

## **EX91. Forest Estate Plan – Implementation Update**

The Executive considered a report by the Acting Director of Development Services which provided an update on the progress made with implementation of the Council's Forest Estate Plan.

The Falkirk North and Polmont UWMP had been approved by Scottish Forestry. The other 4 UWMP remained in draft form as previously approved by Executive and would be submitted to Scottish Forestry closer to their projected time of implementation.

Applications were subsequently submitted to the Scottish Government's Forestry Grant Scheme for the Falkirk North UWMP. The following levels of grant were approved:-

- WIG £71,976.87
- SMFG £6,594.50
- FGS Maintenance £2,883.20
- FGS (other) £6,350.80
- Total FGS grant funding £87,805.37

The grant funding was matched with a £45k grant from EB Scotland (Scottish Landfill Communities Fund), £18k of planning obligations and £62k of capital funding to deliver woodland and access improvement works across 7 individual sites (Cobblebrae, Corrie Park, Coo Park, Finlay Russel Park, Camelon Cemetery, the Lade and Carron Dams) with a total value of £213k comprising:-

- Thinning of 16ha of woodland
- Planting of 3089 new trees
- Tree safety surveys carried out on 2.37ha of woodland
- Upgrading of 5706m<sup>2</sup> of path
- Construction of 140m<sup>2</sup> of new paths
- Installation of 20 new signs
- Installation of 7 new benches

Work was ongoing to submit funding applications to FGS and EB Scotland to implement the woodland and access improvement works associated with the Polmont UWMP. Due to the scale of works proposed in the area, amounting to circa £480k, it would be necessary to implement this across 2 financial years (2021/22 & 2022/23) to maximise available funding.

### **Decision**

#### **The Executive:-**

- (1) noted progress on implementing the Council's Forest Estate Plan, and**
- (2) requested that officers continue to monitor funding availability from the Scottish Government's Forestry Grant Scheme and other**

**sources for implementation of further Urban Woodland  
Management Plans.**