## ITEM No ...3.....

REPORT TO: FAIR WORK, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INFRASTRUCTURE

**COMMITTEE - 18 AUGUST 2025** 

REPORT ON: NATURE RESTORATION FUND 2025/26

REPORT BY: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

**REPORT NO.** 221-2025

#### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a summary of a sourcing strategy as part of the Nature Restoration Fund 25/26 programme and to seek approval to award the contracts.

#### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that approval be given for the environmental improvements set out below: -

Project Reference and	Contractor(s)	Amount	Fees	Total
Description				Amount
Project No. C250006				
	Construction	£21,600	£750	£22,350
Barnhill Rock Garden Improvement**	Services			
Project No. C250005				
Biodiversity planting across the city**	Neighbourhood Services	£41,890*	£1,500	£43,390

<sup>\*</sup> Figure includes purchase of plants

#### 2.2 It is recommended that the Committee: -

- approves the direct award of Nature Restoration Funds to RSPB Scotland and Eden Project Limited and approves the commencement of an invitation to quote process, leading to the appointment of a contractor for the delivery of a perennial meadow project.
- delegates authority to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to direct award contracts to the named organisations below and award the contract to the top scoring bidder for the perennial meadow project.

Summary of sourcing strategy: -

Project Reference and Project Description	Contractor	Total Amount
Project No. C250008		
_	RSPB Scotland	£35,278
Stobswell Biodiversity Initiative		·
Project No. C250007		
_	Eden Project Limited	£11,482
Bird Boxes in Schools	-	
Project No. C250009		
_	Will be awarded to the	£25,000
Perennial Wildflower Meadow	top scoring bidder	

<sup>\*\*</sup> Projects are not subject to a sourcing strategy

#### 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The Executive Director of Corporate Services has confirmed these costs can be met from the approved Capital Plan 2025-30. The capital costs of £125,000 will be funded in year 2025/26 from the Parks and Open Spaces budget (external funding from Nature Restoration Fund) of the 'Tackle Climate Change' section of the approved plan. The shortall of £12,500 will be met by funds raised by the Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden.
- 3.2 The net revenue cost implications associated with this expenditure will be funded from the Streetscene and Land Management division of the Neighbourhood Services Revenue Budget.

#### 4.0 BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Nature Restoration Fund (NRF) is provided by the Scottish Government to facilitate the delivery of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy and Delivery Plan through sub-national delivery in line with the Edinburgh Process. It aims to catalyse action at scale to protect and restore Scotland's Biodiversity. All proposed projects aim to fulfil the strategic themes of the funding and fulfil objectives in Dundee's Biodiversity Action Plan by enhancing biodiversity across the city.
- 4.2 To ensure the efficient and effective utilisation of NRF resources, officers have engaged with partner organisations already active within the city, namely RSPB Scotland and Eden Project Scotland, who are well-positioned to deliver projects aligned with the fund's themes and criteria. Similar partnership models have been successfully implemented by other Scottish local authorities under this funding stream. The Scottish Government has confirmed that Dundee City Council may allocate funds to partner organisations for the delivery of biodiversity outcomes, provided the specified criteria are met. The proposed projects and outcomes to be delivered are detailed in Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The Nature Restoration Fund projects have been developed in consultation with Community Officers and local groups as appropriate.

#### 5.0 SOURCING STRATEGY SUMMARY

5.1 This Sourcing Strategy seeks approval to progress with appropriate direct awards to specialist suppliers and invitation to quote via Public Contracts Scotland.

#### 6.0 SOURCING STRATEGY RISK ANALYSIS

There are four standard risks in any procurement, and for public sector regulated procurements, a fifth is added, that of the procurement exercise itself breaching the public contract regulations and leaving the Council open to a legal challenge. The overall contract risk for this strategy was considered Low by Procurement.

Description of Risk	Actions to be taken to manage Risk
Commercial Risk - That either the price objectives are not achieved upfront or there are other costs that arise during the contract and diminish the overall benefits.	The Direct Awards are to be made to experienced suppliers for the specialist requirement. A clear specification of requirements will be issued as part of the Invitation to Quote process.
<b>Technical Risk</b> - This concerns the difficulty in being able to specify the desired outcome and on the market being unable to deliver to the specification	The technical specification of all required equipment has been developed in line with the industry standards as well as having warranty against all items.
Performance Risk - This concerns the ability of suppliers to perform consistently over the life of the contract to deliver the planned benefits	RSPB Scotland and Eden Project Limited have proven experience nationally in delivering these types of biodiversity initiatives. For the perennial meadow project, suppliers being selected to provide a quotation, have the professional and technical ability to perform with works.
Contractual Risk - Being able to remedy the shortcomings in the contractor's performance without severely damaging the contract and about avoiding reliance on the contracted supplier as the contract develops.	Regular contract monitoring and management will continue throughout the term of the contract(s). The perennial meadow project will have clearly defined project delivery actions which will be monitored by Environment colleagues.
<b>Procurement Risk</b> - where a procurement is found unsound in law, through the public procurement rules	The contracts do not meet Regulated Procurement thresholds.

#### 6.0 SUMMARY

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve this Sourcing Strategy and award appropriate delegated powers to the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services to proceed.

#### 7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 This report has been subject to the Pre-IIA Screening Tool and does not make any recommendations for change to strategy, policy, procedures, services, or funding and so has not been subject to an Integrated Impact Assessment. An appropriate senior manager has reviewed and agreed with this assessment.

#### 8.0 CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The Council Leadership Team have been consulted on the preparation of this report and agree with its contents.

### 9.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

9.1 None.

Tony Boyle **Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services** 

Date: 15 July 2025

Catherine Conroy Interim Head of Environment

# Appendix 1 Proposed Environmental Improvements

CLIENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES	NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES			
PROJECT NUMBER	C250006	C250005			
	Barnhill Rock Garden Improvement	Biodiversity planting across the city			
	Improvements to the pond area at the Barnhill Rock Garden in partnership with the Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden. Reinstating the water pump features to create water flow through the area, improving oxygenation and reducing stagnant water in warm weather. This will provide a healthy and biodiverse freshwater habitat for the amphibians and other creatures found in the pond.	To facilitate improved connectivity for biodiversity across the city and contribute to the Nature Network, a number of locations will benefit from perennial planting which attract wildlife and particularly pollinators: -  - Covid Memorial Garden (Moncur Cresent) – NRF funding will ensure that all planting in this new public space will be biodiversity inspired, using ornamental plants which are attractive to both wildlife and visitors, providing instant impact through specimen perennial / shrub planting and feature trees; - Western Cemetery / Craigie Street Pocket Park – introduction of attractive perennial ornamental planting which has biodiversity value; - Newhall Gardens – introduction of ornamental and native bulbs which have biodiversity interest.			
ESTIMATED START DATE	October 2025	September 2025			
COMPLETION DATE	December 2025	March 2026			
TOTAL COST	£22,350	£43,390			
FUNDING SOURCE	Capital Plan 2025-30 – Tackle Climate Change and Reach Net Zero by 2045 – Parks & Open Spaces – Nature Restoration Fund – Scottish Government Grant.	Capital Plan 2025-30 – Tackle Climate Change and Reach Net Zero by 2045 – Parks & Open Spaces – Nature Restoration Fund – Scottish Government Grant.			
BUDGET PROVISION & PHASING	2025/2026	2025/2026			
ADDITIONAL FUNDING	Friends of Barnhill Rock Garden £12,500	None			
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS	There are no major issues	There are no major issues			
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	None	None			
TENDER	Contractor Procurement Method Cost	Contractor Procurement Method Cost			
	Construction Direct Award £20,350 Services	J A Jones Direct Award £26,748			
	Non-contract £2,000 Allowances	Neighbourhood Services Direct Award £16,642			
RECOMMENDATION	Acceptance of offer	Acceptance of offer			
SUB-CONTRACTORS	None	None			
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None	None			

#### Sourcing Strategy Proposals

CLIENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES		NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES			
PROJECT NUMBER	C250008		C250007			
	Stobswell Biodiversity Initiative		Bird Boxes in Schools			
	To prevent net habitat loss and, where appropriate, to enhance the distribution and connectivity of habitats, this project will implement a range of practical biodiversity measures. These include the creation of new habitats and wildlife refuges, delivered in collaboration with the local community. The initiatives will be located in communal gardens and green spaces throughout Stobswell and will build upon existing partnerships and previous work undertaken by RSPB Scotland in the area. It is proposed that a direct award be made to RSPB Scotland to deliver this initiative, which exemplifies best practice and has the potential for replication in other wards as additional funding becomes available.		As part of a wider school's initiative, Eden Project Scotland will supply and install bird boxes, ten per school across Dundee, with an additional 100 boxes to be placed in local green spaces, totalling 460 boxes. This project builds on the success of similar initiatives in Highland, Moray, Perthshire, Fife, Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire, the Borders, and East Lothian, and will run concurrently with a similar project in Angus schools. The bird boxes will be constructed in accordance with British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) approved designs, providing nesting and roosting habitats for local bird species in areas where such opportunities are limited. The project will also offer educational benefits for local pupils. Additionally, Eden Project Scotland will supply ten camera traps to be deployed as part of the project, enabling children to observe the use of the boxes by birds and other local willdlife.			
ESTIMATED START DATE	August 2025		September 2025			
COMPLETION DATE	March 2026		March 2026			
TOTAL COST	£35,278		£11,482			
FUNDING SOURCE  BUDGET PROVISION &	Capital Plan 2025-30 – Tackle Climate Change and Reach Net Zero by 2045 – Parks & Open Spaces – Nature Restoration Fund – Scottish Government Grant.  2025/2026		Capital Plan 2025-30 – Tackle Climate Change and Reach Net Zero by 2045 – Parks & Open Spaces – Nature Restoration Fund – Scottish Government Grant.  2025/2026			
PHASING						
ADDITIONAL FUNDING	None		None			
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS	There are no major issues		There are no major issues			
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	None			None		
TENDER	Contractor	Procurement Method	Cost	Contractor	Procurement Method	Cost
	RSPB Scotland	Direct Award	£35,278	Eden Project Limited	Direct Award	£11,482
RECOMMENDATION	Acceptance of offer		Acceptance of offer			
SUB-CONTRACTORS	None		None			
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None		None			

CLIENT	NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES	
PROJECT NUMBER	C250009	
	Perennial Wildflower Meadow	
	To enhance pollinator habitats and improve ecological connectivity along Riverside Drive, a contractor is required to prepare and seed a perennial native wildflower mix across approximately 4,305m² on the northern side of Riverside Drive. The work will involve removing 60 -75mm of turf and seeding with a locally sourced wildflower mix to create suitable habitat for pollinators. It is preferable that the works be completed in autumn 2025.	
ESTIMATED START DATE	October 2025	
COMPLETION DATE	December 2025	
TOTAL COST	£25,000	
FUNDING SOURCE	Capital Plan 2025-30 – Tackle Climate Change and Reach Net Zero by 2045 – Parks & Open Spaces – Nature Restoration Fund – Scottish Government Grant.2025/2026	
BUDGET PROVISION & PHASING		
ADDITIONAL FUNDING	None	
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS	There are no major issues	
POLICY IMPLICATIONS	None	
TENDER	To be tendered	
RECOMMENDATION	Acceptance of offer	
SUB-CONTRACTORS	None	
BACKGROUND PAPERS	None	

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