

TREE STRATEGY - APPENDIX 1

ACTION PLAN 2009-14

The Action Plan is based around the key aims, issues arise from consultation, surveying, inspections, peer group interaction.

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 e.g. 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 in appropriate locations	POS, Countryside, Planning	Sep 2010	1,6
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	POS, Countryside	Commence Sep 2009	1,2,5,6

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
		Planting 500 small trees each year in new or established woodland areas	POS, Countryside, Stakeholders		
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, childrens play and tree climbing activities	Education of younger children of the importance of trees, and the effects of anti social behaviour e.g. vandalism	POS, Countryside, Stakeholders, (incl. Community Groups)	Ongoing	1,3,
Trees have a large impact on ameliorating the effects of climate change.	Opportunities for funding streams for legacy planting , sustainability, carbon footprint benefits should be sought and pursued	Improved funding to accelerate planting programmes	POS, Countryside, Planning, Stakeholders, (incl. Community Groups)	Ongoing	1,6

B: To achieve a better co-ordinated 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	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. The Forestry Commission has shown what is possible with the	Increase the numbers and areas of private woodlands giving access to the public,	Increased public involvement and interest, biodiversity and habitats, partnership funding opportunities, vital green corridor links	POS, CS, PS Stakeholders	Sep 2011	1,3,5,6

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
activity trails at Haldon.					
Traditionally commercial forestry and urban parks have completely different approaches to public accessibility and tree management.	Need to rethink education marketing and promotion so users understand the rationale behind different approaches whilst moving to maximising the effectiveness of tree planting, management and harvesting schemes in both	By learning from other practitioners there will be opportunities to improve and change results	POS, CS, PS Stakeholders	Sep 2011	1,2,5
Use of Planning Guidance for new developments	Review/assess effectiveness of existing measures	Easier to retain important existing or potential tree zones	POS CS PS	Sep 2009	1,2,4,6
TPO s are an important tool to control and influence tree owners.	Review existing TPOs to ensure effectiveness and relevance	Improved management	PS	Completed	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

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	Ensure a comprehensive assessment of particular groups or niches	Lead to specific management plans or Best Practice approaches	POS CS PS Stakeholders	Sep 2010	1,2,3,4,6
Management of existing tree stock – improvement methodology, common working practices	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

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
between partners					
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

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
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.	Use of interactive web pages, standard letters and leaflets that are user friendly.	Provide basic information on standards, rights, obligations in an easily understood and accessible manner	POS, PS, Legal	Sep 2010	1,3,4
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.	Establish a Tree Warden scheme	Community based interest in trees fostered and supported	POS	Sep 2009	2,3,4
Links to other national initiatives such as Tree Planting Week, Events and Promotion	Community based activities to coincide with National Tree Week Community workdays or other involvement events and activities Guided themed walks or talks	Community based interest in trees fostered and supported	POS CS Stakeholders	Ongoing	2,3,4

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

Issue	Proposal	Outcome	Lead Officers	Target Date	Objective Ref
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 3 year programme of work to trees	More cost effective management	POS, Stakeholders	2009	1,2,3,4,5,
Public demand for more street trees not being met	Identify and seek to fund street tree planting schemes	Improved environment	POS, Stakeholders	2010	1,2,3,4,5,