

<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, Assistant Director (Communities & Street Scene) Telephone 873421

**NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED WORK TO TREES AND HEDGES  
RELEVANT TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP STATUS.  
SCHEDULE No 6 / SCHEDULE DATE: 10 August 2022**

<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	25 Tower Avenue	<b><u>Abbey Ward</u></b> 1 x Leyland cypress <u>Retrospective notice</u> This tree is in close proximity to a City Owned void property.	Approve works and replace with a Bird Cherry; to be located in the amenity grassland area located on Tower Crescent.
2	N/A	29 Rosewood Close	<b><u>Birchwood Ward</u></b> 3 x self-set Ash 4x self-set Elderberry <u>Fell</u> These trees are in close proximity to/and causing direct damage to the adjacent property fence line.	Approve works.
3	N/A	12 Truro Drive – Hospital Plantation to rear of property	<b><u>Birchwood Ward</u></b> 2 x Oak <u>Fell</u> These trees both have a severe lean which directly affects the infrastructure of the adjoining property; removal of vegetation to mitigate the current issue would result in canopy loss of approximately 80%.	Approve works and replant 2 x replacement Oaks, to be located within Melbourne Road open space.
4	N/A	Cycle track between Dixon Street and Altham Terrace	<b><u>Boultham Ward</u></b> 1 x Willow <u>Retrospective notice</u> This tree was removed as it had suffered from	Replace removed tree with 1 x Willow; to be located in the immediate area, at a safe distance from the

			instability; this led to an incident with a cyclist who was severely injured due to an impact with the trunk.	edge of the cycleway.
5	N/A	Boultham Park – Grassland to rear of bandstand	<p><b><u>Boultham Ward</u></b> 1 x Beech <b><u>Retrospective notice</u></b> This tree originally had approval for a 20% reduction to stabilise a weak basal union. During a recent survey, a significant increase in the degree of basal separation was identified. The additional discovery of Phytophthora in close proximity to the base of the union led to the decision to undertake an immediate 50% reduction to reduce the risk of a catastrophic canopy failure.</p>	<p>The remaining canopy will be braced utilising Cobra cable to impart further stability.</p> <p>All substantial reduction points where fracture pruned to mimic natural branch shedding, this process provides enhanced biodiversity opportunities whilst also being a pro-active way to retain a tree which would otherwise require complete removal.</p>
6	N/A	Boultham Park – Amenity grassland opposite front gates	<p><b><u>Boultham Ward</u></b> 1 x Maple <b><u>Retrospective notice</u></b> This tree suffered a partial collapse on the afternoon of the 15<sup>th</sup> of July. The tree was felled as a matter of urgency to prevent further risk to persons or property.</p>	Grind out stump and replace tree with a suitable heavy standard tree; the species to be decided through consultation with BPAG.
7	TPO	3 Acer Court – City owned grassland to rear of property	<p><b><u>Hartsholme Ward</u></b> 1 x Whitebeam <b><u>Fell</u></b> This tree has significant structural defects which place the tree at risk of failure.</p>	Approve works and replant with a replacement Whitebeam; to be located in a more suitable position within the adjacent amenity grassland area.

8	TPO	Fulmar Road – Footpath located between both entrances to Staffordshire Crescent.	<p><b><u>Hartsholme Ward</u></b>  Various Pines, Willows, and Silver Birch  <u>Coppice Willows / Canopy lift Silver Birch and Pines.</u>  Requested work is intended to remove vegetation ingress into the pedestrian footpath.</p>	Approve works.
9	N/A	Ockbrook Court – Newport Cemetery	<p><b><u>Minster Ward</u></b>  1 x Acer  <u>Fell</u>  This tree is causing direct damage to the adjacent brick-built boundary wall; the tree is of such form that pruning cannot be undertaken to mitigate the issue.</p>	Approve works – replant with a replacement Acer to be located at a suitable distance away from the affected wall.
10	N/A	Romney Drive flats – communal grassland area to rear	<p><b><u>Moorland Ward</u></b>  1 x Cherry  1 x Silver Birch  <u>Fell</u>  These trees are in heavy decline and pose a hazard to the adjoining property.</p>	Approve works – replace trees with like and replant at a suitable distance away from the adjoining property.