

County Council Meeting – 18 May 2023**Question to Councillor Tagg
Cabinet Member for Environment, Infrastructure
and Climate Change****By Councillor Hussain**

Question

Plant trees to make the world a better place. We must do more. Can the Cabinet Member tell us that he would go to whatever length to promote tree planting, particularly after plantation care? Unfortunately, many plants are destroyed within the first few months after being planted. What more would he do to guarantee a long-term tree planting and balanced tree growth?

Reply

The benefits of trees are wide and varied from slowing down flood pressures and ensuring that we enhance biodiversity, the benefits of trees are felt for generations.

As part of our commitment to reduce the Councils carbon emissions, we are exploring where potential lies to plant trees and diversify habitats to sequester carbon dioxide and mitigate some of our carbon footprint.

Over the past couple of years we have planted thousands of native trees on our land.

Whilst tree planting is a hugely beneficial act, we need to be mindful in balancing the various demands on our countryside for the benefit of our communities.

Whenever trees are planted, a balanced and proper maintenance programme should be entered into. However, sometimes unforeseen circumstances such as last years unprecedented heatwave catch even the most experienced land managers out.

With climate change in mind and the increased pressures that our natural environments is under from weather extremes and increased attacks from plant pathogens, diseases, and pests, we need to carefully consider the resilience of any decision we take to plant trees.