

## APPENDIX 3.2 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

### Tree & Woodlands Strategy Consultation

#### Stakeholder Questions

##### Introduction

Trees and woodlands are an increasingly vital resource in urban areas such as Exeter. In addition to the visual splendour they offer, urban trees and woodland are a prime absorber of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), provide vital habitat for birds, butterflies and fungi, relieve symptoms of modern day life such as stress, and have even been shown to help increase economic prosperity and house prices.

In Exeter trees and woodlands work in conjunction, and sometimes compete, with other space uses, such as housing, roads, schools, commerce, parks and other open spaces. The Council is preparing a new strategy for managing Trees and Woodlands in Exeter. As a stakeholder, you can play an important part in shaping and implementing the strategy.

Opportunities exist for stakeholders to:

- Help design tree and woodland landscapes
- Sponsor tree and woodland planting
- Help plant small trees and woodlands
- Promote good tree care

To this end, we are:

- Seeking your views as to how we can influence the future tree cover of the city; and
- Gauging stakeholders' interest in being involved in changing the city's treescape.

<b>Name of organisation</b>	
<b>Nature of organisation</b>	
<b>Address</b>	

<b>How do you feel about the balance of tree &amp; woodland cover in Exeter?</b>	More trees needed	More woodland needed	More trees and woodland needed	About right	Too much

<b>Would you like to see more tree and woodland cover in your area?</b>	Yes – both	Yes – trees	Yes – woodland	No

## APPENDIX 3.2 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

<b>Would you like to be involved in shaping the future treescape of Exeter?</b>	Yes – design	Yes – sponsor	Yes – planting	Yes – promotion	No

### Street Trees

Street trees are defined as those growing in a footpath or a grass verge. They are often the only “green” presence in some areas. Their proximity to the main emitters of CO<sub>2</sub> in Exeter – vehicles and household boilers – means they are the chief absorbers of CO<sub>2</sub>. In some areas street trees are the only refuge for wildlife.

Perceived disadvantages of street trees include a negative affect on light levels at properties, and conflict with infrastructure such as drainage and walls. These conflicts can usually be managed via careful species choice and pruning regimes.

<b>Are there any street trees in your area?</b>	Yes	No

<b>If yes, do you like them?</b>	Yes	No	Don't know

<b>If no, would you like some street trees for your area?</b>	Yes	No	Don't know

<b>If yes what kind of tree would you like?</b>	Small	Medium	Large

## APPENDIX 3.2 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

### Other comments on tree choice

It can often be difficult to find space or suitable soil in modern footpaths and verges to plant and grow street trees. This is due to the presence of underground services, such as electricity, water, telephone and cable TV, and the lack of soil under the surface. Where street trees are desired in such settings, extra resources are required to improve the soil, move underground services or even build special tree “stations” in the road.

<b>Do you think the Council should spend extra money moving services, improving soil, or building tree pits in the road in order to establish street trees?</b>	Yes	No	Don't know

<b>Would you be interested in helping to financially support such a scheme if it meant street trees could be planted in your area?</b>	Yes	No

In some streets there is simply not the space to plant and grow street trees. In such situations, it may be feasible for the Council to plant trees in adjacent private space, such as a private garden or an industrial unit. Responsibility for and ownership of a tree would always rest with the land owner, although the Council could share planting and maintenance costs.

<b>Would you be interested in working with the Council to plant new trees on your land/premises?</b>	Yes	No

## APPENDIX 3.2 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

### Woodlands

Native broadleaved woodland is a vital and threatened habitat in England. Urban native woodland confers all the benefits already outlined. It can provide an excellent living resource, helping residents to escape the city and connect with nature, and helping schoolchildren to learn about woodland and its inhabitants. There is no significant mature woodland in Exeter, and very little native woodland in the nearby countryside. It is possible for the Council to play a leading role in planting, encouraging the planting, and facilitating the generation of new native woodland in and outside the city.

<b>Do you feel the Council should create new native woodlands in Exeter?</b>	Yes	No	

<b>Are you interested in working with the Council to plant &amp; establish new woodlands?</b>	Yes – sponsor	Yes – plant	No	Don't know

One difficulty in creating significant new woodlands in and around Exeter is the lack of available land. Options available to the Council include acquiring low-value land, such as disused pasture land, or converting sites such as a major park, or leased pasture land, into native broadleaved woodland.

<b>Would you like help to create and establish new woodland on land you own or manage?</b>	Yes	No	Don't know

## APPENDIX 3.2 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

### Education

The Council has the possibility to use some land to provide tree-based educational resources. Examples could include the development of an “edible” woodland, whereby a mixture of native and exotic crop-producing trees are grown for the purpose of educating people about food from trees. Another possibility could be the creation of a traditional working woodland using coppiced and standard trees to produce woodland crops such as chair legs, fence poles, pea sticks, hop poles. Another possibility is to create an orchard of local fruit varieties with the objective of conserving threatened species and educating people.

<b>Are you interested in working with the Council to develop educational woodland?</b>	Yes	No	Need more info

<b>If yes, do you have a preference for the type of woodland you would like to help the Council to develop?</b>	Edible	Working	Orchard	All three

### Sustainability

It is possible for the Council to grow woodlands for bio-fuels, and use this crop to then heat those buildings not yet sufficiently insulated. Such woodlands, although mostly comprising non-native species, could also be a public recreational and educational space.

<b>Are you interested in working with the Council to grow woodlands for bio-fuel?</b>	Yes	No	Need more info

<b>If yes, are you interested in using bio-fuel at your premises?</b>	Yes	No

## APPENDIX 3.2 STAKEHOLDER QUESTIONNAIRE

### Waste

Tree management in urban areas generates considerable “waste” in the form of stems, logs and woodchip. Whilst all woodchip is re-used on our sites, re-use of the stem and logwood is currently minimal, due to the high cost of processing individual trees. Much usable wood is also converted into woodchip. The Council could dry and process tree “waste”, converting into useful by-products such as planks for buildings and path edging, or stakes to support newly planted trees.

<b>Are you interested in working with the Council to converting tree “waste” to usable timber?</b>	Yes	No	Need more info

<b>If yes, are you interested in using the products of tree “waste”</b>	Yes	No	Need more info

### Heritage

Exeter has a rich history of introducing new exotic plants, and breeding many new and unusual plants and varieties. The activities of Exeter’s nationally renowned nurseries such as Veitches and Lucombe & Pines has bequeathed many fine and unusual species of tree, many of which can be seen throughout the city. Examples include the numerous ‘Lucombe’ Oaks and Exeter Elms. These trees are a resource that the Council can play an active role in conserving and promoting.

<b>Would you like to work with the Council to conserve and promote Exeter’s tree heritage?</b>	Yes	No	Don’t know

<b>Would you like to plant some Exeter heritage tree species on your land?</b>	Yes	No