

## **Lauder Common Woodland Planting**

**Report by Service Director, Assets & Infrastructure**

---

### **LAUDER COMMON GOOD FUND SUB COMMITTEE**

**31 July 2019**

---

#### **1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report seeks the consent of Lauder Common Good Fund Sub Committee to proceed with the next stage on the Woodland Planting at Lauder Common by instructing a land agent to undertake preparations for grant aid.**
- 1.2 In early 2017 proposals of woodland planting at Lauder Common were first put forward. In order to draw up a final planting design and costings a land agent needs to be appointed. The work the land agent is required to undertake includes drawing up a final planting design, community consultation of the final design and providing an indicative cashflow for the planting scheme.

#### **2 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 I recommend that Lauder Common Good Sub Committee agrees to appoint a land agent to prepare a planting design so that the final proposals can be presented to the community and grant application taken forward.**

### **3 BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In early 2017 proposals of woodland planting at Lauder Common were first put forward. Since then an initial map was prepared showing potential areas for planting attached at Appendix 1.
- 3.2 Public consultation was carried out through the Lauder Community Council and at the community council meeting on 15 April 2019. The feedback from this was mainly positive but highlighted that native species would be preferred. Further responses have been received from the community and these will need to be addressed in the final planting design.
- 3.3 In order to draw up a final planting design and costings a land agent needs to be appointed.
- 3.4 Lauder Common Good would take full responsibility for the planting and maintenance of the woodland should the scheme go ahead. Access would be with agreement from the occupier, Lauderhill Sheep Company.
- 3.5 Once a land agent has been appointed and a planting design confirmed, the final stages of community consultation can be completed and a cashflow produced. These findings would then be brought to the Lauder Common Good for approval so that the grant application could be lodged.

### **4 IMPLICATIONS**

#### **4.1 Financial**

The cost of instructing a land agent, if the proposal goes ahead this will be covered under the grant aid and I expect the cost to be 5% of the final grant aid which will be factored into the cash flow to be provided by the agent.

#### **4.2 Risk and Mitigations**

There is a risk that the grant application could not go ahead if the scheme is not progressed and therefore the agent's fee would need to be paid by Lauder Common Good along with any fees due by the land agent for Lauderhill Sheep Company. I would ask that both the land agent for Lauder Common Good and Lauderhill Sheep Company restrict this first phase of preparation work to £1,500 each.

#### **4.3 Equalities**

No adverse equality implications are envisaged.

#### **4.4 Acting Sustainably**

No significant economic, social or environmental effects are anticipated as a result of the recommendation in this report. Existing reports on archaeological features and wildlife have been considered and will be built into the final planting design. The scheme will assist with fencing off water courses and maintaining water quality.

#### **4.5 Carbon Management**

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions.

#### **4.6 Rural Proofing**

None

#### 4.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made.

### 5 CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and any comments received have been incorporated into the final report.

#### Approved by

**Martin Joyce**  
**Service Director Assets & Infrastructure**

**Signature .....**

#### Author(s)

Name	Designation
Annabelle Scott	Estates Surveyor

#### Background Papers:

**Previous Minute Reference:** Lauder Common Good Fund Sub-Committee, 19 June 2019

**Note** – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Estate Management can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

Contact us at Scottish Borders Council, Council Headquarters, Newtown St Boswells, Melrose, Scottish Borders, TD6 0SA tel 01835 824000 fax 01835 793110 email [estatemanagement@scotborders.gov.uk](mailto:estatemanagement@scotborders.gov.uk)