

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WORK TO TREES IN CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>COMMUNITIES AND ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>STEVE BIRD – ASSISTANT DIRECTOR (COMMUNITIES &amp; STREET SCENE)</b>

## **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 2026. 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

**Lead Officer:** Mr S. Bird,  
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**NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED WORK TO TREES AND HEDGES  
RELEVANT TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP STATUS.  
SCHEDULE No 10 / SCHEDULE DATE: 03/12/2021**

<b>Item No</b>	<b>Status e.g. CAC</b>	<b>Specific Location</b>	<b>Tree Species and description/ reasons for work / Ward.</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
1	N/A	10 Lilac Close	<b><u>Birchwood Ward</u></b> 1 x Rowan <b><u>Fell</u></b> This tree has a significant cavity present at ground level with an associated decay column ascending into the trunk.	Approve works – replant with 1 x replacement Rowan, to be located in close proximity to the original planting.
2	N/A	Sorrel Court	<b><u>Birchwood Ward</u></b> 1 x Rowan <b><u>Fell</u></b> This tree is in heavy decline; most of the upper canopy has been lost due to die-back.	Approve works - replant with 1 x replacement Rowan, to be located in close proximity to the original planting.
3	N/A	49 St Andrews garden	<b><u>Boultham ward</u></b> 1x Sycamore <b><u>Fell</u></b> Tree is leaning heavily over the roof of the property; due to the habit of the tree pruning would be an ineffective way of to abate the nuisance.	Approve works – replant with 1 x Field Maple, to be sited within the amenity grassland located at Rufford Green.
4	N/A	12 Mons Road	<b><u>Castle Ward</u></b> 1 x purple plum <b><u>Fell</u></b> This tree has suffered a partial canopy failure	Approve works – replace with 1 x Red Horse chestnut, to be located within close proximity to the original

			in the past; decay fungi are now present at the base of scaffold branches, placing the tree at a risk of unpredictable failure	planting.
5	N/A	36 a Ruskin Avenue	<b><u>Glebe Ward</u></b> 1 x Plum <b><u>Fell</u></b> This tree has a significant lean and poses a risk of damage to closely situated garden structures.	Approve work - replace with 1 x Silver Birch, to be planted within the amenity grassland located at Ruskin Green.
6	N/A	4 Westminster House – Welton Gardens	<b><u>Minster Ward</u></b> 1 x Thuja <b><u>Retrospective notice</u></b> This tree was located in close proximity to the rear wall of a void council property and risked causing structural damage to the building.	Replace with 1 x Laburnum, to be planted within the amenity grassland located to the front of the property.
7	N/A	59 Turner Avenue	<b><u>Moorland Ward</u></b> 1 x Cherry <b><u>Fell</u></b> This tree has an asymmetrical canopy and is heavily suppressed by an adjacent Maple which will benefit from the cherry trees removal.	Approve works – Replace with 1 x English Oak, to be located within the amenity grassland area located between Turner Avenue and Cotman Road.
8	N/A	80 Westwick Drive	<b><u>Moorland Ward</u></b> 4 x Leyland cypress <b><u>Fell</u></b> These trees are causing damage to the adjoining property boundary; they are also poorly balanced and provide poor amenity value	Approve works – replace with 4 x native species to be located within Boultham Park.

9	N/A	32 Holly Street	<b><u>Witham Ward</u></b> 1 x Ash 1 x Sycamore <b><u>Fell</u></b> These trees are self-set specimens which are located close to the adjoining property boundary	Approve works – Replace with 2 x native species, to be planted in Boultham Park.
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