

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>WORK TO TREES IN CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR OF 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?** One

**List of Background Papers:** None

**Lead Officer:** Steve Bird,  
Assistant Director (Communities & Street Scene)  
[Steve.bird@lincoln.gov.uk](mailto:Steve.bird@lincoln.gov.uk)

**NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED WORK TO TREES AND HEDGES  
RELEVANT TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP STATUS.  
SCHEDULE No 4 / SCHEDULE DATE: 28/06/2023**

<b><i>Item No</i></b>	<b><i>Status e.g., CAC</i></b>	<b><i>Specific Location</i></b>	<b><i>Tree Species and description/ reasons for work / Ward.</i></b>	<b><i>Recommendation</i></b>
1	N/A	Boultham Park – Close proximity to the café	<p><b><u>Boultham Ward</u></b>  1 x Elm  <u>Retrospective notice</u>  This tree has been in decline for a number of years and has recently succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease – the tree was removed due to its close proximity to a frequently used public footpath.</p>	Replace with 1 x Zelkova serrata, to be placed in close proximity to the original planting.
2	N/A	Carholme Golf Course – next to fairway number 1	<p><b><u>Carholme Ward</u></b>  1 x Horse Chestnut  <u>Fell</u>  This tree has recently suffered from major branch failure due to the presence of soft rot fungi; the structural integrity of the tree is therefore compromised and may unpredictably fail.</p>	<p>Approve works.</p> <p>Replace with 1 x Corylus avellana</p>
3	N/A	5 Minting Close – rear garden of council owned property.	<p><b><u>Castle Ward</u></b>  Leyland cypress hedgerow  <u>Fell</u>  The removal of this hedge line has been requested by housing–historic maintenance has led to the creation of a branch framework which is prone to unpredictable collapse during storm events.</p>	<p>Approve works.</p> <p>Replace with 5 x Betula utilis subsp.jacquemontii, to be planted to the front of Amble Close garage site.</p>

4	N/A	5 Woodburn Close	<p><b><u>Castle Ward</u></b></p> <p>1 x Weeping Willow</p> <p><b><u>Fell</u></b></p> <p>This tree is located at the apex of three garden boundaries and is causing considerable damage to adjacent fence lines and hard surfacing.</p>	<p>Approve works.</p> <p>Replace with a Trident Maple, to be planted in a suitable position within grassland located at Clarendon Gardens</p>
5	N/A	Hartsholme Country Park – Eastern corner of lake.	<p><b><u>Hartsholme Ward</u></b></p> <p>1 x Holly</p> <p>1 x hybrid Poplar</p> <p><b><u>Fell</u></b></p> <p>These trees are located in close proximity to the access areas utilised by the Witham Drainage Board to remove accumulated debris from within the lake - Removal is requested to allow the creation of a stable platform on which tracked machinery will be able to operate in a safe manner.</p>	<p>Approve works.</p> <p>Replace trees with 2 x Pinus wallichiana - these trees are intended to replace 2 Bhutan pines within the park which have recently been removed.</p>
6	N/A	16 Marlowe Drive	<p><b><u>Glebe Ward</u></b></p> <p>1 x Cuprocyparis</p> <p>6 x Cupressus</p> <p>1 x Buddleia</p> <p>1 x Cherry</p> <p><b><u>Fell</u></b></p> <p>These trees are located within the back garden of a void property – the rear garden is heavily overgrown and cannot be utilised effectively by potential residents.</p>	<p>Approve works.</p> <p>Plant 9 x replacement native trees within King Georges playing field; these are intended to replace trees which have recently died due to drought stress.</p>

7	TPO	18 Cottesmore Road – footpath to rear	<p><b><u>Hartsholme Ward</u></b></p> <p>1 x English Oak</p> <p><u>Fell</u></p> <p>This is a small diameter tree of poor form which is causing direct damage to the adjoining property boundary – the asymmetrical nature of the tree prevents formative pruning which may otherwise enable the trees retention.</p>	<p>Approve works.</p> <p>Replace with 1 x Bird Cherry, to be located in a suitable position, within grassland to the rear of the property.</p>
---	-----	--	---	--