GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE & OPEN ENVIRONMENTS: PREPARING BOROUGH TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGIES

SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING GUIDANCE

FEBRUARY 2013

Forestry Commission

MAYOR OF LONDON

LONDON PLAN 2011
IMPLEMENTATION FRAMEWORK

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This guidance on preparing Tree and Woodland Strategies forms part of the group of supplementary planning guidance (SPG) that covers issues of green infrastructure and the open environment in the London Plan. Currently this SPG is planned to have 4 parts:

A All London Green Grid

B Guidance on Open Space Strategies

C Preparing Tree and Woodland Strategies

D London's Foundations

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Page 12 - Bottom photo - source: Forestry Commission
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Page 24 - Littleheath Woods, source: Matthew Frith

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FOREWORD

My ambition for London is for it to be recognised as among the best cities in the world to live in and enjoy. I also regard it as part of the duty of those of us with responsibility for the city today to make it a better place when we hand it on to those who will follow us. Trees have a huge practical and symbolic importance to achievement of both of these objectives.

Our legacy of trees and woodlands shows the attention to detail our predecessors gave to designing and laying out our city as it grew and changed. They often had little idea of the huge range of environmental benefits trees bring to an urban area, but they did appreciate the way they can soften the impact of the city, gladden the eye and lift the soul. Our trees are an important element of what makes London the unique place it is, contributing to the quality of places that attract people to live, work, study and invest in from across the globe.

Looking after our trees – and realising my ambitious plans for new planting – requires careful management and joint work by landowners, local authorities and others. This supplementary planning guidance gives practical guidance and advice on how these things can be delivered, particularly through the planning system. The close cooperation between the Forestry Commission and my staff in drawing it up is an excellent example of the kind of approach that we need, and I would like to thank the Forestry Commission – and the whole range of bodies and authorities who have contributed to its preparation - for their work.

We now appreciate the range of practical benefits trees and woodlands provide: helping to mitigate and adapt to climate change, improving air quality, supporting local food production and providing shade for humans and habitats for wildlife. We need to value them for the huge contribution they make to the success of our capital, and this means giving them the same kind of attention as we give to pieces of our urban fabric like transport and power infrastructure. There is a hard-edged business case for doing so, as well as aesthetic and green ones.

We should all work together to make the best of the tremendous asset London's urban forest represents; I hope this document helps enable us to do so.

Boris Johnson
Mayor of London


Give way to
oncoming
vehicles

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Trees and woodland form an essential part of London's landscape. This Tree and Woodland Strategy Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG), prepared jointly with the Forestry Commission, gives guidance on the implementation of the London Plan Policy 7.21 to protect, maintain and enhance trees and woodland in London. It also takes forward the guidance in the London Tree and Woodland Framework[1]. This Framework identifies that in order to maximize the benefits that London receives from its trees this resource should be considered as an urban forest. This means that trees will no longer be managed in a fragmented and ad hoc manner but be planned, cared for and protected in a truly co-ordinated way, for the benefit of all. Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies are a key mechanism for achieving this co-ordination.

1.2 The Mayor's Re:Leaf campaign that is involving and empowering local communities and supporting best practice in tree and woodland management will also help to achieve these benefits and lead towards meeting the target of increasing London's tree cover by 5% by 2025.

1.3 The London Plan (published July 2011) highlights that London has continually changed and will continue to need to accommodate its growth. The projections used to underpin the London Plan estimate that by 2031 there will be another 1.2 million people living in London with an additional 776,000 jobs. To accommodate this growth, new development needs to provide people with a high quality environment and one that adapts to the effects of climate change and enhances rather than degrades our landscape or its biodiversity, otherwise further investment, will be deterred. Protecting, managing and enhancing trees and woodland will improve the quality of life for all Londoners.

1.4 Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies will help to achieve this by:

- considering all the trees in a borough as a single unified resource, a conceptual 'urban forest' to help to maximize the benefits
- applying asset management techniques to assess the financial value of trees and woodlands
- extending the concept of the urban forest from a single borough to other neighbouring authorities so that the cumulative beneficial effect on the management and resourcing of London trees will result in an enhanced, protected and sustainable landscape
- enabling boroughs to adopt a consistent policy for looking after all the trees on their own land, as well as, where appropriate, supporting the management of trees that make an important contribution to public amenity on private land
- promoting 'localism' -both opportunities for greater local involvement of people in their local neighbourhoods in expanding/ protecting London's urban forest
- encouraging joined up approaches to tree management through partnerships with managers of private trees in the public realm.

LONDON PLAN POLICY CONTEXT

1.5 The new London Plan, published in July 2011, contains 6 objectives for London, 3 of these are directly relevant to trees and woodland:

- **A city of diverse, strong, secure and accessible neighbourhoods** - a high quality environment for everyone to enjoy must include trees and woodland
- **A city that delights the senses** – making the most of and extending its wealth of open and green spaces and waterways, realising its potential for improving Londoner's health, welfare and development – the delivery of trees and woodland will help to achieve this
- **A city that becomes a world leader in improving the environment** – is concerned with tackling climate change – the provision of trees and woodland as part of urban greening is fundamental to addressing this objective.

1.6 Policy 7.21 of the London Plan promotes the protection of existing trees, the planting of additional trees and the protection and creation of woodland and makes explicit reference to the production of SPG to help implement this policy. In 2012 the Mayor published minor alterations to the London Plan to replace the reference to PPG9 with the appropriate paragraphs of the National Planning Policy Framework. The Mayor is still awaiting the Inspectors report.

POLICY 7.21 TREES AND WOODLANDS

STRATEGIC

A Trees and woodlands should be protected, maintained, and enhanced, following the guidance of the London Tree and Woodland Framework (or any successor strategy). In collaboration with the Forestry Commission the Mayor will produce supplementary guidance on tree strategies to guide each borough's production of a tree strategy covering the audit, protection, planting and management of trees and woodland. This should be linked to the borough's open space strategy.

PLANNING DECISIONS

B Existing trees of value should be retained and any loss as a result of development should be replaced following the principle of 'right place, right tree'. Wherever appropriate, the planting of additional trees should be included in new developments, particularly large-canopied species.

LDF PREPARATION

C Boroughs should follow the advice of PPS 9 to protect 'veteran' trees and ancient woodland where these are not already part of a protected site.

D Boroughs should develop appropriate policies to implement their borough tree strategy.

1.7 Policy 2.18 on Green Infrastructure is also directly relevant as trees and woodland are a key component of green infrastructure and which is described in detail in the All London Green Grid SPG. However, because of the myriad of functions trees and woodland perform there are a number of policies in the London Plan that are relevant and these are signposted through this document.

1.8 In March 2012, the Mayor published an SPG on the All London Green Grid. This is aimed at increasing the provision of green infrastructure in all its forms, not just trees and woodlands. This SPG complements the All London Green Grid SPG in trying to ensure that when trees and woodland are provided they are protected and enhanced. Later in 2013 it is intended to produce draft guidance to help implementation of open space strategies and this guidance will also be complementary to that guidance. This set of documents together form the Mayor's supplementary guidance on green infrastructure and open environments (see diagram 1). This document is also relevant to the overarching Shaping Neighbourhoods SPG that includes guidance on providing for children's play, establishing a sense of place and providing a healthy environment. Trees and woodland are often key elements in addressing such tasks. The climate change adaptation and mitigation benefits of trees will also be addressed in supplementary guidance on sustainable design and construction to be consulted on early in 2013.

IMPLEMENTATION POINT 1:

Boroughs and community forums preparing neighbourhood plans should use their borough tree and woodland strategy, integrated with their open space strategies, as part of the evidence base for their neighbourhood planning.

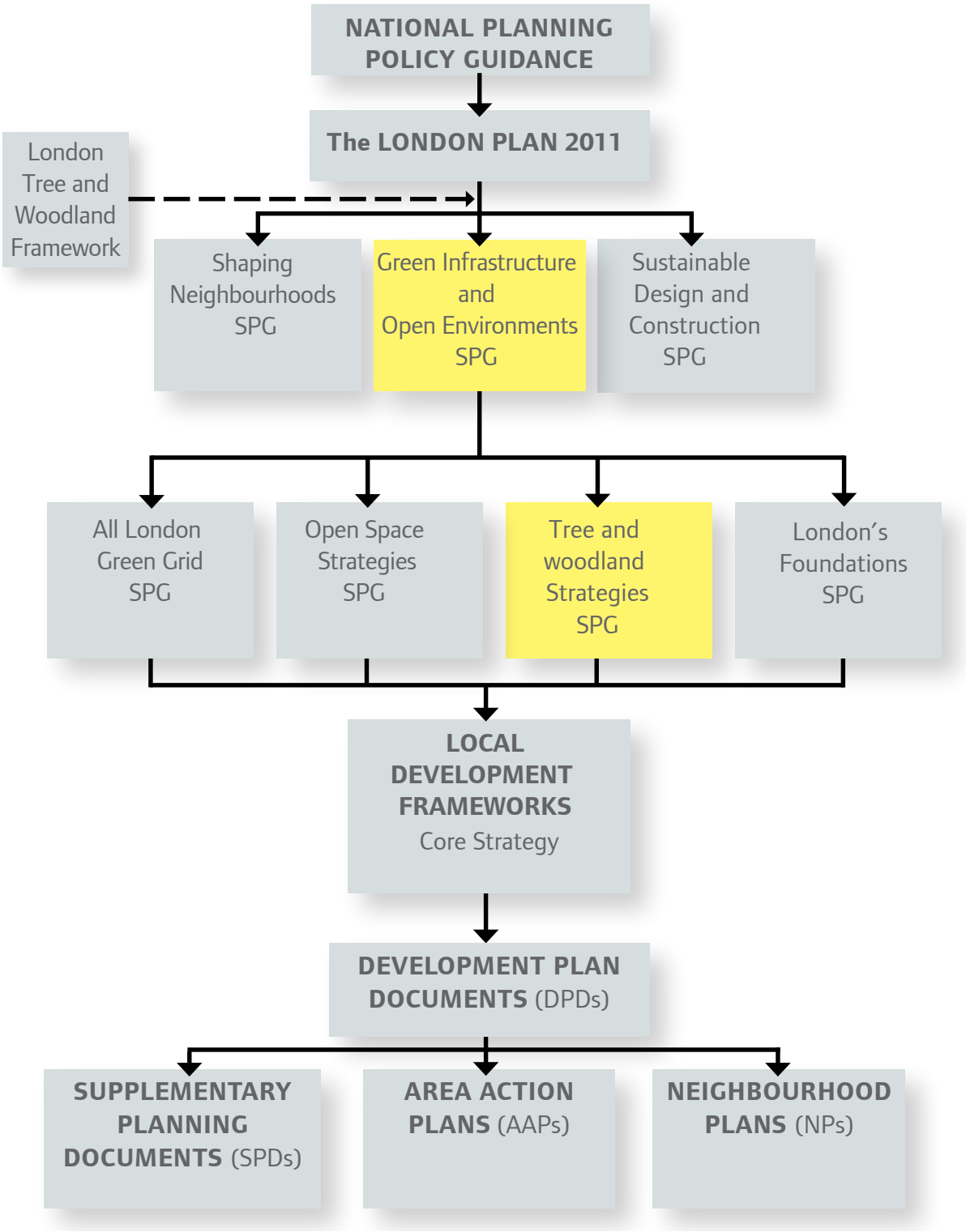


Diagram 1 Planning policy framework for this SPG.

NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

1.9 'The Natural Choice'[2], the first White Paper on the natural environment in 20 years, was published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on 7 June 2011. It sets out plans and proposals to ensure that England's natural environment will be better protected, restored and improved. The proposals set out a detailed programme of action to repair damage done to the environment in the past, and urges everyone to get involved in helping nature to flourish at all levels. With respect to trees and woodlands. 'The Natural Choice' sets out an ambition to "create more opportunities for planting productive and native woodlands; more trees in our towns, cities and villages; and a much larger proportion of existing woodlands brought into active management." in order to "enhance the wide range of benefits that woodlands provide, including renewable energy and timber, new wildlife habitats and green space for people to use and enjoy, helping us to mitigate and adapt to the future changing climate." The proposals set out in 'The Natural Choice' are directly linked to the groundbreaking research in the National Ecosystem Assessment[3] published on 2 June 2011 that showed the strong economic arguments for safeguarding and enhancing the natural environment.

STATUS AND FORMAT OF THIS SPG

1.10 Too often London's trees and woodlands have been viewed in isolation. Viewing them as the one concept of an urban forest so that their relationship to the wider environment is clearly understood and appreciated should lead to better decision-making about tree planting or removal. Such decision-making will be enhanced by recognizing both their contribution to issues such as quality of life and climate change and by establishing their true financial value. Co-ordination of operations and management across borough boundaries as well as with local authorities outside London is extremely important to maximize the benefits from the resource.

1.11 The rest of this guidance sets out the rationale for producing a tree and woodland strategy. Its sets out, in Section 2 some of the quality of life and climate change benefits of a strategic approach and, in Section 3 the ways in which trees and woodlands should be valued through an asset management approach. Section 4 sets out the process by which a tree and woodland strategy can be produced and the components that need to addressed when producing a strategy. Appendices A and B set out a suggested detailed roadmap and process for a strategy.

1.12 This document contains guidance supplementary to London Plan policies. While it does not have the same formal development plan status as these policies, it has been prepared as supplementary planning guidance under the Mayor's powers under the Greater London Authority Act 1999 (as amended), and it will be a material consideration in drawing up development plan documents and taking planning decisions.

CHAPTER TWO

THE RATIONALE FOR A TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

2.1. Trees and woodlands are an essential part of London's character and identity. They provide a backdrop to most people's lives. The importance of street trees should not be underestimated. Often they are the only significant vegetation growing in the most densely developed parts of the city. Unfortunately the social and environmental value provided by trees and woodlands are often only truly appreciated, and the difference is noticed, when a street tree is pruned heavily or a woodland is neglected and becomes uninviting.

2.2. The particular benefits that trees and woodlands provide include:

- enhanced quality of life for people living and working in London through promoting a sense of well-being and health
- increased privacy in residential roads and gardens through screening
- increased local property values, particularly in tree-lined streets
- their historical and cultural importance – many of London's mature trees are contained within ancient woodlands, are relics of old boundary hedges, or are remnants of Georgian or Victorian planting schemes
- linking areas of green space for people and wildlife
- filtering airborne dust and pollution and buffering noise
- providing shading to mitigate the urban heat island effect, particularly in central London
- providing a more pleasant environment for pedestrians and cyclists by reducing temperature extremes at street level.

LONDON PLAN POLICY SIGNPOSTS

Policy 3.2 Improving health and health inequalities

Policy 7.1 Building London's neighbourhoods and communities

Policy 7.4 Local character

Policy 7.5 Public realm

Policy 7.14 Improving air quality

Policy 7.15 Reducing noise and enhancing landscapes

Policy 7.16 Green Belt

Policy 7.18 Protecting local open space and addressing local deficiency

Policy 7.19 Biodiversity and access to nature

2.3. But London's urban forest can be threatened by a variety of different factors. The principal ones being:

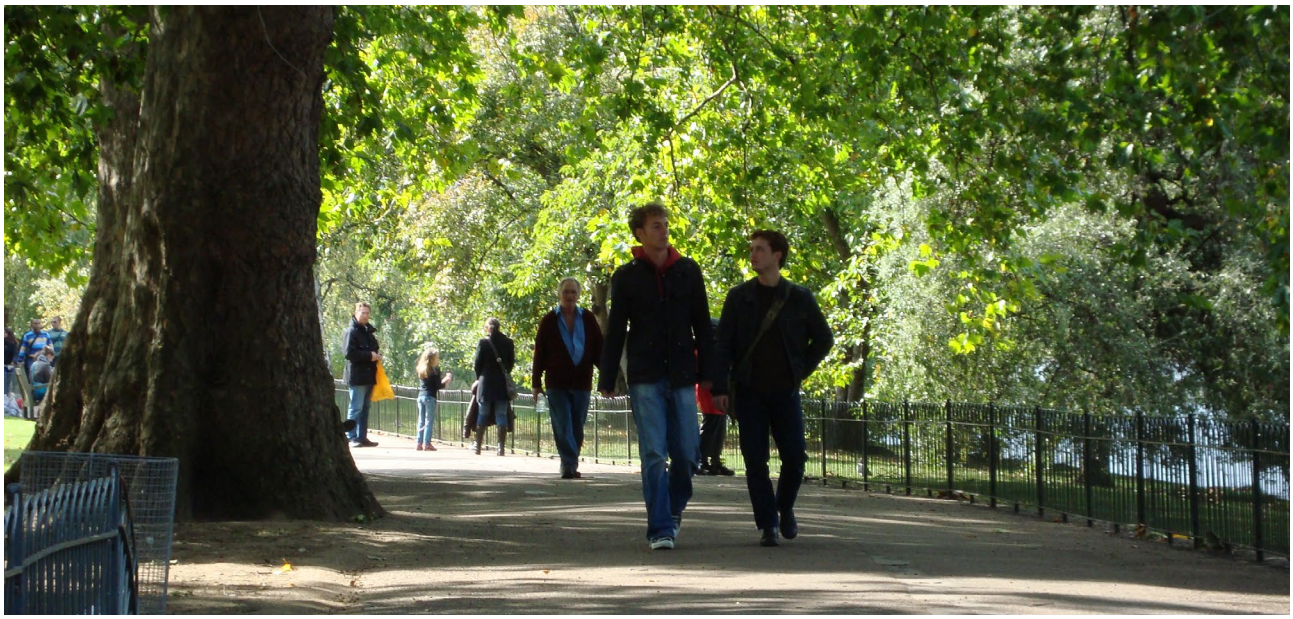
- New development taking place in an increasingly densely developed city without the integration of green infrastructure needed to improve the quality of life for all
- Lack of management and maintenance of an increasingly ageing tree stock and the consequent subsidiary effects relating to building subsidence and other perceived liabilities
- The stresses imposed by climate change, including the emergence of new pests and diseases.

These factors are very often interconnected and frequently amplify the negative impact both on existing trees and also on the type and scale of trees that may be planted. A tree and woodland strategy can set out actions to tackle these issues.

2.4. The complex issues associated with trees in urban areas ranging from duty of care to building damage issues means that tree and woodland issues cannot be adequately covered within an open space or green infrastructure strategy. Therefore a tree and woodland strategy should be seen as distinct from but complementary to these other strategies.

2.5. There have been a number of useful publications dealing with tree strategies and urban forestry[4]. In March 2005 the Mayor of London launched The London Tree and Woodland Framework, produced in partnership with the Forestry Commission. This also recommends local authorities produce a tree and woodland strategy to direct internal decision making processes and to create a coherent framework of policy within which to manage the tree and woodland resource.

2.6. However, few of the tree and woodland strategies so far produced cover all the trees within a local authority's geographical area irrespective of whether they are on public or private land. This SPG has been produced to assist local authorities in the task of producing their own comprehensive tree and woodland strategy, so that any strategy maximizes the benefits trees and woodlands can bring to the residents and businesses of an area. A consistent approach to producing strategies will also enable the co-ordination of work managing the resource across borough boundaries to bring cumulative benefits such as tackling climate change impacts.



IMPLEMENTATION POINT 2

Boroughs should prepare tree and woodland strategies taking into account opportunities for cross boundary integration and promoting opportunities for improving the provision, quality and management of these assets.

These strategies should incorporate the valuation of trees and woodland as a mechanism for identifying the true benefit of these assets to their communities.

The Importance of Climate Change

2.7. Climate Change projections[5] forecast hotter, drier summers - leading to an increase in the urban heat island effect - and warmer, wetter winters - leading to increasing risks of flooding. London experienced a heatwave in 2003 that killed at least 600 people and its impact was exacerbated by the urban heat island effect. Cooling the urban environment through the use of trees (and other green infrastructure), will have important health and social benefits. The ability of trees to intercept heavy rainfall, retain moisture and return water to the atmosphere through evapotranspiration will be increasingly important in helping to reduce surface water run-off.

2.8. In October 2011 the Mayor published his Climate Change Adaptation Strategy -*'Managing risks and increasing resilience'*. It is based on a three-pronged approach, two of which, urban greening and cleaner air, are directly relevant to trees and woodlands. Trees and woodlands will be encouraged for the positive role they play in reducing flood risk and mitigating urban heat island effects. The London Plan seeks to address this issue by promoting urban greening. More guidance will be given on implementing this policy and the part that trees can play in the forthcoming Sustainable Design and Construction SPG.

LONDON PLAN POLICY SIGNPOSTS:

Policy 2.18 Green Infrastructure

Policy 5.3 Sustainable design and construction

Policy 5.9 Overheating and cooling

Policy 5.10 Urban Greening

Policy 5.13 Sustainable drainage

IMPLEMENTATION POINT 3

1.1.1 Boroughs and other partners, particularly in All London Green Grid partnerships, should incorporate the proposals arising from the Tree and Woodland Strategies and their action plans into LDF policies, proposals and projects, working across borough boundaries where appropriate.

CHAPTER THREE

VALUATION & ASSET MANAGEMENT OF TREES AND WOODLANDS

3.1. Traditionally the management of the trees and woodland in urban areas has been viewed solely as a financial cost to the local authority or other urban land managers. This is because, unlike many rural trees and woodlands, the urban forest rarely provides specific products (such as timber, firewood or the setting for sporting activities) with a defined monetary value. While the aestheic benefits of trees and woodlands have for many years been recognised and appreciated the balance sheet has always indicated expenditure with no perceived financial benefits or value. This militates against trees being regarded as strategic financial assets that provide significant benefits for the community and the urban environment and therefore should be allocated the resources, commitment and funding commensurate with their value.

3.2. Significantly, in the urban realm trees are identified as potential liabilities in terms of building and infrastructure damage and the insurance claims these generate. However, the London Tree Officers Association's (LTOA) Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Root Claims[6], advocates undertaking a cost benefit analysis by considering cost of claims for building and infrastructure damage against costs of expenditure.

3.3. The LTOA's analysis highlights that those authorities that followed planned proactive management regimes (for street trees) were able to demonstrate cost savings in the region of 18.5% over those authorities that did not have planned maintenance regimes. Also with a planned management regime based on a tree and woodland strategy, trees implicated in claims that would otherwise have been removed were retained.

3.4. Recent research[7] by the Woodland Trust found that planting areas of woodland into amenity grassland can reduce the cost of maintenance by at least 60%, whilst at the same time creating more productive, interesting and functional green spaces. The study shows that the benefits of woodland in the urban environment are far-reaching, with the potential economic savings just one motive for establishing new areas of woodland on under-utilised green spaces.

An asset management approach

3.5. The principle of creating savings by application of asset management techniques is accepted within the engineering world for maintaining infrastructure but has not been extensively applied to the management of trees in the UK because, until recently, the urban forest has not been properly valued. This is a new area for tree management but one that deserves particular attention due to the importance attached to the urban forest in respect of climate adaptation in urban areas and also the potential for urban trees to incur substantial liabilities if they are not managed and maintained adequately.

3.6. The approach of valuing the tree stock, applying recognised asset management processes together with the results of the cost benefit analysis process will allow local authorities to make financial savings by retaining trees that should be retained and at the same time commit adequate and appropriate resources in the avoidance of future costs through the management of retained trees. This approach is advocated in the London Plan (paragraphs 7.64 and 7.65) and should result in a healthier tree population with a diverse age and species

structure that provides a wide range of benefits and ecosystem services to the communities in which they grow.

3.7. Calculating the total value of the urban forest through a recognised valuation system to inform cost benefit analysis can significantly raise the status of the tree resource in the authority's list of priorities. In asset management terms it is generally deemed appropriate to allocate a management and maintenance budget that is a percentage of the asset's total value. It can also be prudent to maintain the resource efficiently to avoid increased costs associated with lack of maintenance and asset degradation.

3.8. In London the Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees - CAVAT[8] has been identified as a valid valuation system for street tree's and is used by a number of London Borough's and Transport for London in calculating the replacement value of street trees. Using the CAVAT method the average London borough street tree population is valued in excess of £120m. Therefore when added to the asset value of trees in parks and woodlands the total is clearly considerable.

3.9. Applying a structural value to trees and woodlands is only part of the story. A pilot study by Torbay Council to undertake an i-Tree[9] assessment of its trees has produced encouraging results in terms of producing an ecosystem services valuation based on the annualized benefits the tree population of Torbay provides to its residents. Similar projects using the i-Tree methodology. are now being undertaken across the country. The results of an i-tree assessment of the trees within the Victoria Business Improvement District were published in 2012[10].

3.10. These calculations place London's trees on a par with other major infrastructure assets across the capital and highlight the current issues of the funding available for its management while at the same time emphasising how cost effective adequately funded management could be. Such valuations form a significant part of the work of producing a borough Tree and Woodland Strategy.

CHAPTER FOUR

HOW TO PREPARE A TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

4.1. This guidance is not intended to be prescriptive and it is recognised that each local authority may want to approach the production of a tree and woodland strategy in different ways. However, this guidance encourages following a defined modular process to enable consistency of approach where trees and woodlands are located across ownership and administrative boundaries. The process is set out in Appendix A.

4.2. In Stage 1 - Creating a receptive environment for the production of a tree and woodland strategy – a key issue will be the amount of political support for the production of a strategy. It is, however, an opportunity to obtain high level backing for an area of work that will become increasingly important in terms of local environmental quality and climate change adaptation.

4.3. Stage 2 - Collection and desktop analysis of relevant information – is the crucial stage so it is important to:

A identify the physical limiting factors that prevail in the local authority's geographical area that may influence the future planting and management of trees and woodland. This should cover: topography (scale of buildings, roads, rail, urban infrastructure etc); geography (slope, elevation, hydrology-groundwater, rivers, and drainage etc.); geology (urban soil profiles, underlying strata and specific British Geological Survey designations) and ecology (habitats, protected species, etc).

B make a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the current tree and woodland stock within each land use category. If no detailed records are available undertake a statistically valid random sample on each major land use form. This should cover: numbers, species diversity, age classes and designated value of tree stock within specific land use categories[11]. If a detailed survey or sample is not possible take an overview that is representative.

C undertake a desktop collation exercise of the above information and all other data and information on trees and woodlands that is held by the local authority or publicly available. This should identify: overall tree population and its value, estimates of species breakdown, age classes, average tree density per hectare, numbers of trees covered by preservation orders, area covered by conservation areas, size and disposition of woodlands, numbers and general locations of tree related insurance claims, identifying building movement "hotspots" related to geological data. Differentiate clay desiccation related movement from areas where sub-soil data indicates other factors may be involved

D produce an overview of the resource together with brief information on the issues, limitations and opportunities for trees and woodlands within each land use category.

4.4. Stage 3 - Formulation of Policy Aims and Objectives - is necessary in order to ensure the full value of trees and woodland is recognized, including their contribution to mitigating and adapting to climate change, enhancing biodiversity, improving air quality, etc. It is recommended that the following are included:

A sustainable management of the tree and woodland stock through a recognised and verifiable certification scheme. This should be the cornerstone of all policy statements

B valuation of the tree and woodland resource by a recognized system

C policies for all the trees within the authority's geographical area consistent within each land use type whether the trees are on public or private land.

D a statement of intent that the local authority will seek to:

a use its own policies and national guidance to protect trees from unnecessary felling or disfigurement

b increase tree cover by planting more trees than are felled in any one year

c take account of the predicted impacts of climate change to ensure a continuation of large scale canopy cover with a diverse species and age range.

4.5. Stages 4-7 of the process need little elaboration for a London borough that will be familiar with the processes of drafting (Stage 4), consulting and amending (Stage 5), adopting (Stage 6) and implementation, monitoring and reviewing (Stage 7).

Addressing key issues and implementation

4.6. An effective tree and woodland strategy requires a range of issues to be addressed and considered together. These are set out in Appendix B. It is not necessary for all of these issues to be addressed at the outset of developing a tree strategy, although they should all be considered during the process. Depending upon local circumstances some may be dealt with earlier or later than others, or with a lighter touch, so that the staged process detailed ultimately results in a strategy that is representative and tailored to the local area. It is important at an early stage for a range of officers from the local authority to be consulted so that any issues that they have can be considered and addressed through this strategy if appropriate. It is particularly important for officers responsible for a borough's open space and green infrastructure strategies and the planning department to be involved. Consultation at an early stage should also be carried out with neighbouring authorities, as cross border co-ordination can often bring benefits and efficiencies to the process.

4.7. It will be for each individual authority to decide which issues, and within these which elements, it considers are most relevant to get the process started. The depth and detail by which individual boroughs complete each stage may be dependent on resources or timescales. For example, it may also be appropriate to use statistical sampling to achieve a better understanding of the tree and woodland populations rather than waiting for a

comprehensive survey of the borough.

4.8. To bring about the implementation of the tree and woodland strategy an action plan detailing goals and delivery mechanisms is an essential element for directing effort, especially in a time of limited resources. The action plan should make use of prioritisation in delivering its objectives, but in order to be flexible enough to cope with emerging issues and challenges it should be reviewed on an annual basis or on a similar timescale to the action plan implementing the borough's open space strategy.

ENDNOTES

[1] http://www.forestry.gov.uk/pdf/ltwf_full.pdf/$FILE/ltwf_full.pdf

[2] The Natural Choice: securing the value of nature. June 2011. Defra

[3] http://uknea.unep-wcmc.org/

[4] Planning for London's Trees - Guidelines for borough strategies. 1995. London Tree Forum Trees and Woods in Towns and Cities - How to develop local strategies for urban forestry. 1999. National Urban Forestry Unit; Trees in Towns II - A New Survey of Urban Trees in England and their condition and management. 2008. Department for Communities and Local Government.

[5] Mayor of London Climate Change Adaptation Strategy GLA Oct 2011

[6] A Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Root Claims. 2007. London Tree Officers Association

[7] Trees or Turf? Best value in managing urban green spaces. July 2011. Woodland Trust

[8] CAVAT- Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees (Full Method). 2010. London Tree Officers association

[9] www.itreetools.org

[10] http://www.itreetools.org/resources/reports/VictoriaUK_BID_iTree.pdf

[11] These are described in Appendox B para B3

APPENDICES

Stage 1 - Creating a receptive environment for the production of a tree strategy

TASK	Actions Priority:(VH – Very High), (H – High), (M – Medium)	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Seek political support for the tree strategy	Present brief seminar on importance of strategy to manage trees and woodlands to senior councillors/officers - H If required enlist assistance of LTWF Manager – M	Launching start of drive for tree strategy at briefing seminar for Councillor leader, Senior Councillors and Chief Officers.	B24 B25 B5
Appoint a tree champion	Nominate one person from the seminar to be the Council's tree champion - H	Tree Champion appointed and Press release of appointment issued.	
Obtain formal Cabinet level backing for producing a Tree Strategy	Prepare report for submission to Cabinet/ Committee - H. Submit formal request for backing to produce a tree strategy – H.	Formal support for production of tree strategy achieved.	
Set up a tree strategy working group	Hold internal meeting of all Service Areas that own or are responsible for trees – M.	Agree Service Area membership of Tree Strategy Working Group.	
Identify key service area for management, delivery and monitoring of the tree strategy.	Tree strategy working group nominates one service area to manage the process of production, delivery, monitoring and review - H.	Key Service appointed to manage process on behalf of the whole Council.	
Draft an Action Plan for the production process with targets and designated milestones	Key service area drafts an Action Plan for production of tree strategy - H	Tree Strategy Action Plan produced.	

Stage 2 - Collection and desktop analysis of relevant information

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Identify the physical limiting factors in local authority's area that influence the management and future planting of trees and woodlands	Assess geology of area from British Geological Survey sheets - H Assess hydrology, rivers, streams, ground water - M. Assess urban infrastructure and its make up – H.	Obtain British Geological Survey sheet for area. Obtain Environment Agency data on drainage and groundwater. Estimation of scale of urbanisation (%), construction types for properties and number of town centres in area. Estimation of scale of open space within area.	B3 B4 B18 B19 B20
Categorise the various land use forms and map the sub-soil and any geological anomalies beneath them	Differentiate land uses into categories listed in Trees and Towns II – H. Overlay these categories onto BGS map – M.	Map produced showing broad geographical spread of land use categories. Locations of property types and urban infrastructure (major roads, rail, etc) cross-correlated with soil type and geological anomalies.	
Make a qualitative and quantitative assessment of the current tree and woodland stock within each land use category.	Estimate numbers of trees on streets, and the other land use categories together with hectares of open space and woodland - H. Provide estimate of species breakdown (by random sample) within categories - H Estimate numbers of trees within the private domain, front and back gardens etc and provide species breakdown – H. Collate information on veteran trees - M	Figures produced for numbers of trees within the various land use categories. Aggregate figure produced for the total number of trees within the local authority's area. Estimates of species breakdown within these figures produced.	B1 B3 B14

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Make a valuation of the tree and woodland resource	Using a recognised valuation method place a value on the tree resource within each of these land use forms – H.	A value for the trees within each land use category is produced. A total value for the entire urban tree resource is produced. The value of any woodland present is recorded separately.	B2 B5 B6 B7
Identify and assess the other factors that will influence the management and future planting of trees and woodlands	Identify the ecological, biological and landscape assets of the borough – H Identify any pests and diseases prevalent in the area – H	Map produced showing constraints and opportunities	B13 B16 B17
Undertake a desktop collation exercise of the above and other information on trees and woodlands available from the public domain location	Report is produced that identifies overall tree population and its location, its value, estimates of species breakdown, age classes, average tree density per hectare, numbers of trees covered by preservation orders, area covered by conservation areas, size and disposition of woodlands, numbers and general locations of tree related insurance claims etc – H. Where possible this information is allocated to specific land use categories – M. The tree strategy working group considers the report and identifies changes in policy required to achieve improvements and more effective resource allocation - H.	A briefing note detailing information collected is produced for the tree strategy working group. The tree strategy working group produce guidance for the key service on policy direction and priorities for action. A rationale is developed for the effective allocation of resources to be able to achieve the stated goals.	n/a

Stage 3. - Formulation of Policy Aims and Objectives

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Identify existing national and local policy objectives within Local Development Framework, Supplementary Planning Documents and Neighourhood Plans	Policy aims and objectives linked to specific national and local objectives as identified via government and Local Strategic Partnerships – H. LSP and community/friends of groups kept informed of policy developments and how they can assist with providing positive outcomes in relation to delivery - H	LSP acknowledge tree and woodland issues are a key area for delivering better outcomes for residents This recognition is endorsed by inclusion of a tree and woodland priority in the Sustainable Community Strategy	B23 B5
Draft policies for sustainable tree and woodland management	Key service area drafts tree and woodland policy aims and objectives for the local authority's area - H.	Draft policies are submitted to the Tree & Woodland Strategy Working Group for approval.	B6 B7 B8 B9
Draft policies on building subsidence issues and climate change	Key service area drafts policy - V H	Draft policies are submitted to the Tree & Woodland Strategy Working Group for approval.	B18 B19 B20 B21 B22
Draft policies on new tree planting and design, planning and development	Key service areas draft policy – H	Draft policies are submitted to the Tree & Woodland Strategy Working Group for approval.	B10 B11 B12 B18 B20 B21 B23

Stage 4 - Delivery of Tree Strategy document (Drafting)

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Identify priorities for action	Key Service area identifies new priorities for each land use category – H.	Revised Action plan produced based on new policy directives and priorities.	B24 B25
Revision of the tree strategy action plan	Following advice from the TSWG the key service revisits the draft action plan – M.	TSWG approve revised action plan	
Working Group agree layout of strategy, chapters, main headings etc.	TSWG meeting to draw up chapter headings and main content list – M.	Outline plan of strategy complete	
Production of 1st Draft	Individual member of TSWG tasked with producing 1st draft - H.	1st Draft of Tree and Woodland Strategy complete	

Stage 5 - Consultation and amendment

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Distribution of the draft tree strategy to the widest possible audience for comment	TSWG distribute 1st Draft internally within the local authority and to stakeholders and partners externally for comment - H.	Document distributed with deadline for comments and comments received from all parties.	B24
Collation of comments on consultation.	Key service collate and analyse comments received from partners and stakeholders - M Key service produce report on content of responses and implications for policy objectives - H	Briefing report produced on comments received with recommendations for inclusion in strategy	
Consider amendments put forward by process	TSWG consider amendments to policy and content of strategy - M	Amendments to strategy ratified by the TSWG and made to text of document.	

Stage 6 - Formal Adoption of the Tree Strategy

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Ratification at Cabinet or Committee	Report produced for committee asking for ratification of strategy – VH.	Comprehensive Tree & Woodland Strategy adopted as policy	n/a
Publication on the Council's website	Pdf produced of Strategy for publication on website – M.	Strategy launched on authority website	
Integration into other policy documents e.g. Local Development Framework and Neighbourhood Plans	Planning service integrate aims and objectives in tree strategy into LDF and related SPD's by its referencing – H.	LDF has simple policy on trees and woodlands that refers to the Tree & Woodland Strategy by name Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plans identify the Tree and Woodland Strategy as a key internal guidance document where appropriate.	
A summary of the Tree Strategy should be produced as an SPD	Key service drafts Trees and Woodlands SPD summarising main objectives in TWS - H.	Summary of TWS produced as Supplementary Planning Document	

Stage 7 - Implementation, Monitoring and Review

TASK	Actions	Milestones	Issues to address (See Appendix B)
Implementation			
All decisions and actions to manage the tree stock across the local authority are informed and underpinned by the strategy policy statements	Widespread dissemination of TWS within authority so all service areas understand and follow policy drivers – VH.	Heads of Service to distribute to TWS to all staff	n/a
Tree SPD and strategy are referenced during planning inquiries, full planning application appeals and the tree preservation order appeal process.	Hold workshops for planning staff on implementation of TWS - H. Key service available for advice to planning staff on requirements through normal planning consultation process – H.	All planning staff attend workshops. Copy of Trees SPD distributed to all planning staff.	
The strategy is referenced during correspondence on local authority owned tree related subsidence claims	Risk and Insurance managers attend workshops held by key service on implementation of TWS in respect of subsidence claims for public trees – H.	TWS is brought to the attention of insurers and loss adjusters acting against the Council. Documentation and correspondence highlights the need for adequate investigative evidence through reference to the TWS.	
The strategy is referenced during tree preservation order compensation claims	Planning and legal staff with responsibilities for managing tree preservation orders attend workshop on TWS held by key service – H.	TWS is brought to the attention of insurers and loss adjusters acting against the Council. Documentation and correspondence highlights the need for adequate investigative evidence through reference to the TWS.	

Monitoring			
Key service area is designated with carrying forward the strategy across all the council's service areas.	Key service conducts an annual awareness survey following dissemination of the TWS – M.	Report on general awareness of and adherence to TWS policy objectives throughout service areas	n/a
An annual analysis of tree removals and tree planting is undertaken to reconcile the numbers and types of species felled with the numbers and types of species planted across the land use types	Key service collects and collates data from relevant services on tree removal and planting statistics – M. Key service produces combined report, on trends, condition, age class, species distribution and value of stock across the land use types – M.	Annual Tree Population Condition report produced that differentiates statistics into land use types and highlights trends in tree removal and planting programmes.	
Undertake a detailed analysis of the monitoring information.	Key service makes recommendations based on the results of the awareness survey and Annual Tree Population Condition report – H.	Recommendations ratified by Cabinet or relevant Committee.	n/a
Identify obstacles and barriers to implementation and delivery of the policy contained within the tree strategy.	Key service identifies barriers to achieving aims and objectives – M. Key service reports to TSWG giving recommendations to overcome barriers – M.	Barriers to achievement of policy are highlighted so that relevant service are engaged and barriers removed and achievement of policy objectives continues.	

Acronyms:

LTWF London Tree and Woodland Framework
TSWG Tree Strategy Working Group
LSP Local Strategic Partnership
CAA Comprehensive Area Assessment
TWS Tree & Woodland Strategy
GIGL Greenspace Information for Greater London

APPENDIX B - ISSUES FOR A TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY

Assessment of Current Tree stock

B1 The ideal starting point for producing a tree strategy is the ability to quantify and understand the mix and make up of the tree stock within the boundaries of the area it will cover. Without this information, even in a basic form, it is difficult to create a coherent policy and subsequent action plan that adequately addresses the proposed aims and stated objectives in a strategy. A Borough needs to know what it has before it can begin to plan for where it wants to be in terms of tree and woodland management. A full survey is not always necessary and an overview or random sample is sufficient to start the process.

Valuation and Asset Management of Current Tree Stock

B2 Increasingly, the ability to value a borough's tree stock has been shown to provide tangible benefits in terms of allocation of resources and providing the basis for following an asset management approach to securing better tree care and woodland management. The lack of value ascribed to the tree and woodland resource has traditionally been the stumbling block for many boroughs in producing a tree strategy, as without it the resource has no perceived value, only a cost. The view that trees and woodlands are only a cost to local authorities has prevailed for many years. This has in many instances militated against sufficient resources being allocated to manage them as a strategic financial asset, thereby securing the full range of benefits and ecosystem services they provide. The London Plan recommends the use of CAVAT and I-Trees.

Geographical Assessment

B3 The strategy should cover all trees within the borough's geographical boundary, whether these are on public or private land. It should also cover the full spectrum of the treescape from individual street and garden trees to stands of trees in parks and, if present, woodlands. Included within this approach should be an overview of the topographical conditions that exist in terms of opportunities as well as constraints and the implications for the tree resource planted amongst the different land use types.

The six major land use types identified in Trees in Towns II are:

Low Density Residential Areas (LDR)
Medium Density Residential Areas (MDR)
High Density Residential Areas (HDR)
Town Centres and Commerial Areas.
Industrial Areas
Open Space (including four sub-categories).

Geological Assessment

B4 The strategy should acknowledge and identify the geological strata and sub-surface soil conditions that exist to create the complexities associated with trees planted in urban soil types and adjacent to different geological formations and urban infrastructure. London's Foundations[1] provides a useful summary.

Benefits of Trees and Woodlands

B5 The strategy should highlight the social, economic and environmental benefits that trees and woodlands bring to an area and the positive improvements for residents that flow from these benefits, in particular in regard to their health and well being. The relatively new initiative of valuing the ecosystem services and the other benefits that trees and woodlands bring to an area is extremely important. This concept of valuing trees in a borough is based on sound research and should be included in the strategy to give context, direction and support to the decision making process.

Sustainable Tree and Woodland Management (Certification)

B6 It is becoming more and more important that local authorities are able to demonstrate that their activities are being conducted in a verifiably sustainable manner. They should give serious consideration to balancing the negative impact of their activities in terms of contributing to climate change, with the benefits they bring to the community.

B7 Modern asset management of a unified tree stock following established principles of urban forestry lends itself to the achievement of these goals and no tree and woodland strategy is complete without acknowledging the importance of sustainable management in assisting boroughs to meet and exceed government's expectations in this respect.

B8 There are a number of verifiable standards of Certification for sustainable management of trees and woodlands (Forest Stewardship Council-FSC and United Kingdom Woodland Assurance Standard- UKWAS), that when complied with allow the local authority to demonstrate a serious commitment to sustainable management. In certain instances by undertaking the process that leads to Certification the local authority can also place itself into the position of being eligible for Forestry Commission grant aid that it may not otherwise have been able to access.

B9 Boroughs can also make this aspect of their work considerably more effective by working in partnership with their immediate neighbours on such initiatives as woodfuel hubs and woodchip fuel supply chains that utilize product from arboricultural arisings as well as from local woodland management. Critical to this will be local authorities maximizing their potential by taking advantage of ready access to a carbon neutral fuel source by actively supporting the introduction of appropriate woodfuel boilers in building premises such as schools and other local authority facilities.

Tree Planting

B10 The planting of trees on land under local authority control and the advice given to private landowners and residents about tree planting is crucial to the success of any tree strategy as it naturally influences long term issues such as species diversity, longevity and succession of the tree stock. It has also become particularly important in the challenge of adapting to climate change and ensuring that decisions taken on species selection, location etc. are climate change resilient as well as making a positive contribution to climate mitigation and adaptation in the longer term.

B11 Statistics within the Trees in Towns II

report show that generally across the England there has been a trend of planting smaller scale trees when replacing larger broadleaved specimens. This trend is identified in the London Assembly's reports[2] on street trees and does not bode well for climate adaptation. It is the larger species trees that confer the greatest benefits for urban areas in terms of climate adaptation measures.

B12 The information contained within the Mayor's Right Trees for a Changing Climate website and the advice within The Trees and Design Action Groups guidelines should be accessed and disseminated so that the issue receives the widest possible audience.

Biodiversity

B13 The strategy should reference The England Biodiversity Strategy, the Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy and the London Biodiversity Action Plan. It should also reinforce the objectives of any local biodiversity action plans. It should be a central tenet of the strategy that actions undertaken contribute to the overall diversity of wildlife in an area and are not detrimental to the aims and objectives of BAPs generally.

Veteran Trees

B14 The UK is fortunate that compared with the rest of Europe it has more veteran and ancient trees than any other European country, however this should not be a reason for complacency. Trees of special interest such as those already designated as veteran or ancient should be recorded on local and regional registers.

B15 It should also consider preparing a local register of pre-veteran trees, the veteran trees of tomorrow so that planning, development and management issues are factored into such tree's futures and any potentially adverse impacts are removed altogether or minimized. The future management of such trees should be detailed in any strategy to maximize the benefits these trees bring to local communities and for biodiversity.

Pests and Diseases

B16 Trees in the urban situation have always been subject to infestation and infection by the many different pests and diseases. As part of normal tree and woodland ecology this may actually in many cases be a beneficial process intimately linked with improved biodiversity. However, one of the greatest challenges of the future will be to control and contain the spread of pathogens that are not usually found in the UK but have been introduced and are flourishing due to increased globalization and the more favourable conditions associated with climate change.

B17 The most recent examples are the infestation of Oak Processionary Moth that has been introduced into the UK via a batch of infected oak trees from the continent, and the discovery of Massaria on Plane trees within the Royal Parks. Instances such as these will continue to occur and any tree strategy should acknowledge the need to take appropriate measures in good time to limit the scale of any outbreak. Any tree and woodland strategy must be seen to prioritize adequate resources in a timely fashion to deal with such threats, especially when these are related to the health of the tree

stock and may also present serious public health issues. Experience of dealing with outbreaks of the Brown Tail Moth problem in the early nineties demonstrates a cross borough co-operative approach is key to achieving objectives.

Building Subsidence

B18 The strategy should contain a section on the issue of trees and building subsidence. This section should emphasize the local authority's commitment to the retention of important trees wherever possible and set in place a process of critical analysis of the investigative evidence presented by the insurance sector in these cases. The guidance and advice given in the London Tree Officer's Association's document A Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Root Claims (2007) and also the Joint Mitigation Protocol (2008) and should be referenced and followed on a case by case basis, treating each case on its own merits. Setting in place effective management procedures such as cyclical pruning regimes will be critical to the success of a tree strategy where shrinkable clay soils are present.

Climate Change and Adaptation

B19 The strategy should acknowledge that the effects of climate change is the single biggest threat to existing trees in urban areas in London (due to the prevalence of clay sub-soil). However, using trees in urban spaces to ameliorate the urban heat island effect has great potential. Success, however, is not assured and the relationship of trees to urban infrastructure, and vice versa, and how trees will thrive and continue to provide shade and evapotranspirational cooling must be planned for if any urban tree and woodland strategy in London is to contribute effectively to climate change adaptation.

Design, Planning and Development

B20 The strategy should address the role of trees and their relative position of importance within the design, planning and development processes and give recommendations as to how they should be accommodated at all the stages of the development process. Trees should be factored into new developments and schemes at the very earliest stages of design so that appropriate measures are taken in the design of the buildings and their foundations to allow for the desired scale of branch and root growth.

B21 Landscape trees that grow to a large size confer the greatest benefit. The Trees and Design Action Group's guideline documents[3] should be referenced so that not only are the right trees planted in the right place but that the right places are designed and built to accommodate the right trees for the location. The Construction Industry Research Information Association (CIRIA) are currently producing guidance on large species trees in development for use by the construction and local authority sectors. This will provide guidance on cost benefit analysis and assist with making the case for providing large species trees in the urban context .

Aims and Objectives (The Policy).

B23 For a tree strategy to be effective and achievable it must clearly define its aims and objectives and relate these to the particular circumstances that prevail at

the time. The action plan for the strategy being written in the context of the desired changes required to achieve the stated aims and objectives. As mentioned above these policy objectives will differ from borough to borough based on individual circumstances. However there will be areas of commonality between strategies on suitable policy objectives. These objectives should, where appropriate be sensitive to the existing character and built form of the areas being considered.

Local Authority Structures

B24 The strategy should identify key roles for local authority service areas in the implementation of the strategy, in particular designating a single service responsible for strategic oversight and corporate adherence to the strategy. This is extremely important in the context of new tree planting. It can be helpful for all tree, woodland management and tree planning issues to be dealt with by a single team, including devolved responsibility for agreeing all tree planting on public land within the authority. Traditionally a number of different services have arranged tree planting across an individual borough's different land use forms and this has in many instances resulted in inappropriate planting creating maintenance and liability issues in the future. Failure to recognise the planting potential inherent in a particular site is also a problem. The guiding principle should be that the service that will ultimately have responsibility for the upkeep, maintenance and liability for the tree should also agree the species and location prior to it being planted.

Action Plan for implementing the Tree Strategy

B25 Having established the extent and disposition of the resource and the benefits and constraints affecting the urban woodland within each local authority, an action plan detailing goals and delivery mechanisms is essential for directing effort and change. The action plan should make use of prioritisation in delivering these objectives but should also be flexible enough to cope with emerging issues and challenges.

Consultation

B26 The process for consulting on the strategy should be as inclusive as possible. All services within a local authority as well as local residents groups, local businesses, business groups, and Local Strategic Partnerships (Natural England, Police and Fire Service,) and Local Nature Partnerships should be consulted. This list of consultees should also include representatives of urban infrastructure service providers- utilities, GLA, Transport for London, representatives of urban infrastructure design and construction, All London Green Grid area partnerships, English Heritage, CIRIA etc. and where appropriate British Waterways and Network Rail. It is also important to consult with neighbouring local authorities. The policies detailed should be developed throughout the consultation process so that the strategy effectively communicates and embodies the overarching objective to accommodate trees in London's future spaces and places.

Implementation, Monitoring and Review

B27 The strategy should set in place a structure for monitoring the effectiveness of delivery, identifying obstacles to delivery, monitoring

achievements and reviewing processes and procedures wherever this is necessary. This is particularly important for the Action Plan element that needs to be responsive to emerging issues and challenges.

ANNEX ENDNOTES

[1] London's Foundations - protecting the geodiversity of the capital. 2009. Greater London Authority

[2] Chainsaw Massacre - a review of London's Street Trees. 2007 Greater London Authority; Branching Out - the future of London's street trees. 2011. Greater London Authority

[3] No Trees, No Future – trees in the urban realm. 2008. Trees and Design Action Group; and The Canopy. London's urban forest - guide for designers, planners and developers. 2011. Trees and Design Action Group

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Chinese

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Hindi

यदि आप इस दस्तावेज की प्रति अपनी भाषा में चाहते हैं, तो कृपया निम्नलिखित नंबर पर फोन करें अथवा नीचे दिये गये पते पर संपर्क करें

Vietnamese

Nếu bạn muốn có văn bản tài liệu này bằng ngôn ngữ của mình, hãy liên hệ theo số điện thoại hoặc địa chỉ dưới đây.

Bengali

আপনি যদি আপনার ভাষায় এই দলিলের প্রতিলিপি (কপি) চান, তা হলে নীচের ফোন্ নম্বরে বা ঠিকানায় অনুগ্রহ করে যোগাযোগ করুন।

Greek

Αν θέλετε να αποκτήσετε αντίγραφο του παρόντος εγγράφου στη δική σας γλώσσα, παρακαλείστε να επικοινωνήσετε τηλεφωνικά στον αριθμό αυτό ή ταχυδρομικά στην παρακάτω διεύθυνση.

Urdu

اگر آپ اِس دستاویز کی نقل اپنی زبان میں چاھتے ھیں، تو براہ کرم نیچے دئے گئے نمبر پر فون کریں یا دیئے گئے پتے پر رابطہ کریں

Turkish

Bu belgenin kendi dilinizde hazırlanmış bir nüshasını edinmek için, lütfen aşağıdaki telefon numarasını arayınız veya adrese başvurunuz.

Arabic

إذا أردت نسخة من هذه الوثيقة بلغتك، يرجى الاتصال برقم الهاتف أو مراسلة العنوان أدناه

Punjabi

ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਸਤਾਵੇਜ਼ ਦੀ ਕਾਪੀ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਆਪਣੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੀਦੀ ਹੈ, ਤਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਹੇਠ ਲਿਖੇ ਪਤੇ 'ਤੇ ਰਾਬਤਾ ਕਰੋ:

Gujarati

જો તમને આ દસ્તાવેજની નકલ તમારી ભાષામાં જોઈતી હોય તો, કૃપા કરી આપેલ નંબર ઉપર ફોન કરો અથવા નીચેના સરનામે સંપર્ક સાધો.

MAYOR OF LONDON