

TREE STRATEGY - APPENDIX 1 ACTION PLAN

ACTION PLAN 2009-14

The Action Plan is based around the key aims. Issues arise from consultation, surveying, inspections, peer group interaction. Wider consultation of the first draft will expand the action plan.

Aim A: To enhance the city's natural environment

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
Trees, woodlands and hedgerows influence an area far wider than the land on which they stand. Failure to identify key sites and safeguard or enhance them would have a significant detrimental impact	Agree in general terms frameworks eg woodlands and green corridors, mainly as a planning issue/process. Working groups will consist of LAs/EA/Highways Agency/Forestry Commission/Woodlands Trust etc.	Develop a woodland and green corridor plan in association with adjacent LAs and other landowners Produce a long term structure plan for the retention and enhancement of trees, woodlands and hedgerows in and around the city	POS, Countryside, Planning	Sep 2009	1,6
There is a need to Increase the area of urban woodlands, and links to green corridors. Sites need to be identified to inform the Local Development Framework and plan accordingly	Identify key locations of woodland sites for planning and woodland management purposes	Expanding the total area of urban woodland	POS, Countryside, Planning	Sep 2010	1,6

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Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
Creating suitable conditions to encourage wildlife in the city	Increasing the biodiversity of the tree stock in liaison with wildlife interest bodies	Richer mix of flora and fauna with a more sustainable critical mass. Better partnership links	POS, Countryside, Planning	Ongoing	1,2,3,4,5,6
Planning and funding of future tree planting on a macro and micro scale	Using the information from other projects, identify a master planting plan for trees across the city, and outside the city boundaries	Enable a better-structured means of long term tree provision	POS, Countryside, Planning, Stakeholders	Sep 2010	1
Unplanned approach to tree planting has resulted in poor species mix and age ranges	Commit to a sustained long term programme of tree planting	Planting at least 200 trees of 1.8 m height or greater each year on public owned land Planting 500 small trees each year in new or established woodland areas	POS, Countryside,	Commence Sep 2009	1,2,5,6
Unsuitable regimes and protection of mature and veteran trees	Survey and identify the location of veteran trees and ancient woodlands to comply with (PPG9) Nature Conservation	Actively manage the Council's stock of veteran trees, and identify important trees in private ownership	POS,	Sep 2009	1,2,3,4
Ancillary activities can greatly improve understanding and acceptance of tree issues	Co-ordinate and promote activities such as bird and bat box construction,	Education of younger children of the importance of trees,	POS, Countryside, Stakeholders	Ongoing	1,3,

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	childrens play and tree climbing activities	and the effects of anti social behaviour eg vandalism			
Trees have a large impact on ameliorating the effects of climate change.	Seek opportunities for funding streams for legacy planting, sustainability, carbon footprint benefits	Improved funding to accelerate planting programmes	POS, Countryside, Planning	Ongoing	1,6

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B: To achieve a better coordinated approach to the management of trees, woodlands and hedgerows

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
Disjointed approaches to management	Seek out common ground in management styles to provide uniformity, assist in improving standards, and form tighter networking by the production of a protocol agreed that supports the tree strategy	Overall improvement in management and understanding of requirements	POS, CS, PS Stakeholders	Sep 2010	1,2,6
Access to woodlands as part of a walking or cycling route is restricted for a range of reasons. Due to different approaches to public access and tree management, better understanding of what is possible can open up new opportunities.	Increase the numbers and areas of private and public woodlands giving good quality access to the public, by improving education, marketing and promotion	Increased public involvement and interest, biodiversity and habitats, partnership funding opportunities, vital green corridor links	POS, CS, PS Stakeholders	Sep 2011	1, 2, 3,5,6
Insufficient levels of involvement by Operational managers in Planning Guidance for new developments	Improve liaison and involvement particularly at pre-application stages of proposals.	Retention of important existing or potential tree zones, and	POS CS PS	Sep 2009	1,2,4,6

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Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
		establishment of sustainable planting schemes			
TPO s are an important tool to control and influence tree owners.	Clarify currency of existing TPOs to ensure effectiveness and relevance	Improved management	PS	Sep 2010	1,3,4,6
Partnership benefits – including sponsorship	Investigate additional and non-traditional funding sources	Increased and accelerated planting programmes, greater publicity and stakeholder involvement	POS, CS, Stakeholders	Ongoing	1,6

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C: To improve the overall standard of tree care and create a healthier, safer tree population

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
Limited data is available on the numbers, condition and location of trees on council land	Complete condition survey of all trees in the Council's care Use of asset management database Ability to manage data and hold historical information	Definitive information available to allow a comprehensive management regime.	POS CS	Sep 2009	2,3,4,6
Identification of the condition and importance of specific habitats, veteran trees, biodiversity gaps	Produce site specific woodland management plans, with an emphasis on biodiversity values	Improved management to meet NERC objectives	POS CS PS Stakeholders	Sep 2010	1,2,3,4,6
Management of existing tree stock – improvement methodology, common working practices between partners	Set and publish standards of management for common use by partners	People will be aware of the standards they can expect	POS CS Stakeholders	Sep 2009	2,3,4
Strategic approach to tree care. Many tasks are programmable. Many requests are received for minor work to trees that is not a priority.	Set a 3 yearly rolling programme of work on a ward by ward basis.	Improved cost effectiveness.	POS	Sep 2009	2,3,4

D: To inform and involve local people

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<p>Many people are unaware of the legal obligations of tree owners, the rights they or others have or do not have in relation to tree problems. This generates misconceptions and confusion.</p>	<p>Use of interactive web pages, standard letters and leaflets that will be user friendly.</p>	<p>Provide basic information on standards, rights, obligations in an easily understood and accessible manner</p>	<p>POS, PS, Legal</p>	<p>Sep 2010</p>	<p>1,3,4</p>
<p>Many people express an interest in being more directly and practically involved in tree issues. Very simple measures can have a big impact. Severe damage can be prevented by someone re-tying a tree-tie <i>then</i> informing the owner.</p>	<p>Establish a Voluntary Tree Warden scheme to allow individuals and communities a direct involvement in areas of tree management.</p>	<p>Community based interest in trees fostered and supported</p>	<p>POS</p>	<p>Sep 2009</p>	<p>2,3,4</p>
<p>Links to other national initiatives such as Tree Planting Week, Events and Promotion</p>	<p>Community based activities to coincide with National Tree Week Community workdays or other involvement events and activities Guided themed walks or talks</p>	<p>Community based interest in trees fostered and supported</p>	<p>POS CS Stakeholders</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>2,3,4</p>

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E: To increase the number of street trees in line with the Exeter Vision

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
Public demand for more street trees not being met	Identify and fund street tree planting schemes over a five year period	Improved environment	POS, Stakeholders	2010 - 2015	1,2,3,4,5,
Difficulty and restrictions in establishing street trees	Plan tree stations ahead of road construction, or as part of road improvements	Improved opportunity for planting to succeed	PS, Stakeholders	Ongoing	1,2,4,5,
Limited life span of street trees	Recognise that street trees will require regular attention and replacement before they reach the end of their natural life span	Planned Short-term management	PS, POS, Stakeholders	Ongoing	1,2,3,4,5,
Reactive approach to street tree maintenance	Implement a three year programme of work to trees	More cost effective management	POS, Stakeholders	2009	1,2,3,4,5,