

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 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:

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**NOTIFICATION OF INTENDED WORK TO TREES AND HEDGES
RELEVANT TO THEIR CITY COUNCIL OWNERSHIP STATUS.
SCHEDULE No 8 / SCHEDULE DATE: 29/11/2023**

<i>Item No</i>	<i>Status e.g. CAC</i>	<i>Specific Location</i>	<i>Tree Species and description/ reasons for work / Ward.</i>	<i>Recommendation</i>
1	N/A	40 Clarendon Gardens Void housing property	<u>Castle Ward</u> 1 x Cupressus macrocarpa <u>Remove</u> This tree has overgrown available space, the tree also exhibits multiple basal unions which place the tree at risk of collapse.	Approve works. Replace with 1 x decorative apple; to be located in grassland to the front of the property.
2	N/A	82 Geneva Avenue – void housing property	<u>Glebe Ward</u> 3 x Sycamore <u>Remove</u> These trees are multistemmed supressed specimens with compromised basal unions which increase the risk of tree failure.	Approve works. Replace with 3 x native tree species; to be located within grassland at King Georges playing field.
3	N/A	80 Geneva Avenue – Housing property	<u>Glebe Ward</u> 5 x Sycamore <u>Remove</u> These trees are all supressed multi-stemmed specimens with compromised basal unions and significant deadwood.	Approve works. Replace with 5 x native tree species; to be located within grassland at King Georges playing field.
4	N/A	80 Geneva Avenue – Housing property	<u>Glebe Ward</u> 2 x Leyland cypress <u>Remove</u> These are unmanaged trees which have outgrown available	Approve works. Replace with 2 x whitebeam; to be located in suitable positions within the

			space within the rear garden of this property. Maintenance to restrict the size of these trees will result in aesthetically poor specimens.	Avenue.
5	N/A	83 Bunkers Hill	<u>Glebe Ward</u> 1 x Lime <u>Staged removal</u> This tree is suspected as being the cause of soil shrinkage which has led to structural movement in the adjacent property.	Approve works. Replace with 1 x Spindle; to be located within grassland to the side of Wolsey Way - Wragby Road junction.
6	N/A	97 Macaulay Drive – Housing property	<u>Glebe Ward</u> 1 x Sycamore <u>Remove</u> This is a multistemmed specimen which has compromised basal unions which places the tree at risk of unpredictable failure.	Approve works. Replace with 1 x Spindle; to be located within grassland to the side of Wolsey Way - Wragby Road junction.
7	N/A	107/109 Swift Gardens – Housing property	<u>Glebe Ward</u> 1 x Tulip tree <u>Remove</u> This tree has been poorly pruned which has resulted in an asymmetrical canopy which places the tree at risk of unpredictable failure.	Approve works. Replace with 1 x Rowan; to be located within grassland to the side of Wolsey Way - Wragby Road junction.