding requirement for further exploration of idea / feasibility study? Is a business plan required? 	<p>The costs of the installation is some way off and feasibility work needs to inform decision making. An initial assessment of 200+ sites across the district suggests that there are 30+ candidate sites that could be enhanced through changes to the current management regime and through the introduction of semi natural grassland and pictorial meadows.</p> <p>In order to progress this proposal further, it is suggested that a feasibility study is undertaken based on a number of trial sites which range in size and character.</p> <p>The study will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community consultation • Site investigation and design • Specialist consultancy • Material and equipment requirements • Sources of seeds (purchased / sourced from local donor sites) • Sources of sterile mulch of BSI PAS 100 compost • Consideration of meadow care and maintenance • Consideration of potential savings from reduced maintenance • Consideration of the issues involved in scaling this up across the district and the identification of suitable sites. <p>It is estimated that the cost of undertaking the feasibility study would be £10,000.</p>
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	Subject to the results of the feasibility study and agreement to proceed with scaling up across the district, there is the potential to secure additional funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund for a larger scale project (up to £250,000). This would, however, require a 5% contribution (up to £12,500).
Assets: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can this be delivered through existing physical/capital resources? • Or, are additional resources required? If so, estimate costs in Financial section. 	<p>No, this can't be funded through Leisure budgets.</p> <p>The project will result in an 'asset' which will require periodic maintenance which may require the use of external contractors or the purchase of additional equipment. However, 'special' or additional maintenance will be avoided where possible.</p>
Staffing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can this be delivered through existing staffing resources? • Or, are additional resources required? If so, estimate costs in Financial section. • Is additional training required? 	<p>The initial design and species selection will be external resource to ensure the design maximises the carbon sequestration and biodiversity for the long term.</p> <p>It is envisaged that the installation and future maintenance can be delivered through existing Streetscene resources.</p> <p>Additional training can be sourced if necessary.</p>
Communication:	Will be key to establish initial 'buy in' from residents and to establish ongoing support for the development of additional site across the district.

5. Conclusions

Recommendation of how to proceed: (Progress; Do not Progress; Investigate Further)	Allocate £10,000 to undertake a feasibility study to fully understand the opportunities and risks associated with this project focusing on a number of pilot sites.
What will be delivered and when? Financial outcomes? Environmental Outcomes? Process improvement? Service improvement? Note: Must be measurable	<p>The creation of a number of semi natural grasslands and pictorial meadows on sites around the district, which are currently owned, managed and maintained by Bolsover District Council.</p> <p>As the initial project is a feasibility study, the direct outcomes will be limited. However, if the project is feasible, affordable and supported by Executive, the project would deliver:</p>

	<p>Improved open spaces through the planting of wildflower mixes to create semi natural grasslands and pictorial meadows that will enhance the appearance of sites and improve biodiversity.</p> <p>The project will also help to meet carbon reduction targets through carbon sequestration.</p>
<p>Implementation: When could activity commence? How long will it take for benefits to be realised?</p>	<p>The feasibility study can commence once budget has been secured and the feasibility work procured.</p> <p>It is anticipated a feasibility report will be available for consideration in April 2020.</p>
<p>Risks: What will be the key risks and mitigation required?</p>	<p>Providing that professional advice is sought and followed, risks will be minimal.</p> <p>Longer term risks (competition from weed species / grass, failure to re-germinate, etc.) can be mitigated by design and adhering to strict maintenance regimes.</p>