

SUBJECT:	WORK TO TREES IN CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP
REPORT BY:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
LEAD OFFICER	STEVE BIRD – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITIES & STREET SCENE)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To advise Members of the reasons for proposed works to trees in City Council ownership, and to seek consent to progress the works identified.
- 1.2 This list does not represent all the work undertaken to Council trees. It is all the instances where a tree is either identified for removal, or where a tree enjoys some element of protection under planning legislation, and thus formal consent is required.

2. Background

- 2.1 In accordance with the accepted policy, Committee's views are sought in respect of proposed works to trees in City Council ownership, see Appendix A.
- 2.2 The responsibility for the management of any given tree is determined by the ownership responsibilities of the land on which it stands. Trees within this schedule are therefore on land owned by the Council, with management responsibilities distributed according to the purpose of the land.

3. Tree Assessment

- 3.1 All tree cases are brought to this committee only after careful consideration and assessment by the Council's Arboricultural Officer (together with independent advice where considered appropriate).
- 3.2 All relevant Ward Councillors are notified of the proposed works for their respective wards prior to the submission of this report.
- 3.3 Although the Council strives to replace any tree that has to be removed, in some instances it is not possible or desirable to replant a tree in either the exact location or of the same species. In these cases a replacement of an appropriate species is scheduled to be planted in an appropriate location within the vicinity. Tree planting is normally scheduled for the winter months following the removal.

4. Resource Implications

4.1 i) Finance

The costs of any tree works arising from this report will be borne by the existing budgets. There are no other financial implications, capital or revenue.

- 4.2 ii) Staffing N/A
- 4.3 iii) Property/Land/ Accommodation Implications N/A
- 4.4 iv) Procurement

All works arising from this report are undertaken by the Council's grounds maintenance contractor. The contractor was appointed after an extensive competitive tendering exercise, ensuring that staff are all suitably trained, qualified, and experienced. The contract for this work was let in April 2006.

5. Policy Implications

- 5.1 (i) Strategic Priority N/A
- 5.2 (ii) S.17 Crime and Disorder N/A
- 5.3 (iii) Equality and Diversity N/A
- 5.4 (iv) Environmental Sustainability

The Council acknowledges the importance of trees and tree planting to the environment and its biodiversity objectives. Replacement trees are routinely scheduled wherever a tree has to be removed, in-line with Council policy.

- 5.5 (v) Community Engagement/Communication N/A

6. Consultation and Communication

- 6.1 All ward Councillors are informed of proposed works on this schedule, which are within their respective ward boundaries.
- 6.2 The relevant portfolio holders are advised in advance in all instances where, in the judgement of officers, the matters arising within the report are likely to be sensitive or contentious.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 (i) Legal

The City Council has a legal obligation to ensure that trees in Council ownership are maintained in a safe condition. Trees may be protected by the law in certain instances. Situations where this applies are normally in relation to planning legislation covering Conservation Areas, and Tree Preservation Orders. Where there is legal protection for a tree or trees, this is identified clearly in the appendices.

- 7.2 (ii) Contractual

See 4.4 above.

8. Assessment of Options

8.1 (i) Key Issues

The work identified on the attached schedule represents the Arboricultural Officers advice to the Council relevant to the specific situation identified. This is a balance of assessment pertaining to the health of the tree, its environment, and any legal or health and safety concerns. In all instances the protection of the public is taken as paramount. Deviation from the recommendations for any particular situation may carry ramifications. These can be outlined by the Arboricultural Officer pertinent to any specific case.

8.2 (ii) Risk Assessment

Where appropriate, the recommended actions within the schedule have been subject to a formal risk assessment. Failure to act on the recommendations of the Arboricultural Officer could leave the Council open to allegations that it has not acted responsibly in the discharge of its legal responsibilities.

9. Recommendation

9.1 That the works set out in the attached schedules be approved.

Access to Information:

Does the report contain exempt information, which would prejudice the public interest requirement if it was publicised?

No

Key Decision

No

Key Decision Reference No.

N/A

Do the Exempt Information Categories Apply

No

Call In and Urgency: Is the decision one to which Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules apply?

No

List of Background Papers:

Section file

Te 623

Lead Officer:

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**NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED WORK TO TREES AND HEDGES
RELEVANT TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP STATUS.
SCHEDULE No 1 / SCHEDULE DATE: 03/01/18**

Item No	Status e.g. CAC	Specific Location	Tree Species and description / reasons for work / Ward.	Recommendation
1	CAC	Arboretum, Monks Road	<p><u>Abbey Ward</u> 405 trees located within the Arboretum have been surveyed by the council's tree inspector and 22 of those trees were recommended for felling due to the trees exhibiting some of the following symptoms: Crown dieback, fungal decay of main stems or root systems and instability.</p> <p>The 22 trees are located at various locations within the Arboretum and are comprised of: 9 Lime, 3 Sycamore, 1 Poplar, 2 Ash, 1 Maple, 2 Horse Chestnut, 4 Beech.</p> <p>22 equates to approximately 5% of the total number of trees surveyed in the Arboretum.</p>	Approve and replant with the equivalent number of replacement trees as per the Arboretum Management Plan.
2	N/A	Rear garden of 24 Mildenhall Drive.	<p><u>Birchwood Ward</u> 1 Sycamore. Fell to prevent damage to property.</p>	Approve and replant with a Field Maple in a suitable location.
3	N/A	Birchwood Nature Park, adjacent to boundary with 10 Chedburgh Close.	<p><u>Birchwood Ward</u> 6 self-set Alders. Fell, to prevent damage to private property.</p>	Approve and replant with 6 Oaks in a suitable location.

4	CAC	The Lawn, adjacent to the children's play area	<u>Carholme Ward</u> 1 Horse Chestnut. Fell, the tree diseased and nearly dead.	Approve and replant with a Horse Chestnut.
5	N/A	Hartsholme Country Park HCP Car park HCP Camp site HCP Cycle path HCP Lake side HCP Near north-west boundary. HCP Skellingthorpe Road entrance	<u>Hartsholme Ward</u> Fell 1 self-set suppressed Sweet Chestnut. Thin out self-set, suppressed trees including: 3 Sycamores, 3 Norway Maples and 1 Holly. Fell 1 suppressed and leaning Yew. Fell 1 Sycamore in decline. Fell 1 suppressed Elm. Thin out suppressed, self-set trees including: 2 Sycamores, 2 Alders and 2 Willows. Fell 1 suppressed Sweet Chestnut and 1 Corsican Pine. Fell 1 suppressed Ash.	Approve and replant with 6 Beech, 6 Oaks, 6 Sweet Chestnuts and 2 Alders.
6	N/A	Whisby Green Communal Garden Area	<u>Hartsholme Ward</u> 8 small Scots Pine. Fell as part of the garden improvements	Approve and replant with 8 Field Maples in suitable locations.
7	N/A	Boundary of Hykeham Road Allotment to rear of 14 Abbotsford Way.	<u>Witham Ward</u> 1 Lombardy Poplar Fell, to prevent damage to property.	Approve and replant with a Field Maple.