

SUBJECT:	WORK TO TREES IN CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP
DIRECTORATE:	COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT
REPORT AUTHOR:	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 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. However, it may also include trees that stand on land for which the council has management responsibilities under a formal agreement but is not the owner.

3. Tree Assessment

- 3.1 All 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 alternative appropriate location. This is usually in the general locality where this is practical, but where this is not practical, an alternative location elsewhere in the city may be selected. Tree planting is normally scheduled for the winter months following the removal.

4. Consultation and Communication

- 4.1 All ward Councillors are informed of proposed works on this schedule, which are within their respective ward boundaries.
- 4.2 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.

5. Strategic Priorities

5.1 Let's enhance our remarkable place

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

6. Organisational Impacts

6.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

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, unless stated otherwise in the works schedule.

ii) Staffing N/A

iii) Property/Land/ Accommodation Implications N/A

iv) Procurement

All works arising from this report are undertaken by the City Council's grounds maintenance contractor. The Street Cleansing and Grounds Maintenance contract ends August 2020. The staff are all suitably trained, qualified, and experienced.

6.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

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. The contract for this work was let in April 2006.

The Council is compliant with all TPO and Conservation area legislative requirements.

6.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights

There are no negative implications.

7. Risk Implications

- 7.1 The work identified on the attached schedule represents the Arboricultural Officer's 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.
- 7.2 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 City Council open to allegations that it has not acted responsibly in the discharge of its responsibilities.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 That the works set out in the attached schedules be approved.

Is this a key decision? No

Do the exempt information categories apply? No

Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply? No

How many appendices does the report contain? 1

List of Background Papers: None

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**NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED WORK TO TREES AND HEDGES
RELEVANT TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP STATUS.
SCHEDULE No2 / SCHEDULE DATE: 26/02/2020**

Item No	Status e.g. CAC	Specific Location	Tree Species and description / reasons for work / Ward.	Recommendation
1	N/A	15 East Liberty	<u>Abbey Ward</u> 4 x X <i>Cuprocyparis leylandii</i> (Leyland cypress) <u>Fell</u> The trees are in contact with and damaging the adjoining private property boundary; as this species does not regenerate from ripe-wood pruning is an unviable tree management option.	Approve works and replant with native species, in a suitable location.
2	N/A	Rookery Lane – Allenby Road Junction	<u>Abbey Ward</u> 4 x Remnant <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Ash) <u>Retrospective notice</u> These trees were felled in the interest of public safety; surveying resulted in the discovery of weakened branch unions and cavities, which placed each tree at an elevated risk of failure.	Replant with 2x <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> 'Lacinata' (Cut-leaved Alder) and 2 x <i>Betula nigra</i> (River Birch) in a suitable location.
3	N/A	Jasmine Road – Amenity grassland to the rear of number 201	<u>Birchwood Ward</u> 1 x <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan) <u>Retrospective notice</u> This tree was removed as its stem had failed at a height of approximately 1 metre.	Replant a replacement <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan) in a suitable location.

4	N/A	9 Chatterton Avenue	<p><u>Castle Ward</u> 1 x <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> (Purple leaved plum) <u>Fell</u> This tree has significant canopy dieback, is of poor structural form and possesses a decay cavity within lower bole.</p>	<p>Approve works and replant with a <i>Prunus cerasifera</i> (Purple leaved plum) in a suitable location.</p>
5		79 Geneva Avenue	<p><u>Glebe Ward</u> 1 x <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> (Rowan) <u>Fell</u> This tree has a significantly sized open cavity which extends upwards toward a descending column of further decay; this compromises the stability of the entire tree and places it at risk of unpredictable failure.</p>	<p>Approve works and replant with a <i>Sorbus aria</i> (Whitebeam) in a suitable location.</p>
6		Hartsholme Country Park	<p><u>Hartsholme Ward</u> 1X <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> (Beech) <u>Pollard</u> This tree has a large open shear crack which originates from the root collar and extends to a height of over 5 metres; pollarding will allow the retention of this tree whilst also reducing the risk of catastrophic collapse.</p>	<p>Approve works</p>