



## **The Big Tree Plant Grant Scheme**

### **Frequently Asked Questions – July 2011**

Q Can networks of parishes with Tree Wardens – that are not constituted groups – have Local Authorities act as 'banker'?

A Yes

Q Can a Local Authority 'front up' an application from a Tree Warden Network or other group?

A Local Authorities themselves cannot apply but could be a full partner in a bid, e.g. supporting a Tree Warden co-ordinator in making an application on behalf of a number of Tree Wardens.

Q Will the Terms & Conditions be made available on the website alongside the application form?

A Yes

Q In what circumstances may grant be reclaimed?

A When the group responsible for running the project can reasonably be shown to have failed to deliver significant elements of the project, or to have spent the grant on ineligible items, or to have not spent the grant, or to have been involved in fraudulent activity. We will be reasonable in our approach. For example, we will notify the group of any suspected situation that may lead us to clawback the grant and allow reasonable time for the group to take corrective action.

Q If seedling trees have been grown on, by a Tree Warden for example, can these be used and paid for under grant?

A Yes, though in these circumstances applicants would need to provide assurance that trees would be suitable, i.e. well grown and disease free. Locally grown trees could also help reduce costs.

Q If a landowner changes their mind and decides to do something else with the land, what happens with claw back of grant?

A A letter of support from the landowner is an essential requirement of the application process. The group should minimise the likelihood of the benefits to the local community being lost due to such changes.

Q What liability might there be to the 'banker' e.g. a local authority helping a community group, if grant may be reclaimed?

A The applicant signs the grant offer letter and accepts the Terms and Conditions, not the 'banker'. The applicant is liable for conforming to the conditions of the grant but it may be advisable to agree terms and conditions between the group and the banker.

Q Is £1m per year a strict allocation?

A No.

Q How can street trees be planted in an urban authority (high cost) when average grant needs to be around £4.00/ tree?

A One good way is to identify areas for smaller scale cheaper planting and include as part of one application, thus reducing cost/ tree. Match funding is also an important part of reducing unit costs to the Grant Scheme.

Q If very small groups can't get match funding, how can they participate?

A In special circumstances, grants of 100% can be funded – see application form.

Q Hazel, hawthorn, blackthorn – are these eligible?

A Yes, but hedge planting is not eligible. Where these and similar species are included in applications the grants panel will assess the overall quality and suitability of the planting proposed.

Q Is there an agreed average cost for street tree planting?

A No. We provide a reasonable guide for some situations in our standard costs. These are just a guide and you will need to identify costs specific to your proposals.