

Appendix A
Draft Cabinet response to recommendations of
the Climate and Environment Panel of the Scrutiny Committee

The document sets out the draft response of the Cabinet Member to recommendations made by the Climate and Environment Panel on 11 June 2024 concerning the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032. The Cabinet is asked to amend and agree a formal response as appropriate.

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Recommendation	Agree?	Comment
1) That the Council makes an explicit commitment within Policy ST8 of the Tree Management Policy 2024-2023 that it will plant replacement trees in the same location as the tree that was felled wherever possible and/or practicable to do so.	Yes	Yes, although it needs to be both possible and practicable, so we propose to remove to “or”, so it would read “wherever possible and practicable to do so”.
2) That the Council ensures clarity within the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032 on why it plants trees in the way that it does – including cross-referencing with other documents to ensure the broad rationale is articulated within the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032 for context.	Yes	Agreed.
3) That the Council, within Policy TP5 of the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032, clarifies its approach to managing conflicts between <u>existing</u> trees and hard surfaces (in addition to its approach to managing conflicts between new trees and hard surfaces), including specific reference to standard proactive methodologies used to address those conflicts.	Yes	Agreed. Where the Council owns existing street trees the assessment of any conflicts with hard surfaces will be picked up proactively as part of cyclical surveying. We will refer to the standards for doing this.

4) That the Council explicitly recognises the need to work in partnership with the County Council and/or Highways on street tree issues and includes a reference to this within the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032.	No	The City Council will always work in partnership with relevant statutory undertakers. However, we need to be clear that this policy is focused on trees within the City Council's ownership, and not trees that the County Council is responsible for. There is a danger that a reference to the County Council would confuse this matter.
5) That the Council contextualises the number of street trees it owns within the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032.	Yes	Agreed.
6) That the Council expands section 6 of the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032 (communication with the public, stakeholders and Members) to set out the Council's commitment to encouraging local residents and groups to come forward with proposals related to tree planting and maintenance and the Council's approach to facilitating and responding to such proposals.	Yes	Agreed.
7) That the Council explores how other local authorities have sought to incentivise, promote and encourage the planting, retention and renewal of trees on private land through their policies, particularly in relation to HMOs and Selective Licensing, to inform future updates to the Council's Urban Forest Strategy.	Yes	Agreed.
8) That the Council explicitly recognises the importance of mature trees within the Tree Management Policy 2024-2032 and highlights the need for the Planning process to be sympathetic to mature and existing trees.	In Part	The policy will be updated to recognise the importance of mature trees. However, it is for planning policy to set out how trees are dealt with through the planning process, not this tree management policy, so this element cannot be agreed.

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