



Draft Tree Strategy

Full Council: 30 November 2017

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: all
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1. Purpose of report

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the City's draft Tree Strategy for comments by Full Council prior to its formal adoption.

The consideration of the draft Tree Strategy coincides with National Tree Week 2017, which is from the 25 November to the 03 December, and seeks to celebrate Leicester's proud history of investing in the City's green environment over many decades.

2. Recommendations

Full Council is asked to welcome the contents of the draft Tree Strategy and to make comment, ahead of an Executive Decision to approve its formal adoption as a working policy designed to steer continued focus and investment in this key element of Leicester's green infrastructure.

Members are asked to note that the draft Tree Strategy document will be made available to Members prior to the Full Council meeting. A finalised public version will subsequently be produced which will be available to download from the Council's website.

3. Summary

Leicester benefits from many years of investment in trees as an ongoing recognition of the value which they add to the urban environment, the pleasure they give to the City's diverse population and the contribution they can make to air quality, overall environmental amenity and as a stimulus to economic growth. Throughout the City there are few vantage points from which some element of this green infrastructure is not visible. Whilst this can often be taken for granted, Leicester City Council has long recognised the need for civic leadership in the management and further development of our tree stock and its role in both the urban environment and the quality of life of its people.

This Strategy outlines the means by which the Council will commit itself to ensuring that investment in the maintenance, development and, where appropriate, replacement of our tree stock continues.

This commitment builds on over four decades of the Council working both directly

and in partnership with those investing in the City to protect and develop further this very important aspect of the City's legacy.

Leicester's approach to the management of its green infrastructure is embedded in strong strategic and operational practices. The establishment of a formal tree strategy is therefore a natural step in a well-established direction of travel which has resulted in an area of tree canopy cover which is the equivalent of almost five square miles.

3.1 Strategy Aims

The aim of the Council's Strategy is to sustain and develop further the City's tree stock whilst addressing issues of quality and diversity and encouraging private land owners and investors to do the same.

3.2 Detailed Actions and Monitoring of Progress

The Strategy identifies specific actions that will be undertaken to ensure the aims are met. These cover areas such as new and replacement planting, landscape design, addressing hazards and complaint, recycling, management of planning applications and support and advice to landowners.

Key areas of operation will be monitored as a check on progress towards achieving Strategy aims; including planting success rates, quality sampling of works, training, management of protected tree applications and responses to contraventions of those regulations.

4. Financial implications

4.1 In the context of historic investment and future activity any current budgetary implications with respect to the Council's investment in trees and woodlands is effectively a snapshot in time. However, over the three financial years for the period 2015-2018 the total direct revenue investment by the Council in trees and woodland activity is in the region of £1 Million per year.

5. Legal & Other implications

5.1 The legal and Climate Change implications are considered within the body of the Strategy.

6. Consultations

7. Report author

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