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Tree Management Policy

A guide to how the council deals with trees through its function as a Landowner, Highway agent and Local Authority

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Sustainable development
"meets the needs of the present
without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."
United Nations. 1987.'report of the world commission on enviroment and development.
General Assembly Resolution 42/187.

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"...cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature";
The Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity (UNESCO, 2001)

1. Forward

By Councillor Judy Terry

2. Background

Arboriculture: The practice of balancing the needs of trees with the needs of humans and the built environment.

2.1 This Tree Management Policy has been developed in consultation with community interests about how trees, woodlands and the urban forest at large are managed across Ipswich Borough.

2.2 The Management Policy will inform the Council's strategy for delivering a range of key actions that will ensure that the Council's tree assets are managed in a safe and sustainable manner. It is intended that these policies provide the council with a framework to manage its operations and protect, care for and plant more trees within the borough's environment. More importantly the policies will set out expectations for the borough, expectations that can be adopted by other agencies and the private sector as well as providing the bedrock for the development of other key planning policies such as the Local Development Framework.

2.3 The Tree Management Policy is a key environmental Policy of the council and as such will influence all of the councils policies and operations that affect trees. The inclusive nature of the Policy should also seek to ensure that other groups, organisations and individuals can play an active role in its delivery.

3 Introduction

3.1 National context

The benefits of trees and woodlands have long been acknowledged and will be discussed later in this document. In the last few decades there has been a significant reinforcement of the need for action on a worldwide scale to protect and conserve trees.

3.2 In 1994 *"Sustainable Development; The UK Strategy"* was published as Britain's response to the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development; the "*Earth Summit*" in Rio de Janeiro. The Earth Summit culminated in 150 countries signing up to the Agenda 21 – a worldwide programme of action to ensure a sustainable future in the 21st Century.

Agenda 21	A comprehensive programme of action to achieve a more sustainable pattern of development for the 21st century.
The Climate Change Convention	A framework for action to reduce global warming.
The Biodiversity Convention	Protecting the diversity of species and habitats.
A Statement of Principles	For managing, conserving and sustainable development for the world's forests.

3.3 Trees have a significant part to play in achieving the above programmes. For its part, the UK Government is committed to improving the management and conservation of forests and urban forests and encouraging the expansion of the UK's tree cover.

3.4 Against this background, and in response to the great storm of 1987, a major research study into urban amenity *Trees in Towns* was published in 1993. Subsequently in 1994, '*Urban Tree Strategies'* was published, further detailing individual Local Authority (LA) Tree Strategies. A revision of these research projects became *'Trees in Towns II – a new survey of urban trees in England and their condition and management'*, published in 2008. The ultimate aim of the *Trees in Towns II* research was to encourage LAs to develop higher standards of management, in order to deliver a more efficient and effective tree programme for their communities. One of the most immediate outcomes is that LAs can now measure their performance in many different aspects of tree management, against the performance of other LAs. The enormous variation in the LAs' performance in many different aspects of tree management highlights the need to promote and secure a more consistent approach to standards of performance right across the LA tree management industry. To encourage this, ten basic targets[1] for performance within the next five years were recommended (please see **APPENDIX 1)**.

3.5 There are many policies that affect trees and woodlands in Ipswich, which have been taken into account in the development of this draft document. Some of these are specific to trees or woodland, and many more deal with wider issues in which trees and woodlands play an important part. Only a brief summary of the more important of these is provided in **APPENDIX 2**, please refer to the original documents for the full detail.

3.6 Regional context

For further details please refer to policy ENV5 of the Regional Spatial Strategy (http://www.eera.gov.uk/What-we-do/developing-regional-strategies/east-of-england-plan/east-of-england-plan-review-to-2031 /) and the Regional Woodland Strategy (http://www.woodlandforlife.net/wfl-rep/)

[1] If these targets can be attained by the vast majority of LA's it could significantly improve the overall performance of the LA tree management industry.

3.7 Borough wide context

It is proposed that this Tree Management Policy will exist as part of a hierarchy of other relevant, tree-related or general Policies, standards and plans. **APPENDIX 3** briefly explains the legislative and planning framework that relates directly with trees and woodlands. It is expected that this document will supplement these, providing policies or advice that are relevant to the particular situation of trees in the borough. Relevant legislation, guidance notes or British standards and other policies will be introduced as appropriate and should be treated 'as amended'.

3.8 The Ipswich Local Plan approved in 1997 sets out the Council's planning policies for trees in policies NE9 to NE12. These protect trees and require replacement planting of at least equivalent numbers where trees are removed.

3.9 The intent of the policies has been carried forward into the proposed submission Core Strategy and Policies of the Local Development Framework. Draft Policy DC5 requires new developments to contribute towards making greener streets, to support biodiversity, visual amenity, health and well-being and offset the impacts of climate change.

3.10 There are two protection policies in the proposed submission Core Strategy. The main policy is Policy DC10, which protects trees and hedgerows and is reproduced below. The policy proposes to increase the replacement planting requirement for felled trees to two for one. Policy DC11 relates to trees but is focused more on their townscape value in key views of and from the town centre. It identifies the importance for townscape and local character of the wooded skyline that provides the backdrop to central Ipswich, and protects views towards this wooded ridge.

Policy DC10: Protection of Trees and Hedgerows

The Council will protect and retain trees in the interests of amenity by:

a) making Tree Preservation Orders; and

b) only granting consent for felling, topping, lopping or uprooting if a sound arboricultural reason is provided.

Applications for development should retain existing trees and hedgerows of amenity or biodiversity value where possible. Where development affecting trees is proposed, the application must be accompanied by:

c) an accurate survey and assessment of all existing trees on site in accordance with BS5837 "Guide for Trees in Relation to Construction" 1991;

d) details of protective measures to be put in place during the development process to ensure the heath and safety of each specimen to be retained; and

e) where removal is proposed, a plan for replacement planting on a two for one basis and using semi-mature specimens, unless otherwise agreed by the Council.

3.11 The Council has also agreed a Local Agenda 21 action plan, which includes a range of initiatives which impact upon the local environment. The Tree management Policy is one of those initiatives as is the related Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP)

Ipswich is a dynamic and growing town. Ipswich's emerging Local Development Framework sets out its policies for the future development of the town and it forms part of the Ipswich Local Development Framework. Of particular importance to trees and woodlands are the following policies CS1, CS4, CS16, DC5, DC8 and DC10 (http://ldf.ipswich.gov.uk/doclib/Core_Strategy_Web_Version.pdf)

3.12 What is a Tree Management Policy

A Tree Management Policy provides the necessary framework under which the borough's trees will be managed and protected. It will also provide the standard by which any future Tree Strategy will be gauged. As well as setting out guidance on managing the existing tree stock it provides the stimulus for local initiatives and future actions.

3.13 Why does the council need a Tree Management Policy?

- To continually develop an integrated approach to tree management that embraces all aspects of the councils tree related activities in a coherent and co-ordinated tree programme.
- To promote awareness of the value of trees in our environment.
- To interpret the policy framework.
- To give direction and guidance to local initiatives both public and private.

3.14 The borough comprises a rich and varied urban and rural landscape. The trees, woodlands and hedgerows within this landscape are an irreplaceable asset. The council has direct responsibility for many thousands of trees as both an owner, Highway agent and in its capacity as Local Planning Authority (LPA) where it has a duty to protect significant trees and woodlands for their amenity value. In view of the benefits that we receive from trees and the council's responsibility for tree management and protection it is important that the council has a clearly defined integrated approach to the issues concerning trees in the borough.

3.15 There is growing evidence that our urban trees are under greater stress than ever before. Particular problems highlighted include root damage caused by utility companies, Highway concerns, public safety, changes in ownership and tolerance, potential subsidence claims, inappropriate management, diseases, drought, atmospheric and soil pollutants, and climate change. Concern is also emphasised about 'shortermism' in urban landscaping, which leads to "*the indiscriminate use of cheap, short-lived species*" and the perceived lack of adequate protection for mature trees on development sites. There are many people with responsibility for trees within the borough, both within and outside the council. At a time when the threats to trees appear to be growing, especially because of general changes in tolerance and liability, it is important to analyse these threats and opportunities to achieve a strategic integrated view of all relevant tree issues. Although the draft Tree Management Policy obviously addresses the role of the council, great emphasis is placed on working in partnership with other organisations and the wider community, as it is only in this way that the objectives can be achieved.

3.16 This document covers all trees (including ancient, veteran and near veteran trees), woodlands and hedgerows and areas of large shrubs (hereafter 'Tree(s)) in the borough, although the depth of detail will vary depending on council involvement, responsibilities and available information. The council's own trees will obviously be considered in depth as it has responsibility for all aspects of these. These trees include: street trees, those within parks and other public open space, garden trees in council-owned property, cemeteries and the country parks. Policies and action will be proposed for privately owned garden trees as the council has a role where these are within conservation areas or subject to Tree Preservation Orders (TPO). In addition, non-protected trees throughout the borough will be considered where there is considered to be a role for the council in promoting planting and proper management. The council also has a role in protecting existing trees or promoting the planting of new trees in relation to development and planning policies.

3.17 Who is the Tree Management Policy for?

This Tree Management Policy is designed to be of interest and practical use to a wide variety of people. Everyone has a part to play, whether they have a garden that could take a tree or are the custodians of one planted years ago. Those who have no garden may enjoy trees in parks and woodland, live close to street trees or have local knowledge or know where trees could be planted. It is hoped that interested residents of the borough will be able to use the document to aid them in the care of their own trees and to encourage interest in the reasons and methods by which the council maintains council own trees on behalf of all residents. This document is also for reference for elected members to aid them in their work representing the people of the Borough. It is for the use and guidance of professionals involved in development, Town planners, building surveying, provision of statutory and other services and any others whose work may from time to time have direct or indirect effect upon trees. Finally, it is designed for the tree surgeon and arboricultural consultant working and advising on trees within the borough to encourage good quality work to the highest standards of the arboricultural profession.

3.18 Mission, Aims and objectives of the Tree Management Policy

Mission:

- **Protect** the trees we have.

- **Care** for them.
- **Plant** more trees.

Aims	Objectives
1) To ensure trees and woodlands contribute to a high quality natural environment.	a) Safeguard and improve the management of Ipswich's existing tree and woodland resource. b) Enhance our knowledge and understanding of Ipswich's tree and woodland resource. c) Plan for the impacts of climate change in managing the tree and woodland resource. d) Establish new tree and woodland planting in appropriate places
2) To ensure tree management and planting contribute positively towards the enhancement of biodiversity in Ipswich.	a) The use of native tree species, where appropriate, to benefit BAP and other species. b) Promote and raise awareness of the vital role that trees play in conserving and enhancing biodiversity. c) Preserve local character tree species. d) Implement innovative tree management practices to preserve and create wildlife habitat, both within, and surrounding trees.
3) To help shape the built environment and new development in a way that strengthens the positive character and diversity of Ipswich and increase climate change resilience.	a) Raise awareness and understanding of the role that trees and woodlands play in Ipswich's townscape, and defining 'sense of place'. b) Ensure the needs and impacts of trees and woodlands are properly addressed in an ever more compact urban area, especially with respect to subsidence. c) Promote the contribution of existing and new trees and woodlands to Ipswich's sustainable economy through urban development and regeneration. d) Use trees to provide shade for hotter summers, intercept rain in heavy rainstorms and tackle the urban heat island effect.
4) Through people's contact with trees and woodlands to help foster community and individual wellbeing and social inclusion.	a) Enable the Ipswich community to take greater ownership of their local trees and woodlands, especially in deprived areas and more excluded communities and localities. b) Improve the accessibility of Ipswich's woodlands. c) Raise awareness and understanding of Ipswich's tree and woodland resource. d) Promote the benefits of trees and woodlands to the community of Ipswich physical and spiritual health and well-being.
5) To support Ipswich's economy.	a) Source the financial resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of Ipswich's trees and woodlands. b) Ensure the human resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of Ipswich's trees and woodlands are sufficient and appropriately trained. c) Recognise and promote the contribution of trees and woodlands in providing attractive environments for business, leisure and tourism.

3.19 These objectives are central to this document and are discussed in more detail in the next chapter. Each objective will be addressed through a series of linked policies and proposed actions that can be undertaken or

promoted by the Council. Because each policy or action identified in this document relates to a number of objectives, it has been decided not to link these directly, instead organise the document in relation to obvious categories and link by cross referencing. Some of the policies and most of the actions proposed will have resource implications. In most cases these are relatively minor and have not been costed, but where the adoption of a policy will depend on a more detailed study involving consideration of costs and benefits, the action has been graded according to resource implication from 1`*work is ongoing*' to 5 `*achievable only with additional resources'*. An example of this would be a subsidised tree scheme.

3.20 Monitoring and review

To ensure the implementation and success of this document it is essential to monitor the extent and rate of progress towards achieving its objectives. Some policies stand alone as a course the council will take, whereas others require action plans to implement them. In some cases consultants may be employed to undertake specific action plans. Monitoring will consider the progress of action plans and targets, changes in the borough's environment and changes in people's perception of trees. Therefore, the progress shall be reported two years after its adoption and thereafter every five years.

4 Key objectives

4.1 Ensuring trees and woodlands contribute to a high quality natural environment

Although predominantly urbanised, Ipswich contains a rich and diverse natural environment. Amongst the buildings and infrastructure there are significant areas of open and green space. The most important sites for biodiversity are in woodland habitats, particularly ancient woodlands such as Orwell County Park, and these bring nature close to people.

4.2 Ipswich is well known for its great Parks, such as Christchurch, Chantry and Holywells, and its extensive informal open spaces. Many of these contain important tree collections and woodlands. Several Sites of Special Scientific Interest and many of the sites identified for Nature Conservation contain vital trees and woodland. Ipswich is permeated by trees and woodlands at a smaller scale, and these can be of major significance at both local and borough level. Even small areas of naturally regenerated woodland, or a single tree in a small park or back garden, contribute significantly to Ipswich's urban forest. The priority in Ipswich is therefore to protect and appropriately manage the existing resource.

4.3 Safeguarding and improving the management of trees and woodlands

The overriding priority with respect to Ipswich's trees and woodlands is to safeguard the existing resource and to address any lack of appropriate management. The decline in continuing management in some areas has reduced the variety in age structure and composition of woodlands. The result is that some of Ipswich's older woodlands and tree covers are beginning to be dominated by mature trees, with little natural regeneration, reducing their biodiversity interest. Whilst there are legislative measures to protect trees and woodlands, such as Tree Preservation Orders, protection within Conservation Area designations, and Felling Licenses, they can often be quite blunt tools and need to be reinforced with consistent and strongly framed policies. Apart from neglect, threats to existing trees and woodlands come from many sources. The council recognises that there is an urgent need to improve our understanding of the condition of Ipswich's trees and woodlands. We need to know what management takes place and whether it is appropriate, particularly in ancient woodlands and veteran trees, which are often rich in wildlife but sensitive to neglect.

4.4 A much more proactive approach to management needs to be encouraged such as coppicing, the maintenance and improvement of glades, the use of species native to Ipswich, the creation of uneven aged stands, pollarding or heavy pruning in place of felling, and the retention, where safe, of dead wood. Management principles for individual trees, groups of trees and woodlands need to be agreed and disseminated. In the case of Ancient and Native Woodlands, existing Forestry Commission guidance should be used to safeguard their long-term management. In addition, landowners should build the reversion to native condition of Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites (PAWS) into management plans. Natural regeneration and, where necessary and appropriate, managed replacement of tree stock, need to be promoted. This needs to be backed up by sufficient funding in order to safeguard the future of the resource. Individual trees, whether in streets, gardens, operational land, or public open space, require care and protection, so that losses are replaced and the quality of the resource maintained and enhanced. The management of street trees, in particular, needs strategic pro-active planning to maintain their amenity value and to ensure renewal and long term survival.

4.5 Enhancing our knowledge and understanding of Ipswich's existing tree and woodland resource

A long history of information gathering precedes much of the tree, woodland and open space management in Ipswich. However, there is a need to join up information to ensure it is used to its full potential. Whilst there is a range of different sets of data which provide some measure of tree and woodland cover or tree numbers, none is yet complete, with information gathered for different reasons and hence emphasis placed on different factors. Not only is the resource itself not fully understood, but there is limited knowledge of specific threats and opportunities, of trends over time, and of current management. More detailed information is required on:

- the composition, condition and rate of loss of Ipswich's urban forest
- the distribution, type, condition and ownership of the trees that make up Ipswich's urban forest

- the specific threats and pressures to Ipswich's trees and woodlands
- present and future recreational pressures on Ipswich's woodlands and their potential long term effects
- markets for woodland products
- tree resources outside woodlands which are under threat, e.g. trees in larger residential properties at risk from infill development.

4.6 Existing data sets need to be compiled and compared (e.g. Open Space and Habitat Survey, Borough Open Space Strategies, Tree and forest surveys, Biodiversity Action Plan, satellite imagery, aerial photography, etc.) and gaps in information identified, particularly with respect to the resource on private land. Ultimately, an Ipswich wide data set needs to be established for use as a common starting point for planning and managing Ipswich's trees and woodlands. The availability of GIS data that can be analysed will further assist future policy development and inform planning and management decisions at local levels. Information can be used to:

- provide facts and figures to aid in decision making to help in the efficient and co-ordinated planning for trees and woodlands
- ensure that those people planting and managing trees and woodlands take into consideration all the factors which can influence the success of their scheme (e.g. impacts of climate change, standards and guidelines).

4.7 Plan for the impact of climate change in managing and increasing Ipswich's tree and woodland resource

One of the biggest challenges facing Ipswich's trees is climate change. Some experts believe that the impacts of climate change are already beginning to be felt, with hotter, drier summers, and warmer wetter winters. Flood events and water shortages are likely to become more common. Soil moisture is likely to reduce in the summer, and storm events could happen on a more regular basis. This has significant implications for how Ipswich manages its trees and woodlands. Trees in the right place, like other vegetation, intercept rainwater and reduce the rate and scale of eventual run-off. As a consequence, this reduces the risk of localised storm water flooding. The sponginess of leaf litter beneath broadleaved woodland can also improve water retention and infiltration. Conversely, inappropriate trees alongside watercourses can hinder flows and so cause flooding (although identified wet woodland habitats should be managed and conserved).

4.8 The role of trees in soil shrinkage and subsidence, and the adequacy or otherwise of building foundations, needs to be understood and addressed, particularly given the shrinkable nature of some pockets of London Clay soils within Ipswich. Climate change may also lead to increased damage to trees from pests and diseases. Trees can help to offset warmer conditions, for example by shading soils, river banks and ponds, park grassland, living spaces and streets. Consideration needs to be given to the composition of tree, shrub and understorey species to ensure that they are suitable for the expected climatic changes. Planting and management techniques may need to be adapted, for example with respect to watering or moisture retention techniques as well as to the choice of species and size of planted stock. Ongoing research undertaken with respect to reducing water uptake should inform such techniques.

4.9 A new Cabe report criticises local authorities, saying their open spaces are underused and that only a few cities are taking climate change seriously. *"A complete change of priorities is needed. Every decision taken must aim to improve quality of life while reducing levels of pollution, water, energy use and waste."*

4.10 Investigate and implement new tree and woodland planting opportunities in appropriate places

Maintaining and enhancing the existing resource must be the priority for trees and woodlands in Ipswich. But opportunities should also be pursued to increase the size and scale of the resource as an essential component of Ipswich's urban fabric. The planting of new trees and woodlands can enhance not only existing open space, but also new development. In addition, tree planting can help to create 'green links' in Ipswich's network of green and open spaces.

4.11 To ensure tree management and planting contribute positively towards the enhancement of biodiversity in Ipswich.

The overarching objective is to ensure that, along a cline of appropriateness, tree related initiatives and operations have a positive contribution to biodiversity. This can be achieved by adhering to a set of guiding principles, dynamism, and partnership working with relevant individuals, groups, and organisations. A simple example of the value of this approach is the Traditional Orchard Project, started in 2009. Firstly its dynamic

and innovative in that it seeks to create new areas of BAP habitat, which will in turn benefit BAP species, i.e. Bullfinch. Secondly, partnership working that involves relevant groups such as the Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan Group ensures the sharing of expert knowledge and a strategic approach in the project delivery. Finally, the implementation stage of the project will follow the guiding principles within this document, thus ensuring appropriate tree species selection and management thereafter, that will ensure a positive effect on biodiversity.

4.12 The use of native tree species, where appropriate, to benefit Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) and other species.

The selection of native tree species should be used to benefit wildlife and biodiversity. This is particularly relevant when dealing with trees in the planning framework and should be integrated within the planning process. A set of guiding principles should include:

- Where native tree species are used, they are selected to reflect and complement existing species in the local area, thus enhancing the wildlife value of the site and the wider context.
- Desktop survey (Suffolk Biological Records Centre & Council databases) to ascertain presence of BAP and other protected and endangered species before planning a tree planting scheme in parks and open spaces and as an advisory tool to planners and the general public. Not an enforcement tool, but to be used to promote the protection of such species and opportunities to enhance biodiversity.
- Native trees with known local provenance should be used wherever practicable and can include pro-active replacement of existing veteran with trees grown from their own seeds.

4.13 Promote and raise awareness of the vital role that trees play in conserving and enhancing biodiversity

Trees are a fundamental strand of the web of life on this planet. They are important in their own right but also provide food and shelter for a vast number of different species. For example, an English oak tree can harbour several hundred species of invertebrates and provide home and shelter to birds and bats. For one Sparrowhawk chick to survive into adulthood a whole mature oak tree is needed. It provides approximately 100,000 leaves that the caterpillars, which the birds feed on, which in turn the parent Sparrowhawk feeds to its young depend upon. To raise awareness of the importance of trees to wildlife a set of key educational principles should be promoted, including:

- Wildlife & Education Ranger Environmental Education Programme – adequately resourced to ensure all schools and other such establishments have access to the education workshops offered by the Ranger Team.
- Public events in parks and open spaces, such as tree planting days during National Tree Week, Stag Beetle pyramid building (from own wood) etc.
- Engagement with schools – The Greenspace department can offer advice about managing the whole school grounds to benefit wildlife and this includes trees. Aside from advice, practical involvement with schools on specific projects can help raise awareness of the importance of trees for wildlife and spread the message to a major target audience – the next generation of tree custodians.
- Interpretation material produced to raise awareness of trees and of particularly important and notable trees within the Ipswich Borough, e.g. Tree Trail leaflets, website material and so on.

4.14 Preserve local character tree species such as Black Poplar and Elm

To preserve and enhance local character habitats associated with local character tree species, e.g. Wet Woodland and lowland mixed deciduous woodland (both UK Priority BAP habitats) it should be a priority to work with local partnerships such as Habitat Working Groups within the Suffolk Biodiversity Partnership. This will enable baseline data about presence of such species to be collated and the information used as a tool to strategically plan future management of trees and habitats within the Borough. Furthermore, action should be taken to implement appropriate management for the remaining population of Elm in the borough, mostly through a programme of coppicing to restrict tree death associated with Dutch elm disease (NB – in some areas there is a need to fence/protect stump regrowth to avoid deer damage). By preserving species such as Elm, other species dependant on their survival upon it will be protected, for example White-letter Hairstreak for which Elm is the sole larval food plant. Additionally, Traditional Orchard is now a UK priority BAP habitat. The fruit trees contained within them are therefore of importance to the local area in and around Ipswich, both for wildlife and landscape value. It should be an objective to identify existing orchards, protect and enhance them, and where possible create new orchards.

4.15 Implement innovative tree management practices to preserve and create wildlife habitat, both within, and surrounding trees

The way in which an individual tree, groups of trees, woodland, and their environs are managed has a big impact upon the wildlife already present, and on the potential to preserve and create habitat diversity and therefore impact upon biodiversity overall. By implementing a set of key principles of management the council will have laid the foundations for positive action to enhance the biodiversity credentials of its organisation and an overall enhancement of biodiversity in Ipswich.

Where appropriate, the key principles include:

- Coronet type cuts that imitate natural branch breaks, which in turn creates beneficial wildlife habitat
- Cavity creation for specialist and endangered species such as all bats and Golden Hoverfly
- Tree stumps retained higher where possible to benefit Ipswich character species – Stag Beetle
- Canopy exclusion zones, mainly for post-mature to veteran trees. This means reducing mowing inside the canopy and the retention of lower branches that harbour wildlife in the interface between tree and shrub / grassland layers. Fungi species with beneficial symbiotic relationships will also benefit from reduced mowing, particularly at fruiting times.
- Pollarding and coppicing as traditional management tools which go hand in hand with creating structural diversity and habitat niches for a variety of different species
- Creating standing deadwood appropriate locations, e.g. Orwell Country Park where thinning is desirable.

4.16 Helping to shape the built environment and new development

Ipswich Borough comprises 40 square Kilometres (40,300,132sqrm) of an urban and suburban mix of town, district centres, suburban neighbourhoods, open spaces, roads, railways, reservoirs, offices, industry, business parks, homes, gardens, farmland, hospitals, etc. Its character is incredibly diverse, from the dense built-up areas of the town to green suburban streets. Trees and woodlands offer a sense of permanence in a rapidly changing town. In many instances, they are indicators of an area's past, particularly the ancient woodlands and veteran trees. In other areas where trees and woodlands have been lost, their memory lives on in the names of the suburbs that have replaced them i.e. Elm or Carr Street. Trees and woodlands therefore play an important role in helping to define the 'sense of place' of different parts of Ipswich.

4.17 Raise awareness and understanding of the role that trees and woodlands play in Ipswich's townscape and defining 'sense of place'

Local distinctiveness of any area is a combination of a number of factors, reflecting the built, natural, and historic environment, and social and economic conditions. The contribution of trees and woodlands should be considered in terms of how they relate to the: (1) history of the location, (2) form and scale of the built environment, and (3) economic, social and environmental needs and functions of the area. Tree-lined streets and parks form important features in Ipswich's townscape with open spaces functioning as green lungs throughout Ipswich, with the trees they contain contributing an important quality to their appearance. Understanding these factors should help to guide both the approach taken towards the existing resource (especially the retention, protection and sensitive management of historic trees and old woodlands), as well as new planting.

4.18 Other than the promotion of landmark trees and public campaigns to save valuable woodlands, the contribution of trees and woodlands to defining the character of neighbourhoods currently goes relatively unnoticed. Further information is required about the nature of the resource, and awareness needs to be improved about the importance of trees and woodlands as an essential ingredient in maintaining and improving the quality of the urban environment. Landscape evaluation studies can contribute such information, and also inform the preservation of vistas and viewpoints, some of which have been lost as a result of ill-considered planting or scrub regeneration. Accommodating the predicted growth in Ipswich's population and economy opens up significant opportunities for a strategic borough wide approach to tree and woodland planting. The scale of development that will need to take place over the coming decades will facilitate significant funding for the creation of attractive, and green, business and residential environments, which should draw upon townscape character assessment.

4.19 Ensure the needs and impacts of trees and woodlands are properly addressed in an ever more compact town, especially with respect to subsidence

Trees and woodlands can cause problems though their need for light, nutrients and space above and below ground. They provide shade, but shed leaves, fruit and pollen and, more seriously, branches. Street and garden trees can cause or exacerbate problems such as: (1) subsidence, (2) unwelcome reduction in light levels, (3) interference with utilities' infrastructure, and (4) disruption of sightlines along roads and paths, if not located and managed appropriately. These factors influence management of existing trees, such as pruning.

4.20 Fear of subsidence claims is possibly the single greatest threat to street trees in southern England and must be tackled as a priority. In recent years there has been a tendency of *'shortermism'*, planting small easily-managed short lived trees out of scale with the grandeur of their built surroundings. Conflicts between tree protection and management and other strategic objectives are particularly apparent when considering transport routes. Trees on major roads are managed to balance the ease of movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists and the need to accommodate and manage street trees. Trees in woodlands can sometimes present the above problems and can cause damage and, in rare cases, injury from fallen branches and/or trees. Overall, the sites and species for new or replacement planting need to be considered with care to ensure problems are minimised yet ensuring the trees will make a positive contribution to the landscape. Existing street and garden trees should be retained wherever possible through management, with removal considered only as a last resort followed immediately by replacement with appropriate species in an appropriate location.

4.21 Promote the important contribution of trees and woodlands to Ipswich's sustainable development and regeneration

Trees and woodlands need to be mainstreamed into decision-making processes to ensure they are components of regeneration initiatives from the outset. Much of the greatest potential for creating larger areas of new community woodland is on the periphery of the settlement area. The Forestry Commission is supportive of measures to enhance the environmental requirements of the Government's Growth Areas and is already actively involved in the creation of woodlands of enormous social and environmental potential at the urban fringe in other towns.

4.22 Through people's contact with trees and woodland to help foster community and individual people's wellbeing and social inclusion

There is a growing recognition that trees and woodlands can bring considerable benefits to people's health, for example by reducing stress levels, fostering community involvement and encouraging outdoor recreation. Trees and woodlands often have strong cultural associations, and in Ipswich they provide contact with nature in a predominantly built environment. They also offer an educational resource for all generations. Ipswich contains a diverse population, reflected in its variety of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds. It is important that all sectors of Ipswich's communities have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits that trees and woodlands have to offer.

4.23 Enable Ipswich's community to take greater ownership of their local trees and woodlands, especially in deprived areas and more excluded communities and localities

- Ipswich is the 98th most deprived borough out of 354 in England[2]
- 10 wards in Suffolk fall within the most deprived 10% in the country, and 5 of these are in Ipswich.
- Gainsborough and Priory Heath Wards are ranked 1st and 2nd most deprived in Ipswich.

Community involvement can be fostered by involving local people in the care and use of trees and woodlands. Some of the most challenging areas for community involvement are those sectors of Ipswich's communities where deprivation levels are higher, where there is a lack of access to trees and woodlands, or where sectors of the community are relatively isolated in terms of decision making and integration into the wider community. Small groups of trees offer important opportunities for encouraging psychological ownership and appreciation of trees on a smaller, and therefore often more individual and accessible level.

[2] The index of Multiple Deprivation 2004 (IMD 2004), published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister June 2004. This is a significant change from its position as 115th most deprived borough in IMD 2000.

4.24 Improve the accessibility of Ipswich's trees and woodlands to all

Access to existing trees and woodlands can be promoted in a number of ways including:

- enhancing awareness of woodlands, how to get there and how to enjoy them
- improving public transport to woodlands, and cycling and walking routes
- improving transport and access for people with disabilities, making the woodland attractive to different sectors of the community
- providing appropriate facilities which are suitable for the woodland
- making the woodland feel a safe environment to be in.

4.25 Access needs to be managed carefully to ensure that damage from visitors is minimised. For example, substantially increasing visitor use of a small wood with a good number of wildflowers may not be appropriate. Inappropriate access can result in trampling, erosion and disturbance which can have considerable resource implications and should therefore be guarded against. Prevention of damage can entail supervision in the form of park rangers that have been in decline recently due to funding. Adding value to a woodland, or increasing its attractiveness, can involve the use of the site as a venue for events (e.g. the annual Asian 'mela' festivals), so long as the woodland can accommodate such activities without damage. The needs of people with disabilities need to be catered for. This includes both getting to the woodland or park and enjoying it once there. Providing the right facilities also depends on the size and nature of the site. Information boards and easy to negotiate paths can help to attract people and lead them through a woodland and appreciate it without damage, and discourage them from visiting areas which might be more sensitive to human pressure such as areas of native bluebells. Interpretation boards also present opportunities to improve understanding of the wildlife that woodlands support. Encouraging accessibility needs to be placed in the context of emerging health and safety legislation, which is likely to place greater responsibility and onus on woodland managers to ensure that woodlands are safe places to visit. Many of the risks associated with woodlands can be reduced through appropriate woodland and visitor management. Guidance and advice on the risks and reasonable approaches to take is required.

4.26 Raise awareness and understanding of Ipswich's tree and woodland resource

An important strand of this Tree Management Policy is raising the expectations of all those who live, work and visit Ipswich. Trees and woodlands can enhance their own experience and, as a result, foster a greater sense of ownership and promote their sense of well-being. Current misunderstandings with respect to tree management and tree retention has resulted in some problems and confusion, and needs to be addressed through further awareness raising programmes for the general public and more education initiatives for children in schools. A greater public appreciation of management requirements needs to be achieved to avoid misunderstandings. Trees can cause problems (such as light reduction) and land owners need to be made aware of appropriate management approaches which can avoid the loss of existing trees. Public use of woodlands and open spaces with trees can be limited by a lack of awareness or a fear of crime associated with wooded locations.

Information is critical to awareness raising and can be used to make people aware of trees and woodlands, and help involve them in safeguarding their future. The information needs to be accurate, readily available, relevant, and understandable by the audience it is aimed at, taking into account technical knowledge and requirements, community cultural and ethnic make-up, and special needs such as catering for people with disabilities.

4.27 Promote the benefits of trees and woodlands to Ipswich's communities physical and spiritual health and well being

Trees and woodlands play an important role in creating pleasant and healthy environments for people to live in. This can bring both mental and physical benefits for the Ipswich community. The most obvious contribution of trees and woodlands to health is by providing attractive and enjoyable environments for people to exercise in. Trees and woodlands, as components of green space and as links between open spaces, can also encourage to walk or cycle rather than use a car. The areas around playing fields offer particular opportunities for tree retention and enhancement. Some people regard trees and vegetation as a threat to security and personal safety. Sustain and improved staffing, management and design generally increases popularity and public use and this, in turn, reduces any level of perceived risk. A degree of compromise is necessary, with removal of trees or shrubs considered as a last resort. An outlook onto trees and woodlands can help those suffering from ill health whether mental or physical. Recovery rates from illness tend to be

enhanced where trees are present compared to where they are absent. Trees and woodlands, and contact with nature in general, can have a calming effect, helping to reduce stress. Trees can also have a small direct impact on the 'cleanliness' of the environment. They absorb air pollutants, filtering out a small amount of some particulates and noxious gases. Since much of Ipswich's pollution is now generated by traffic, street trees can play a small role in helping to reduce the effects of vehicle emissions.

4.28 Supporting the economy of Ipswich

While woodlands were once used to supply timber, smallwood, charcoal and other products, they are now managed primarily for biodiversity and amenity. Although these are sometimes seen as 'products' that cost money, the indirect benefits in terms of producing attractive environments for business and tourism, and a healthy workforce, tend to be under appreciated. Studies show that people put a high monetary value on the quality of their local green environment. Trees and woodlands, on their own and as part of the 'green town', therefore have a vital role in supporting economy. Tree products can be used for economic benefit or savings by making the councils own products such as benches, revetments or fencing. In turn, the monetary returns or savings that trees and woodlands produce can be used to directly fund their protection, care or planting of new trees.

4.29 Source the financial resources needed to realise the full range of benefits from Ipswich's trees and woodlands

There are a number of grants available for different aspects of tree and woodland planting and management. The Forestry Commission's English Woodland Grants Scheme is but one example. The scale of growth in Ipswich over the next few decades suggests that a proportion of regeneration and other development funds should be invested in maintaining, improving and expanding the existing tree and woodland resource to meet the needs of those living, working, visiting or studying within the town.

4.30 Ensure the human resources needed to realise the full range of benefits of Ipswich's trees and woodlands are sufficient and appropriately trained

The planning, planting and care of trees and woodlands in itself provides work, and hence a contribution to the local economy. Demands for, and availability of, necessary skills need to be encouraged through appropriate training provided, for example, by colleges such as Otley. A case needs to be made to organisations with an interest in the wide variety of benefits that trees and woodlands bring to health, the economy, and individual businesses. Bodies with such interests should be encouraged to become more directly engaged in assisting with tree and woodland planting and management, and to help develop the skills necessary to take this involvement forward. Tree or woodland management skills are not held by every organisation, and their proliferation into different interests - arboriculture, forestry, leisure management, biodiversity conservation - makes it difficult for those not in the know to access them. Smaller organisations without in-house expertise may be dependent on the advice of contractors, which may not always be objective.

4.31 Recognise and promote the contribution of the trees and woodlands in providing attractive environments for business, leisure and tourism

Whilst access to markets and labour are driving factors in determining where a business wishes to locate, the quality of the environment can also be an influencing factor. Businesses tend to value image highly and wish to be associated with successful locations. Healthy environments are more likely to support healthy workforces, improving productivity and reducing absenteeism. Businesses are often involved in local environmental initiatives as an effective way of linking with the local community.

4.32 It is particularly important that those locations earmarked for major development are targeted for investment in the natural environment as well as more traditional infrastructure. Trees and woodlands play a significant role in 'greening' such locations. The existing tree and woodland resource is an important ingredient in Ipswich's attractiveness not only for business, but also to its workforce and visitors. The leafy parks, and gardens are renowned, providing one of Ipswich's most enduring images. The benefits that trees and woodlands bring to the economy need to continue. This means management of the existing resource and replacement and new planting where appropriate. Attractive environments also help to retain the Ipswich communities and their recreational spend within the town, minimising unsustainable travel to more remote places.

4.33 Support the use of local tree and woodland products as part of sustainable management of the resource

The Arboricultural and forestry industry within Ipswich is proportionate to its size and there are also significant numbers of people working in other related fields. The contribution trees and woodlands make is to the provision and retention of jobs, linked to attractive business environments. This is widely acknowledged, if difficult to prove. However, with the need for financing ongoing management, there is an impetus to make the trees give a return, whether through timber or associated products. No woodlands in Ipswich are currently managed on a commercial basis.

4.34 Energy production offers one of the most significant areas of potential. Arboricultural operations carried out in Ipswich by contractors and the councils arboricultural unit generate much material suitable for processing into a biomass fuel per year. If used to generate heat, this could result in a significant reduction in Ipswich councils net CO2 emissions.

4.35 There are opportunities for the council to gain certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for the management of all the woodlands and trees for which it is responsible, and we should be looking to repeat the good practice lessons learned from the London Borough of Croydon which was the first council in the world to be certified.

5 The value and general importance of trees

5.1 Ipswich's urban forests, the trees and woodlands in and around our town, have a vital role in promoting sustainable communities. They can provide numerous environmental, economic and social benefits, contributing enormously to the health, welfare and quality of life of everyone who lives and works in this rich urban environment.

5.2 As concerns grow about the quality of the urban environment in many urban areas throughout the world, the importance of protecting and expanding our urban forests can only increase. Few would disagree with the proposition that most of the finest urban landscapes around Ipswich are greatly enhanced by the presence of trees. Large and mature trees are particularly significant and many of these are in public ownership along streets and in outstanding parks. Many of Ipswich's finest urban trees are a living legacy from the Victorian era. However, a substantial number are nearing the end of their life. We need to ensure that there are extensive strategic replacement plantings to avoid any permanent loss of tree cover in our neighborhoods for future generations.

5.3 Trees make a major contribution to urban biodiversity, with large and mature trees, many native species and most ancient trees like those at Christchurch Park and Orwell Country Park having the greatest value. Tree foliage, decaying wood and bark provide habitats for numerous invertebrate species, which in turn provides an important food resource for insectivorous birds, bats and animals. The trunk and canopy of larger trees also provide nest sites for birds, including several declining species, and roosts for bats. If we could place an economic value on each tree in Ipswich, a bit like stocks and shares, then their wellbeing would grab our attention, as they would directly affect our wallet or purse. Trees value for timber and fruit is widely recognized but there are far greater hidden values in environment terms.

5.4 Being near trees and woodlands is 'good for your health'[3] and a vital component of a healthy life. Being around trees, even for a short while, is known to reduce stress levels, which in turn benefits our health generally. A study[4] has shown that living in an area with trees can significantly increase longevity, to say nothing of the quality of life.

5.5 Regular amounts of walking also has well-known health benefits, including reducing the risk of diabetes and Alzheimer's Disease[5], reducing the risk of Coronary Heart Disease reducing the risk of osteoporosis (brittle bone disease), reducing the risk of contracting colon cancer by half, help with chronic pain, arthritis and asthma. In addition, walking can help with all sorts of mental health problems such as depression and anxiety. Figures[6] suggest that around 30% of the population never visit woods; a MORI survey also confirmed that a third of the population seldom, if ever, visit woods. The reasons include lack of mobility, being unaware of the benefits, and a mistaken perception that woods are not accessible places to visit. In fact, many woods (such as Orwell Country Park) have public access, often with good paths, and the benefits of a walk in the woods or area of trees is well documented. If there are no woods nearby, then a walk in one of Ipswich's wonderful parks or even along a tree-lined avenue or street is also good for you.

5.6 Walking in pleasant surroundings can have marked effects on well-being, a concept now known as 'the Biophilia effect'. This theory suggests that quality of life in the largest sense is dependent upon the richness of our connections with nature. There is scientific evidence that seeing and being amongst trees reduces stress and helps relaxation - for example, trees around schools, colleges or universities are said to improve student's concentration and hospital patients recovered better when their windows overlooked trees and

[3] The Healing Power of Trees, *Tree News* magazine (published by The Tree Council), autumn 2002

[4] Urban residential environments and senior citizens' longevity in megacity areas: the importance of walkable green spaces, *Journal of Epidemiology and Community Health* 2002; 56: 913-18

[5] Walking the Way to Health, Countryside Agency

[6] Perceptions, Attitudes and Preferences in Forests and Woodlands, Forestry Commission Technical Paper 18

vegetation. Research suggests that symptoms of stress may be alleviated within 3-5 minutes of seeing trees, and that even driving down a tree-lined avenue can reduce blood pressure, relax muscles and lower stress levels. Children and people with a tree on their properties tend to spend less time off work and school through ill health.

5.7 There is now growing recognition that a healthy, extensive and well-managed urban forest can provide a wide range of multifunctional contributions to a sustainable urban environment. An excellent summary of that research is contained in *Trees Matter! Bringing lasting benefits to people in towns* published by the National Urban Forestry Unit (NUFU, 2005).

5.8 The benefits of easily accessible and well-managed parks and 'green spaces' within towns and cities have been widely recognised by government in numerous reports. For example, the paper on '*Sustainable Communities: building for the future*' (ODPM, 2003a), called for a "*wider vision of strong and sustainable communities*", developing "*places where people want to live and will continue to live*". One key requirement for a sustainable community is identified as "*a safe and healthy local environment with well-designed public and green space*". Government has taken extensive measures to improve the quality of urban parks and green spaces and a range of initiatives have helped bring about a halt in the decline of the quality of green spaces in many neighborhoods.

5.9 The report of the Urban Green Spaces Taskforce (DTLR, 2002a) stated that "*Parks and green spaces are an essential element of livable towns and cities in which people want to live*". Another Government report asserted that "*Every one of us should expect to enjoy places that are clean, safe and green. Poor quality spaces are visible indicators of decline and disadvantage…and reduce quality of life…*" (ODPM, 2002). The same report highlighted the importance of trees within these urban green spaces and called for the "*imaginative use of tree planting*". Trees are, arguably, the most important component of most urban parks and 'green spaces', which are so important in the day-to-day lives of the approximately 48 million people who live in the towns and cities of the UK. This alone justifies the need for local authorities, other bodies, local businesses and residents to have the opportunity to influence the development and management of parks and trees. These reports have also consistently emphasised the crucial role of urban trees and woodland as an essential component of that urban green space.

5.10 The presence of trees in our communities also attracts other values that can be hard to quantify. Trees can help regulate urban microclimate and ameliorate adverse effects of weather. In the first place, trees can influence utility bills through their correct positioning. Trees in windbreaks have been used for years. In open field areas, their financial benefit has been estimated to save 20% of heating costs from reducing the wind-chill factor of a house. Trees are valuable in providing shade, particularly for children, when the occurrence of skin cancer is increasing. Trees help to cool buildings through shading effects, thus reducing air conditioning costs (10% of annual energy consumption in warmer climates). On a different scale, correct positioning of trees and hedgerows near roads can reduce snow blockages by breaking up the wind blow effect, saving money on snow clearing. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems can be used to promote bio-diversity and irrigate urban trees and woodlands, however cannot be relied upon as a means of disposing of surface water.

5.11 Where appropriate, tree planting can be a particularly practical and cost-effective way of helping to restore derelict and degraded land – a legacy of past industrial development (please also see **APPENDIX 4**). Protecting and expanding our urban forest, particularly in areas of regeneration, is a very low cost effective way of underpinning the local and regional economy and engaging with communities.

5.12 Urban trees and woodlands make our town healthier by taking up air pollution and reducing its damaging effects.

5.13 Dense block planting of trees along roads has a sound reducing effect, enabling a better quality of life for nearby residents, and is a less intrusive than expensive methods of reducing noise. Visually there is an economic value, as people would generally far rather gaze at trees than the harsh lines on a grassed embankment. Areas of trees are cheaper per m^2 to maintain than grass and lawns.

5.14 From an aesthetic point of view, it has long been accepted that trees on a development provide a better impression, an immediate sense of maturity, to the benefit of a site and its surroundings. Various attempts have been made to quantify the aesthetic and environmental value of urban trees, including estimates based upon the increased value of housing in areas with greater extents of tree cover. However, because of the subjectivity of some assessment methods, this field of research continues to stimulate controversy and debate.

5.15 One assessment suggest around 18% in the UK[7], while another in the USA, where new identical housing estates have been sold without tree planting against a planned semi-mature planting of each plot, has seen a 10% increase in profit achieved from each house where planting has taken place. People are attracted to live, work and invest in green surroundings. Therefore, protecting and expanding our urban forests, particularly in areas of regeneration, is a very cost-effective way of underpinning the local and regional economy and engaging with local communities.

5.16 The production of Oxygen (O_2) by trees, whilst removing Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) from the atmosphere is often overlooked. It is due to the worldwide production of oxygen by trees (and other vegetation) that we are able to survive but on a local level we often never give this a thought. Trees act as a "carbon sink" that is, they absorb CO_2 throughout their lives but usually reaching their maximum absorption after 10 years of growth. Most trees absorb between 6kg to 12kg of CO_2 per year. It is estimated that for every ton of timber produced 1 ton of CO_2 is removed from the atmosphere. During this cycle of CO_2 absorption, Oxygen O_2 is released back into the atmosphere. Again, for every ton of timber produced a ton of O2 is released. If we translated the production of trees, from their gas balance, into monetary terms over 50 years, then each tree releases £15,000 of O_2 and rids the atmosphere of £30,000 of CO_2. If we add into the equation the uptake of water by the tree, we find further value. Trees must take water through their root system and transpire through the leaves. During this it filters out pollutants and releases back clean water into the atmosphere. When you work out the volume of water a tree recycles, this will add a further £15,000 of water purification throughout the average life of a tree. Therefore, at current values an average tree is worth to our society over £1,000 per year throughout its gas balance alone, not counting all the other benefits previously discussed.

5.17 Trees also provide us with a seasonal array of colour.

- *Asthma rates for children fall 25% for every extra 350 trees per sq km.*
- *1,000 new parks could help avoid 74,000 tonnes of carbon a year.*
- *For every 5% of tree cover added, water run-off is reduced by 2%.*
- *A treeless street is 5.5C (10F) warmer than a tree-lined one in hot summers*

This all said, we must bare in mind that where trees are damaged or badly pruned and subsequently decline and die, or where inappropriate planting or poor design leads to conflict, trees become a constant source of complaint and ultimately, any positive benefits are lost.

[7] National Urban Forestry Unit publication "Trees Matter"

6 The present resource[8]

The phrase 'Urban Forest' is used to describe all the trees in a built-up area, whether publicly or privately owned, in gardens, hospitals, schools or parks. It is the total tree cover in an area. When a view of an area is taken from a high vantage point or from an aerial photograph it is easy to see how the phrase 'Urban Forest' describes quickly and accurately the tree cover in an area. Because trees take many years to reach maturity, the urban forest of today is the result of tree planting and planning that took place at least 30-100 years ago.

6.1 Tree numbers and densities

Based on national research, it is estimated that the average density of trees and shrubs across the borough is between 58.4 – 74.7 per hectare. As Ipswich aspires to become the greenest town in the greenest region the upper tree densities will be targeted. **APPENDIX 5** identifies the country level of tree data and **APPENDIX 6** identifies the country level of tree data.

6.2 Land use classes

- The highest tree/shrub densities are estimated to be in low density residential areas and open spaces. It is estimated that these two classes each have a significantly higher tree density than any other land use. The town centre and other major shopping areas, is estimated to have fewer tree/shrubs than any other land use class, except high density residential areas. It is estimated that high density residential areas have fewer trees than all classes except town centre (including other major shopping areas) and industrial areas.

6.3 Species composition

- The species composition of our urban forest is of great importance for a number of reasons. Data that shows that tree densities are being increased may be a positive indicator of success for a future tree strategy, and improvements in the environment for local residents. However, such data may mask the truth. For example , the replacement of one large , native tree with two trees of relatively small short lived ornamental cultivars is likely to have a negative environmental impact – providing significantly less biodiversity and aesthetic value.

- In broad teams, trees in towns II research would suggest that large broadleaved tree species make up in the region of about 26% of the total number of trees and shrubs in the borough. Small broadleaved tree species an estimated 35%, and conifers an estimated 23% with shrubs making up about 16%. Research also suggests there are an estimated 148-196 different species /genera within the borough.

6.4 Canopy cover

- Based on the research, it is estimated that the average mean tree canopy cover across the borough is between 8.2% and 11.8% .

- Street trees make up approximately 2-14% of the boroughs canopy cover

- Park and open space trees make up approximately 11-33% of the boroughs canopy cover. These trees are of great importance often dominating informal and formal space.

- Visible trees (e.g. in front gardens) on private land makes up approximately 12-26% of the boroughs canopy cover.

- Less visible trees (e.g. in back gardens) on private land makes up approximately 37-60% of the boroughs canopy cover

[8] These estimates are based on the national average /regional average research undertaken by Trees in Towns II. Reseach to evaluate Ipswich true canopy cover against these figures is required.

Age and Maturity

- Based on the research it is also estimated that most trees in the borough are either semi mature (approx. 41%) or early mature (approx. 27%). The proportion of young (approx. 14%), mature (approx. 17%) or over mature (approx. 0.2%) trees are estimated as relatively small.

Tree condition

- National research suggests the majority (approx. 70%) of trees should be in good condition with very few, (3%) poor, dying or dead.

- Tree condition in low and medium density residential areas and open space is expected to be slightly better than in high density residential areas, the town centre and industrial areas.

7 General tree policies

7.1 The following guidance, policies and action apply to all situations in which the council has dealings with trees through its function as both a landowner, agent to the local Highway Authority and a Local Planning Authority (LPA). The council aims to take an integrated approach to the management of the Council's responsibilities and continue to ensure all the various functions, responsibilities and staff are located within a single service area.

7.2 In its functions and duties the Council will aim to apply a transparent, consistent and logical approach to its action and decision-making and will aim to avoid disproportionate, costly or unnecessarily bureaucratic system for managing trees.

7.3 The Council has a general presumption against felling of trees. Often it is only once a tree is removed that its value becomes apparent. Even after planting with substantial and large trees, the amenity lost can rarely be adequately replaced. However, it is sometimes necessary to remove trees for safety, design, biodiversity in the interest of good management, or to enable development that brings benefits of a local, borough or national significance.

7.4 Unfortunately nationally there are many long held beliefs about trees which are known to be untrue, such as trees usually having deep tap roots which can result in trees unnecessarily being damaged. The thought that trees require pruning to keep them healthy is also a concept that is largely out of date. These beliefs are not just particular to Ipswich. The council will aim to make information available to help everyone understand trees and tree needs better and also provide insight as to why certain work is, or is not, carried out to trees by the council. Associated with increased knowledge of trees needs is an increased responsibility for individuals towards trees, whether they stand on private or public land. With each remaining tree being more vital, care and consideration is required from everyone in matters where trees may be involved. Without such knowledge and care by the community of Ipswich many trees may be lost or damaged.

7.5 Integrated management and social Aspects

The Council requires that the principle of integrated management is central to its modern approach to urban tree management and its concept of the Ipswich Urban forest.

7.6 Efficient and effective urban forest management requires an overview of the entire urban forest. Its individual elements cannot be considered in isolation from each other or the rest of the urban environment. The principle of integrated management can only be applied practicably when the different organisations and groups that have some ownership, responsibility and concern for urban forest begin to work in partnership.

7.7 Those involved should not work in isolation or in conflict with each other. As urban tree management is especially the Council's function, the Council is taking the lead to develop this integrated approach in partnership with external organisations. An integrated approach is also important to the Council. To this means the Council has restructured enabling all those responsible for trees, as both LPA and landowner, to be focused through one specialised team rather than split between different directives, departments and individual staff. The major aspect to the councils integrated approach to management is the involvement of local communities in the councils tree programme.

7. 8 Public Safety

Under UK law, the occupier of land has a duty of care to take reasonable steps to prevent or minimise the risk of personal injury or damage to property arising from the presence of any tree on the land, or from its breakage or uprooting. In England and Wales, the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and 1984 governs liability. The earlier Act deals with liability relating to visitors; i.e. persons who enter the land or premises either by invitation or by permission. The later Act deals with liability to other persons, including trespassers. Occupiers can be held negligent in their duty of care even if injury or damage occurs on land where people do not have access by right or invitation. Under General Liability, a tree owner has a 'Duty of Care' to its 'neighbours' with regards to the regular inspection and hazard abatement of its tree stock. This duty is laid down in the Occupiers Liability Acts of 1957 & 1984, the Highways Act 1980 (especially section 130), The

Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 'Dangerous Trees and Excavation' and Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 (for bystanders sec 3(1)). Criminal Liability can be pursued under Section 3 of The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, where there is a general duty of care at Common Law to take reasonable care to avoid injury to your neighbour.

7.9 In the event of a claim arising from personal injury or other damage involving a tree, the occupier of land will in most cases be liable if found negligent in meeting their duty of care. For proof of negligence, it will usually have to be shown that it was reasonably foreseeable that the tree might do damage. Where negligence is not proven, the failure of a tree would be an "Act of God".

7.10 If a tree is located where it could either fail in whole or part and cause injury or damage, the occupier is expected to ensure that it is subject to expert inspection and that the inspection is recorded. The purpose of the inspection is to determine whether it is foreseeable that the tree could cause harm by virtue of its location, size and physical condition. The occupier must take action to remedy any defects found in the inspection. The courts recognise that the occupier of land may not have the necessary expertise to make such a determination. It is therefore accepted that employing an expert to do this work can fulfil the occupiers' duty of care.

7.11 Amongst the numerous hazards that may be associated with trees, their potential for whole or partial failure onto either people or property attaches greatest concern. Mechanical failures in trees are often attributable to recognisable 'defects', but even an apparently sound specimen can fail in exceptionally strong winds or extremes of temperature, since nature's principle of lightweight structures allows a natural failure rate to occur even without defects, therefore there can be no absolute guarantee of safety. However, there is one means of achieving absolute safety from tree failure and that is to remove all trees that might conceivably fall on someone or their property. Such an approach would be unacceptable given the immense contribution that trees make to our environment. However, people and property need an acceptable level of protection, which can be achieved through a reasonable system of assessment and remedial action.

'The public also needs to accept that a society cleansed of all risks is both undesirable and unachievable' Risk Regulation Advisory Council – look before you leap into rules for trees 2008.

7.12 Public safety is of foremost importance when dealing with trees. However, the popular perception of what is dangerous does not always correlate with what actually is dangerous. Some trees, particularly those that are dead, may be dangerous. However, other trees, such as those which are partially decayed, are not necessarily so. Apart from obvious cases, a full assessment of tree safety can only be made by an arboriculturalist who can differentiate perceived from actual danger so that risks can be managed proportionately. Tree safety management is a matter of limiting the risk of significant harm from tree failure whilst maintaining the benefits conferred by trees. Although it may seem counter intuitive, the condition of trees should not be the first consideration. Instead, tree owners/managers should consider first the usage of the land on which the trees stand, which in turn will inform the process of assessing the trees. Any Tree Risk Assessment system should apply established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management. Firstly, the targets upon which trees could fail should be assessed and quantified, thus enabling tree manager/owners to determine whether or not and to what degree of rigour a survey or inspection of the trees is required. Where necessary, the tree or branch should then be considered in terms of both impact potential (size) and probability of failure. Values derived from the assessment of these three components should then be used to calculate the probability of significant harm occurring.

7.13 It is unreasonable to ask the public to accept a high liability for their own trees through the planning system when the council would not accept similar liabilities in its own trees. The council will therefore apply similar criteria in assessing the risk in both situations, and will always advise tree owners if their tree appears to present an unacceptable level of risk to people or property.

7.14 Climate change

Predicting just how climate change will affect trees within the borough is not easy. It is not simply a question of higher temperatures; it is also likely we will face greater fluctuations in rainfall and wind. Climate change has a direct and indirect effect on trees in a number of ways. A rise in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere causes an increase in tree growth and extended growing season. Some tree species will experience earlier leaves and flowers (up to a month early.) Preparation of a climate change risk assessment may be required to help develop an adaptation action plan to address the risks so that we can ensure the tree-scape continues to flourish and retain its unique qualities of landscape, botanical and biodiverse richness. Initial issues that need consideration are:

- The need to consider the tree population including species mix and the vulnerability/resilience to change. Where necessary new species, more tolerant of drought or high temperatures may be introduced gradually to replace more vulnerable ones.

- The vulnerability of the tree-scape to pathogens, both specific and general and the development of a strategy on disease control.

- The need to guard against the introduction of new invasive species (including pathogens) suited to the changing climate.

- Increased demands for tree planting for shade, particularly for children, when the occurrence of skin cancer is increasing and helping to cool buildings through shading effects. On a different scale, there will be increased demand for tree and hedge planting to reduce snow blockages by breaking up the wind blow effect.

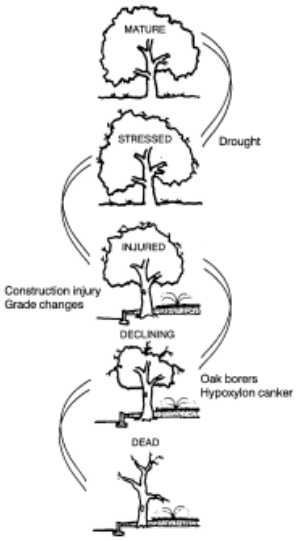
7.15 As well as these specific measures, arboricultural practices will need to be adapted to take account of the changing climate. Soil protection will be important to offset the affects of drought. Avoiding compaction, aeration and mulching with composted wood-chip are all likely to play a part. It may be necessary to irrigate selected trees such as those within the public highway through Sustainable Urban Drains and permeable surfacing, and the careful matching of plants to soil types will certainly become an important consideration.

7.16 Ipswich must continue to avoid a limited diversity of tree species being planted as it would weaken the ability of urban tree population to withstand abiotic and biotic stress.

7.17 *"Government should create places which co-exist with the natural environment rather than conflict with it,"….."We have to redesign our cities in response to the climate change, and this means investment in green roofs, millions more street trees and more parks. Investment in grey infrastructure runs into billions [but] investment in green infrastructure remains tiny."*Helen Phillips, Natural England's chief executive.

7.18 Why trees die - trees and the spiral of decline

Certain causes of tree death are obvious. Destructive forces of nature such as high winds, lightning, fire or other catastrophic events can physically destroy a tree in a relatively short period of time. Young, newly planted trees often die from lack of water, improper planting or other acute problems related to early tree care. However, what causes older, well established trees to eventually die? Essentially, they run out of energy!



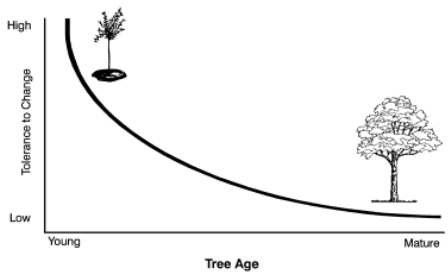
Trees are large, complex biomechanical organisms with tissues and organs that specialize in numerous physiological and physical functions. Because trees are unable to alter their location, trees might be perceived by some as objects rather than as living entities. They are living structures sensitive to change and respond physiologically to stress in their environment. Trees do not grow at random; they do so in predictable ways, following strict principles such as the precept described as the axiom of uniform stress[9]. Trees do not have the ability to regenerate dead tissue. Wounded or lost tissue is not replaced or repaired to its previous healthy state. Trees react to injury by forming physical and chemical barriers to contain the injury and its effects, a process known as compartmentalization. The loss of tissue can be costly to the tree in terms of lost storage areas for energy, and increased demands for localized growth and defence used in compartmentalizing the injury from opportunistic decay organisms.

7.19 Trees often die from a series of linked events called cumulative damage. A mortality spiral in the adjacent figure describes the tree's transition from vigorous to stressed, from stressed to injured, from injured to declining, and from declining to dead. At each stage, specific biological, cultural, and environmental factors are involved. Reducing the factors that are stressing the tree can help reduce or stop the decline.

[9] A tree is a self-optimising mechanical structure. A generating system which reacts to mechanical and physiological stresses by growing more vigorously to re-enforce weak areas, while depriving less stressed parts. This precept is described as the axiom of uniform stress. This precept allows arboriculturists to make informed judgments about the condition of a tree using the reactive nature of tree growth to state what extent a defective tree is at greater risk of breaking, compared with a completely sound one.

However, managing the presence and severity of predisposing factors from the outset is the most cost effective way of management.

7.20 Trees have limited supplies of energy that they must budget across competing demands. All demands cannot be met simultaneously. Because of this, trade-offs occur among growth, storage, reproduction, and defence. Defence is often the last demand to be met on the list. As tree growth increases or is stimulated by pruning operations such as a crown reduction the defence budget will decrease but the demand may well increase with increased wounding created by pruning. When trees are storing energy for next year's growth, defences may decrease. When trees need to increase defences due to an environmental stress such as development pressure, the storage for next year's growth can decrease, leaving the tree with a limited store of energy for the following season's growth making them more vulnerable to biological factors at first flush. Trees on say development sites, or in the public highway, are often at the stressed stage of the spiral from the very start of any activities and by the time construction is well underway on a site with limited tree protection they are entering the injured, declining or dead stages. Stress is an indication that the tree has difficulty in balancing growth, storage, reproduction, and defence. If the stress factors are not minimized or eliminated, the tree may go further down the "mortality spiral" that will eventually lead to its demise.



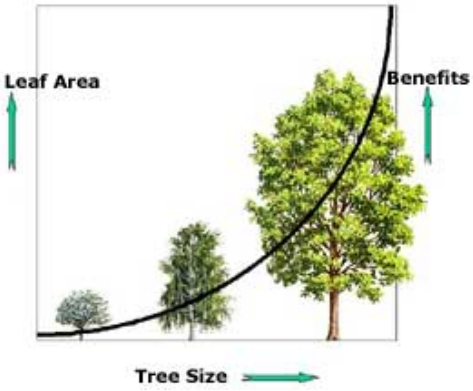
As trees age, there is a distinct change in their ability to respond to stress (see figure). Young trees have a high ratio of photosynthetic (leaves) to non-photosynthetic (woody) tissue. Consequently, for their size, they produce a relatively high amount of energy. Healthy, young trees produce enough energy for growth and abundant storage. They tolerate environmental change and maintenance treatments. In contrast, mature trees have heavier demands on their energy supply. They utilize some energy for growth, but a large percentage is used just to maintain the massive amounts of existing tissues in the trunk, branches and roots. Additional energy is needed to seal wounds that occur from wind breakage, insect attacks and other sources and for the development of reproductive structures. Because of their tighter energy budget, mature trees have very little stored energy for responding to environmental change. In essence, mature, healthy trees are in delicate balance with their environment. The key to preserving this balance, and therefore their health, is to maintain environmental stability around mature trees.

Comprehensive tree care programs should always be considered long-term. A program should begin before planting and should continue throughout the life of the tree. Practices should be geared to mesh with the natural changes that occur in the tree system. There are three important phases in urban tree development during which practices should be modified to meet the tree's ability to withstand change. These include the planting/establishment phase, a juvenile growth phase, and maturity.

7.21 Amenity Value and Tree Size

Trees are unique among large structures in towns, as unlike non-living structures such as buildings, they change considerably over time. They can grow in height by as much as one metre a year and this obvious, but often over-looked characteristic should be considered.

7.22 Trees are never too big, but they can grow to a size inappropriate for their location. The size of the tree, in itself is rarely a direct cause for concern. It can, however, increase the potential risks posed by the tree. Each tree should be judged on its own merits taking into account the full range of risk and/or nuisance caused by the tree, balanced against its contribution to the overall environment.



7.23 If possible, the need to carry out major crown work to trees should be avoided. Such work is frequently expensive because of the difficulty involved, and once started it must be continued as it often leads to stress and in the long term to decayed trees of poor structural stability. The work often results in an ugly tree, and generally a smaller growing tree that is able to develop a full crown will have a greater amenity value than a larger growing tree that periodically requires crown reduction. Crown reduction is a useful arboricultural technique for constraining the size of a tree canopy. If done minimally and following best practise, then

damage to the tree crown should be minimised where a need is identified. Nevertheless, in most situations it is not beneficial to the tree. Like all pruning it provides an opportunity for decay organisms to gain entry to the tree, and is associated with the poorly attached re-growth and

may lead to a weak structure in the long term. Even where there are no structural problems, most crown reduction leads to a tree of lower amenity value, either because of the decrease in size or winter "toothbrush" appearance of all but the lightest crown reductions. An exception might be a poorly formed crown improved through re-shaping. Among some people, there is a common misconception that trees require regular pruning. This is not so except in very limited situations such as urban pollards or wall-trained or pleached trees. The Council will refuse applications for any crown reduction or other pruning where this is unnecessary. Acceptance of the case for light crown reduction can lead to heavier crown reduction through a process of attrition. Choosing 'right place – right tree' (please see **APPENDIX 4**) is essential in minimising unnecessary tree works and expense in terms of amenity, the environment and restricted finances. The exception to this rule is where there is a strong historical or local characteristic precedent behind the choice of a particular species.

7.24 When choosing tree species, it is recognised that large trees generally have a larger amenity value, as well as providing greater benefits in terms of pollution absorption. Wherever there is space to allow a tree to grow to full size without the need for disfiguring pruning, or it causing a serious nuisance, the Council will seek to plant, or encourage or require the planting of a tree with the largest maturing size on a site using the principals of 'right place – right tree'.

7.25 CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees) provides for the first time in the UK a method specifically intended for managing trees as public assets not liabilities. The Council will use this methodology as strategic tool and an aid to decision-making in relation to the tree stock as a whole, but also to be applicable to individual cases, where the value of a single tree needs to be expressed in monetary terms is required.

7.26 Arboricultural Standards

Arboriculture is a fast developing discipline that has undergone massive changes in the past 20 years as some practices have disappeared and others have appeared. Knowledge on some subjects, such risk assessment or Amenity Assessments methodology, biomechanics, entomology, and tree morphology has grown tremendously. It is expected that similar changes will take place in the next few years and it is obviously important that all council staff working with trees remain fully abreast of relevant changes so that all decision-making can be informed by the current best opinion and practice. This applies to those working at both a practical as well as professional, supervisory and strategic management level. The council will require that all work for which the council has responsibility, as a LPA, Highway agent or landowner be carried out to the highest current standard of the arboricultural profession.

7.27 Disposal of Arboricultural By-products

The Council is committed to sustainability in all its operations. The environmental disposal of wood products can only take place where there are practical alternatives to unsustainable practises. The development of these alternatives often depends on the marketing of bulky usually low-value products. The use of a wood-chipper ensures that small branch wood is converted to wood-chips that are a useful product used on council land and could be sold as bio-fuel for woodchip boilers. There may even be further profitable market in the council composting the chips itself and selling directly to the public.

7.28 There is also scope to improve in the disposal of timber. The biggest obstacle to using (i.e. fencing, signs and benches) or selling timber from tree works is the small quantities used at any time, the often-poor quality of the timber obtained, and the fact that it is often in small sizes due to sectional felling. This means that the timber and wood available would never make large amounts of money, but sale may often at least cover disposal costs and represents a sustainable end use. The largest market for this kind of wood is likely to be firewood, pulpwood for paper production and small quantities of high quality planked timber or wood for turning. The council will continue to market these products. Higher quality timber use and marketing will be considered more fully in a later chapter.

7.29 Timber or Tree Stations are sites (either urban or rural) to which local woodland, tree managers or tree surgeons drop in centre can bring woody waste. They can produce a wide range of products including fuel for heat and power, compost, charcoal and sawn timber for sale into local markets. Such initiatives, when linked to recycling and avoidance of landfill, can open up real opportunities for the council using woodland products in the future. However, further research is required to examine the true potential of woodland

products, and how these could be supported and marketed, such as the use of 'certification' schemes, which guarantee sustainable management, and offer verification of quality and source discussed in later chapters.

7.30 Income generated from arboricultural by-products shall be utilised for tree nurseries, environmental community involvement and sustainable tree management projects so that those involved can see the direct benefits of their efforts.

7.31 Right Place – Right Tree

Alongside objectives to protect and enhance Ipswich's tree and woodland resource, recognition needs to be made of other key habitats and land uses. Ipswich's limited resource of space means that sites need to be used appropriately and to greatest sustainable benefit. This Tree Management Policy advocates a 'Right Place Right Tree' (see also **APPENDIX 4**) approach, which seeks to ensure new planting/colonisation are appropriately located and designed and that woodland expansion is not to the detriment of protecting and restoring existing priority native woodlands and other habitats.

7.32 In some environments, trees can cause problems. Trees which have been planted or allowed to colonise in inappropriate habitats should be considered for removal. In many cases, woodlands and trees are encroaching and reducing the wildlife value of these habitats. An ecological assessment should be undertaken to identify the suitability or otherwise of a site for new planting. A landscape assessment may also be appropriate to ascertain any potential disruption to important views or vistas. New planting should be considered within the context of an overall landscape plan and as part of a functioning ecological landscape, and should not occur randomly. Once a site has been deemed appropriate for tree planting or colonisation, the type of tree should then be chosen to fit the environment. The checklist in **APPENDIX 4** highlights the principles and issues which need to be considered to achieve sustainable enhancement of Ipswich's tree and woodland resource, and provides the context for the objectives which follow.

Tree-Related Nuisance

7.33 General

The council receives many complaints or enquiries about trees causing a nuisance. There is a need to develop a process so that a consistent approach is adopted across the council and work is carried out or approved in response to an assessment of the actual problem and the environmental, amenity or financial cost of felling or tree-work.

7.34 Complaints or enquires about trees on private property are not the responsibility of the council and it has no responsibility for them. Disputes relating to private trees are a case for civil action and complainants will be advised of this. The council will, however, provide informal tree advice over the phone to members of the public where it can.

7.35 This section deals with the serious nuisance of structural damage caused by trees and the minor nuisances of light obstruction, view obstruction and the dropping of honeydew, bird droppings, leaves, fruit and flowers. This section also excludes nuisance caused through obstruction of CCTV cameras and the highway and associated views, signs and lamps (see *Highway obstructions and trees* and *CCTV surveillance and trees*). Minor 'Nuisance' here refers to nuisance caused to anybody, including the tree owner. This is in contrast to the legal definition whereby nuisance cannot be caused to the tree owner.

7.36 Future nuisance issues can be minimised by following the principle of planting the 'right place – right tree'. Careful consideration should be given to the location of new trees and species selection.

7.37 Damage by Tree Roots

This section deals with the council response to both subsidence claims against its own trees and subsidence related applications to undertake work to protected trees. Subsidence is a complex interaction between the soil, building, climate and vegetation that occurs on highly shrinkable clay soils when the soil supporting all or part of a building dries out and consequently shrinks, resulting in part of a building moving downwards. Trees lose water from the leaves through transpiration that is replenished by water taken from the soil by the roots. If the tree takes more water from the soil than is replaced by rainfall the soil will gradually dry out. Trees have a large root system and they can dry the soil to a greater depth, critically below the level of foundations. The amount of water trees can remove from the soil can vary between different species.

7.38 The opposite of subsidence is a process called 'heave' and this occurs as a shrinkable clay soil re-hydrates (re-wets) and begins to increase in volume exerting upward pressure. Heave can also cause damage to buildings and is just as undesirable as subsidence.

7.39 However, trees are not the only factors that can cause building movement for example natural seasonal soil moisture changes, localised geological variations, lack of flank wall restraint, over loading of internal walls, internal alterations reducing the load-bearing capacity of the original building,installation of replacement windows without proper support, loft conversions, settlement and land slip etc.

7.40 While the council recognises its responsibilities for the trees it manages, it will expect any claim against its own trees to be supported by sufficient evidence to show that the tree in question on the balance of probabilities is an influencing cause in the subsidence. In a similar way, where an application to work on a protected tree is received, the Council will again expect sufficient evidence, as the standard/mandatory application form for consent to carry out work on a protected tree indicates that the applicant should provide a report by an engineer or surveyor as well as a report by an arboriculturalist. As a guide, the Council will develop and adopt a system similar to that of the London Tree Officers Association's (LTOA) approach contained in the 'Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Root Claims (May 2007, or subsequent revisions). In simple terms, the level of evidence that would be expected is linked to the amenity value of the tree. These are summarised at **APPENDIX 7**. The four amenity categories are based on those in British Standard BS 5837 'Recommendations for Trees in Relation to Construction' 2005, and are summarised at **APPENDIX 8**. The Council will develop further guidance based on its own amenity valuation system.

7.41 Where necessary, the Council will obtain expert specialist advice, be that from in-house staff or from an independent expert, to verify submitted evidence and where it demonstrates that the tree is an influencing cause, permission to remove the tree will not unreasonably be withheld.

7.42 In cases where trees do not have an outstanding amenity or wildlife value the Council acknowledges that management of the tree is often the most appropriate and cheapest way to tackle subsidence. However, this should only be considered where all other options have been carefully considered and the tree is proved to be the cause of the subsidence beyond reasonable doubt. In such cases the Council would wish to see all the options considered including pruning, although it acknowledges that this is obviously not appropriate for all species. Wherever tree work is carried out to alleviate subsidence, building movement should be monitored as this can provide valuable evidence if further work is required to the same or additional trees.

7.43 Minor and Seasonal Nuisance

Minor nuisances are generally those that may cause inconvenience to people, but rarely cause significant discomfort or financial loss. Most trees in highly populated urban areas have the capacity to cause nuisance, and it is common to hear that trees are generally appreciated, but not wanted in a particular position because of this. Action in response to all minor nuisances would lead to the removal or mutilation of many trees, to the detriment of both public amenity and wildlife. The recognition of the value of trees in urban areas requires that trees be retained for the benefit of wider society, even where they cause minor inconvenience to immediate residents. As well as having an environmental cost, action by the council in response to all the minor nuisance complaints that it receives would be a waste of resources that would be better spent on other council services. The Council will not carry out or authorise any tree work to alleviate a nuisance that will not have a significant effect on that nuisance.

7.44 Honeydew

Honeydew is a natural secretion of excess sugar by aphids and other sap-sucking insects. Some trees, such as certain lime and maple species are associated with larger amounts of honeydew compared with others types of trees. During the summer, the Council receive many complaints about the covering of cars and windows and the sooty mould associated with the honeydew. Whilst the residue can cause problems, it does not, despite popular perception, damage car paintwork and it is easily removed by washing. In most situations, honeydew from established trees of amenity value should be tolerated. In vulnerable situations it should be possible to minimise the problem through the choice of species at the planting stage, notwithstanding the need to retain certain species, such a common lime, for historical or design reasons.

7.45 Leaves, fruits and flowers

The dropping of leaves, fruits and flowers is another natural function of a tree's biology. Activities such as clearing up fallen leaves and seeds are part of normal household maintenance and while they

are clearly a burden or tiresome to deal with for some people, they are a part of normal life and the disadvantages should be weighed against the benefits of trees to the area.

7.46 Pollen and allergies

All vegetation produces pollen as part of its life cycle. Everything from grass to trees can have an effect on those members of our community who suffer from sensitivity to pollen. Whilst over 90% of hay-fever sufferers are allergic to grass pollen which is prevalent throughout the summer, only 25% of sufferers are sensitive to birch which is produced for a much shorter period of time.

As this is a natural and seasonal process and not one the British legal system recognises as a 'legal nuisance', there is nothing the Council can do to alleviate the symptoms and effects on residents. For this reason the Council will not fell, or allow the felling of, trees for this reason. You may find the following websites helpful:

- http://www.pollenuk.co.uk
- http://www.bbc.co.uk/health/conditions/hayfever1.shtml

7.47 Roosting birds

In many ways, birds are perceived to be beneficial and are to be encouraged. Occasionally large numbers of roosting and perching birds such as starlings and pigeons cause problems due to their droppings that cause a mess and may occasionally be a health risk. Generally felling a tree will not alleviate the problem as birds will relocate to another tree in the locality. For this reason the Council will not fell, or allow the felling of, trees purely because birds use those trees.

Tree work should not take place to trees or hedgerows likely to contain nesting birds during the nesting season where the work would disturb birds or destroy nests (Wildlife Countryside Act, 1981). Special care should be taken with old trees that are likely to contain hole-nesting species, but care is also needed with shrubby or evergreen trees that often contain nesting birds because of the early and dense cover provided. Care[10] should also be taken when dealing with trees vegetated by Ivy, or other such flora in close proximity that may harbour bird nests, e.g. Bramble.

7.48 Television and satellite reception

Routine pruning can potentially alleviate residents' concerns about trees casting shade or branches obstructing streetlights; however it is unlikely to provide a solution to signal interference to satellite-television dishes. When you buy a television licence it allows you to operate any equipment to receive a transmission; it is not a guarantee of any television reception, let alone a perfect reception. The council acknowledge that Television and Satellite entertainment is important to some residents. However, a balance has to be found between this and the local environment. The council will encourage residents to seek reasonable alternative solutions to improve television or satellite reception rather than requesting tree pruning or removal. Pruning or removal of trees will not normally be carried out, or given consent, solely to improve television or satellite reception.

7.49 Ordinary televisions (terrestrial) operate in a way that will allow for a degree of variation in the reception and that will still allow a viewable image on the screen. However, satellite-television requires the 'dish' to have a clear line of sight at the broadcasted signal. Even small obstructions such as a single branch of a tree (or a Highway traffic sign, high building, etc.) will prevent adequate signal getting to the satellite-dish. The Council (or indeed any tree owner) is not required to remove or even prune them for the benefit of television reception. Such action would have an immense impact on the environment, affecting visual amenity, air quality and public health as well as being contrary to this Tree Management Policy. To expect the Council to take responsibility for the quality of television reception is unrealistic and unsustainable, as there is no basis in law or policy for that expectation.

Other sources of information and advice can be obtained from the following links:

- http://www.bbc.co.uk/reception/

[10] Care - advice should be sought, and adhered to, from specialists for example the Council's wildlife department or RSPB".

- http://www.aie.org.uk
  (select ‘TV’ under 'Categories')

- http://www.ofcom.org.uk/static/reception_advice/faqs/index.asp.html

7.50 Obstruction of Scenic views

The obstruction of scenic views is a minor nuisance and the Council will resist the removal or severe pruning of trees of significant amenity value purely for the creation or reinstatement of views except in limited circumstances. An example might be trees of significant but limited amenity value were blocking a public view of say Holywells Park that was felt to possess greater public amenity value. Currently, there is no legal right in law to a view, and what is more, a view obstructed by the growth of trees cannot legally be regarded as a nuisance in the legal term of the word.

7.51 Light Obstruction by Trees

Within the borough where trees, houses and other land-uses exist together at a high density, some obstruction of light by trees is inevitable. Unfortunately if all trees were felled or pruned to maximise light levels, there would be very few trees left, and even without trees, many houses and gardens would be partially shaded by surrounding buildings. Whilst there is no legal ‘right to light’ it is difficult and expensive to alleviate a nuisance through the courts and it is questionable whether it applies to trees (Dobson and Patch, 1997).

7.52 Where a tree exists, there can be considerable pressure to fell or severely prune it in order to increase light levels. When considering requests or applications to do this, the Council will always attempt to weigh up the light obstruction against the many benefits that trees generally and the particular tree bring to the area in terms of amenity and wildlife habitat. The council will not authorise or carry out pruning that will have an insignificant effect on light levels, or any other nuisance, as this is a drain on limited council tree-maintenance budgets and creates unreasonable expectations and additional pressure for disfiguring pruning.

7.53 In some cases, it is acknowledged that the obstruction of light can be a relatively serious nuisance, particularly where it affects public safety associated with the highway (see 11.22 *highway obstruction and trees*). Light is important for quality of life and where the proposed work is not detrimental to public amenity, the Council will approve pruning that significantly increases light. Very occasionally it may be necessary to carry out severe work to trees of amenity or wildlife value to alleviate a light obstruction nuisance, but this will only be in exceptional circumstances such as where extremely low light levels had the potential to damage eyesight or cause other serious problems. Under such circumstances the option to fell and replace with smaller or lighter canopied trees, perhaps further away, should be investigated rather than severe and disfiguring pruning.

7.54 When considering development proposals, the Council will require that at least part of a garden is un-shaded by existing trees and proposed landscaping. In some cases, this will involve larger than normal gardens that accommodate the tree and offer un-shaded space. However, on some sites significant shading is inevitable. Where houses have been built with an existing high established tree density or extensive landscape planting, the Council will assume that it would have been reasonable to foresee seasonal light differences or the growth of trees associated with a development and the council will be less willing to carry out or authorise pruning that would detract from public amenity or wildlife value.

7.55 High Hedges

Within the past decade, an increasing number of cases have been publicised where cypress-type conifers, primarily Leyland cypress, have caused serious light obstruction problems through their ability to grow rapidly to a considerable height as a solid evergreen hedge.

7.56 A high hedge is defined in the Act as a barrier to light or access as is formed wholly or predominately by a line of two or more evergreen or semi-evergreen trees or shrubs and rises to a height of more than 2 metres above ground level. The Act only offers control over hedges that affect domestic properties, which are defined as a dwelling or any associated garden or yard.

7.57 Complaining to the council is seen as a last resort and should only be undertaken when all other avenues have been exhausted. If someone is troubled by a neighbouring hedge, the best way to deal with the issue is to discuss it amicably and agree a solution. For this reason, the law requires people to have taken reasonable steps to try to settle their hedge dispute for themselves before complaining to the local council.

7.58 The role of the council is to act as an independent and impartial third party. Whilst it is not the council's role to negotiate or mediate between individuals, officers will make a site visit prior to an application to discuss the complaint providing both parties are present. This will help to ensure everyone involved is aware of all the issues, encourage neighbours to find their own solution and verify that every effort has been made to resolve the problem amicably. The council will make no charge for this pre-application visit. In doing so, the council must take account all views and relevant factors including the hedge owner's amenity and that of the wider neighbourhood. The council will assess each case on its particular merits.

The following may be useful;

Over the garden hedge
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/overgardenhedge

High hedges: complaining to the council
http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planning/treeshighhedges/highhedges/

High hedges: appealing against the councils decision
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/highhedgesappeal

The Communities local Government website
http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/

7.59 Drains

Whilst tree roots are not thought to actively seek out water contained in underground pipes or drains, if they are growing in close proximity they can gain access to weakened or cracked pipes exploiting them and eventually blocking them if there is enough water, nutrients and oxygen. It should be noted however, that tree roots can rarely directly break drains by lifting or girdling them as drains usually fail by other means, such as failed drain collars, old drain piping and differential settlement or movement of soil along the drain length.

The removal of one tree will not prevent other vegetation from exploiting the same opportunity.

The presence of roots close to, around, or alongside drains will not be taken as proof that root invasion is or will occur.

The Sewer Rehabilitation Manual suggests the expected design life of clay or concrete pipes is 80 years however many trees would hopefully live longer. It is therefore very likely that drains /sewers would need to be relayed during the lifetime close by trees. Installation of structural liners inside pipes may avoid excavation, but this is not always possible especially if the pipes have deformed more than 10% of their diameter. Trees should therefore not be planted too close to drains.

The Council presumption is that the appropriate way to deal with tree root blockage of drains is to ensure that the drains are watertight, root barriers can also be used in some situations. Accordingly, the Council will not normally take action in response to complaints that council managed trees are blocking drains without clear evidence.

7.60 Surface Roots

Tree roots in gardens and areas of grass are a natural occurrence near trees. Neither pruning nor removal of the tree will have any effect on the presence of the roots i.e. in a lawn. Unless the roots are causing some form of mechanical damage (pushing against a structure, for example) pruning or removal would not be recommended. In fact, pruning or removal may possibly have a detrimental effect on surrounding structures.

7.61 Trees and wildlife

Management of trees, hedgerows and woodlands that conserve and enhance biodiversity is a key objective of this Tree Management Policy. In all its dealings with trees, the Council will aim to carry out, require or encourage management that achieves this. Relevant policies and action are introduced as appropriate throughout this document, but those contained in chapters on hedgerows and veteran trees are particularly appropriate. Although these prime habitats are important for wildlife, the concept of the urban forest recognises the value of all trees, which combine to create a low density 'forest' which supports a diverse natural community, including for example song-birds which often occur at higher densities and with more species than in the surrounding countryside. Although most of the species in the urban forest are common

species, they possess value both intrinsically and through their presence create an attractive area with a high quality of life.

7.62 Ivy does not harm trees and provides a valuable site for birds nesting and roosting and is an important source of nectar for insects such as the Golden Hoverfly in Holywells Park. The Council will encourage the retention of ivy within trees wherever practicable.

7.63 Deadwood, either as part of a live tree or as standing dead timber is not necessarily dangerous. It has a high wildlife value and is increasingly rare. Where the tree risk assessment allows, it can be appropriate to retain this habitat as a vital component of the healthy woodland ecosystem. In appropriate locations where risk assessments allow, stumps will be retained higher, and may be subject to corrent cuts, to benefit Ipswich character species – stag Beetles (BAP species). The majority of ancient trees owe their special character to stag headed branches, hollow areas or lightning strikes and should be conserved in their entirety wherever possible for their visual and heritage importance.

7.64 Existing habitat may have a value for nature conservation which is greater than the value that trees or woodland would have on that site, or may be damaged by tree planting. Tree planting will be discouraged on areas of heathland, rich grassland and marshland unless it is part of the management plan. All proposed tree planting in areas that are designated as being of nature conservation importance will be subject to Council approval and follow the Right location – Right tree approach.

7.65 In order to create, maintain and enhance the value of a site for nature conservation the use of predominantly native tree and shrub species is desirable. Planting native species close to these sites and planting native hedgerows helps to encourage wildlife into residential areas and can help link up sites to create wildlife corridors.

7.66 Birds

The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, amended by the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000, is the principle legislation protecting birds. The Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 makes it an offence to disturb a birds nest which is in use, which is normally taken to mean under construction, or with eggs, chicks or birds using it regularly - even if they are not actually in it at the time. The Acts make it an offence to kill, injure or take any wild bird and to take, damage or destroy any nest that is in either use or being built. To comply with the Acts the Council's tree surgeon team will check trees for nesting birds during the nesting period and take appropriate measures to prevent disturbance prior to the commencement of routine works. Exactly defining the nesting season to clear dates is not possible as lots of Ipswich's resident birds start nesting before April e.g. Long tailed tits start to build nests from Mid February onwards. Some birds also have two or three broods a year and are therefore more likely to have nests later in the year e.g. House Sparrows and Starlings that are now on the RSPB's red list. The Council is mindful that bird nesting may be early and later in future years as a result of climate change.

These measures may mean delaying the works until young birds have flown. If, despite best efforts, a nest is found after work has started, a buffer area around the nest will be created and the tree returned to once the young birds have flown. Where nesting birds are identified in dangerous trees and the birds species are those listed in schedule 1 of the Act the council will isolate the tree to prevent injury to the public and apply for a licence to take appropriate action. Where trees present an imminent risk to public health or safety and there are no schedule 1 listed bird's affected appropriate action will be taken.

7.67 Bats

All bats are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (Schedule 5) and Schedule 2 of the Conservation Regulations 1994. These make it illegal to: Damage or destroy any bat roost, whether occupied or not, (this is an "absolute" offence, with no defence); Intentionally or recklessly obstruct any bat roost whether occupied or not; Intentionally or recklessly disturb any bat at a roost; Deliberately kill, injure or capture any bat; Deliberately disturb any bats in a way that would significantly affect their ability to survive, breed or rear young, or in a way that would affect their local distribution or abundance, whether in a roost or not. Given that mature trees can be significant bat roosts, inspections and/or surveys by trained bat workers will precede works where bat roosts may be present, and derogation licences will be obtained from Natural England prior to any work that may otherwise result in an offence. This is likely but not exclusively to occur in park or woodland trees, or trees adjacent to wildlife corridors such as waterways and railways. Where necessary the council will seek expert advice from the Suffolk Bat Group, Natural England, or the Bat Conservation Trust.

7.68 Badgers

Badgers are protected under the Protection of Badgers Act 1992 that makes it an offence to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; to interfere with a sett by damaging or obstructing it or by disturbing a badger when it is occupying a sett, recklessly, or with intent. Where necessary the council will seek expert advice from the Suffolk Wildlife Trust.

7.39 E-tree

E-government refers to the use of electronic means by government to deliver information and services to individuals and businesses. This government-driven initiative heralds major changes in the way that central and local government delivers its services, leads the community and communicates with its stakeholders.

7.71 The National e-Service Delivery Standards (NeSDS) has been set up to help councils provide efficient and consistent levels of service to their customers. The NeSDS is a component of the Local e-Government Programme. The council has worked with the organisation and contributed to the development of the standard *'NeSDS raising e-standards to improve delivery standards v 1.0 trees'*. The document defines standards for the delivery of Tree Services within a Local Authority and forms part of the National e-Service[11] Delivery Standards (NeSDS) programme, which is developing "e" standards for a range of Local Government service areas.

Key areas for the development of the councils tree programme are suggested in **APPENDIX 9.**

[11] . In this context, "e" means all aspects of the utilisation of technology to support service delivery including the management processes required for successful implementation.

8 Non Public Realm trees

8.1 By far the majority of trees in the borough either grow in private grounds, communal gardens or are attached to property. Front garden spring flowering cherries, apples and hawthorns adorn many parts of the borough and create a pleasant ambience that enhances the street-scene and compliments its architecture.

8.2 Tree owners have a duty of care towards others and should ensure their trees are regularly inspected and maintained. There is no legal requirement to fulfil this duty but in the case of an accident or an insurance claim, questions will be asked about how this responsibility was attended to.

8.3 Various legal means enable the Council to control and influence the treatment of private trees. The majority of these powers are given under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, with provisions made within other Acts, such as the Highways Act, 1980, which for example requires the cutting of vegetation to maintain clearances for the footway and highway. The Council also has discretionary powers to deal with dangerous trees both in relation to its own land and private land.

8.4 As the LPA, it is able to protect trees with Tree Preservation Orders and it has a role in relation to trees in conservation areas. With over 20,000 TPO trees and with 307 hectares of the borough designated as Conservation Area (approximately 17,911- 22,910 trees), it is important to check if trees are protected by making an enquiry to the Council who will be able to advise.

8.5 Under common law, one is allowed to remove branches growing over a boundary from a tree rooted in a neighbouring property; however, the branches removed remain the property of the owner of the tree. It should be noted however that where trees are protected, this right can only be exercised once an application has been made and a decision issued.

8.6 Dangerous Privately-Owned Trees

The Council has discretionary powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require trees to be made safe under certain circumstances. Where a tree under private ownership is endangering people or property on public land, or private land with public access, the council will always be prepared to use these discretionary powers to serve notice or undertake tree work. In some situations, where trees and hedges are endangering users of the highway, it may be more appropriate to use powers under the Highways Act 1980, although these powers do not allow immediate action without serving notice and hence are less appropriate where a tree presents an immediate and severe public danger. Following the Government advice in Circular 36/78 (DoE, 1978), the council will only use its discretionary powers as a last resort and will initially approach the owners, advising them of the situation and attempting to obtain an undertaking to carry out the work. If the tree did represent a significant and imminent risk to the public and an undertaking is not received to carry out the work or make the tree safe in a reasonable period, the council will either carry out the work immediately or serve notice on the owner depending on the level and imminence of risk presented by the tree.

8.7 The Council has powers to serve notice or take action on dangerous privately-owned trees. Where it is important to take action immediately due to a severe and imminent threat to public safety, an arboriculturalist within the Council would make a decision. Unfortunately, such people are sometimes not available outside office hours and in exceptional circumstances a decision may have to be made by the next appropriately trained officer identified on the Council's Emergency Contingency Plan - Arboriculture. Because of the potential difficulty in recovering costs from the tree owner, it is important that the decision is transparent and systematic and made by someone who is arboriculturally experienced and educated, and ideally trained in the councils tree risk assessment methodology. A similar situation should occur with the Council's response when its own trees represent a severe and imminent threat to public safety outside office hours and an officer is not available.

8.8 The Local Government Act provides a means for local authorities to carry out emergency arboricultural work and recover the costs over a period from a tree owner unable to immediately pay for the work. If a tree owner were unable to pay for work to make safe a tree on his or her land the council would usually require that a commercial loan be obtained to finance the work rather than use the Act.

8.9 The council will usually not intervene using discretionary powers in situations where privately owned trees represent a risk to the users of private land without public access. Here the council will encourage neighbours to communicate and solve problems without referral to the council. Where there is a very high usage of private land, so as to effectively confer public usage, for example children trespassing and playing on unsecured derelict land, the council may intervene.

8.10 Tree Preservation Orders

A TPO is an order made by a planning authority in respect of trees or woodlands. The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without the authority's consent. The carrying out of any such works without the necessary consent is an offence. Anyone found guilty of such an offence is liable, if convicted in the Magistrates Court, to a fine of up to £20,000. In serious cases a person may be committed for trial in the Crown Court and, if convicted, is liable to an unlimited fine.

8.11 Tree Preservation Orders are used to protect selected trees and woodlands if their removal would have significant impact on the environment and its enjoyment by the public. Priority for TPOs is generally given to trees which are considered to be under threat, for example where development is proposed.

8.12 In making TPOs the Council must show a reasonable degree of public benefit would accrue. The tree should therefore normally be visible form a public place, although exceptionally, the inclusion of other trees may be justified. The council is developing a consistent transparent defendable way of demonstrating ''amenity value''. The benefit may be present or future (for example, when proposed development has taken place). Trees may be worthy of preservation for their intrinsic beauty or for their contribution to the landscape; or because they serve to screen an eyesore or future development; the value of trees may be enhanced by their scarcity; and the value of a group of trees or woodland may collectively be important. Other factors (such as importance of site as a wildlife habitat) may be taken into consideration, but alone would not justify the making of an order.

8.13 Ipswich Borough Council made its first order in 1971 and since that time some 441 orders covering over an estimated 20,000 trees[12] have been made (18 orders above the mean national average held by other LPAs[13]). In general, the council serves the national average number of orders per year and receives on average 36 applications to undertake works to TPO trees.

There are about 178 different species /genera protected by TPOs within the borough.

The classification Woodland contained the largest number of trees approximately 11,284. The Group classification consists of approximately 3,501, Individual classification holds approximately 3,412 and there are only about 1,344 trees in Areas.

8.14 The mean average number of conservation area notifications received by the council over the past three years was 56 per year.

8.15 As land owned by the council and other public organisations is increasingly transferred to the private sector, control over the works to trees shifts from public maintenance to public protection. This generates an increased demand for the making of TPOs. The Council's priority for making TPOs are;

- Individual trees that are at risk and have visual impact on the streetscene.
- Development sites subject to current planning applications and briefs.
- Major road frontages along the main transportation corridors (i.e. road, rail and water and views a traveller through the borough will have, many people use these routes so the trees along them are noticeable).

12 The number of trees per hectare will vary considerably from site to site being largely depends upon planting distances, species and growth dynamics. Therefore it is essential that all figures are understood as broad brush estimate only.

13 Commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) in February 2004 the research, Trees in Towns II (that builds upon the original Trees in Towns survey 1992/3) provides up-to-date information on the national urban tree stock and urban tree management by local authorities.

- Re-surveys of sites following re-development.

8.16 To some people, having their tree protected by a TPO is seen as beneficial. It can protect the tree from neighbours who might remove trespassing branches and roots, and it is recognition of the special value of a tree in the similar way to how listing defines buildings of historical value. Other people see the placing of an order as an infringement on their property rights. The Council is able to offer advice to owners on the management of their trees.

8.17 Whenever a tree is felled there is a loss of wildlife and amenity until a replacement tree grows to attain a similar stature. With some ornamental flowering trees this can be as little as 20 years. With other trees, such as old oak or cedar trees, at least 200 years may be required. The loss in wildlife and amenity can be minimised by the advance planting of a replacement tree. This is generally only successful where either an alternative of equal visibility and position is available or a very shade tolerant species, such as beech or yew, is used.

8.18 In some situations where a tree is protected for its public amenity or wildlife value and the tree is felled, public amenity would be best served with replacement of an identical species and variety. However, in some situations there can be a net long term gain in public amenity when an alternative tree is planted and the Council will advise the tree's owner of this. For example, in some situations a small tree such as a rowan may be felled where space is available for a larger tree. Although the tree's owner is only required to replant with a tree of an appropriate size and species, the Council will advise, or may require through a condition, that a tree of higher eventual amenity value is used.

8.19 A different approach is sometimes necessary when trees are specified as a group, as compared to those specified as individuals. In some situations it may be beneficial to fell trees within an even aged group to encourage age irregularity and avoid the greatest loss to public amenity that occurs when a whole group would have to be felled. In this situation the Council may allow premature felling of some trees in a group to achieve age irregularity, but would have to be clearly set out within any application.

8.20 A different approach is needed with some very formal groups, such as avenues. Here the value of the group lies in its homogeneity and the Council would encourage management which encouraged this (i.e. as suggested by Arboricultural Practice Note APN 9). If space allowed and the original avenue was deteriorating, the Council might encourage the planting of off-set replacement avenues that could grow to a reasonable size before the original avenue is felled as a single unit. A similar approach might be taken by the Council in the management of its own tree avenues, although this would rarely be appropriate with highway trees.

8.21 Unauthorised Works to Protected Trees

A TPO protects a tree from unauthorised work except under exceptional circumstances, such as when a tree is "dead, dying or dangerous" or causing a legal nuisance. The Council will strongly advise tree owners and contractors to provide five days notice of exempt works as it avoids misunderstandings. It always requires clear evidence that work has been carried out under one of these exemptions and will prosecute where this information is not made available.

8.22 Where unauthorised felling or damaging tree work appears to have been carried out wilfully and maliciously, the Council will always seek to prosecute both the landowner and contractor. Whether such action is taken will depend on the proof available and not the perceived value of the tree. Once the Council has placed a TPO on a tree, it has acknowledged the amenity importance of the tree. Although the fines associated with the illegal felling of small trees are often small, prosecution in such cases provides an important deterrent against unauthorised work to larger and perhaps more important trees.

8.23 TPO review

The concept of giving LPAs power to protect trees in the interest of public amenity was first introduced in 1932 in the form of Interim Preservation Orders. The power to make TPOs was incorporated into the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 (hereafter, TCPA), which forms the backbone of modern planning legislation. Since that time there have been some 24 Acts and Regulations that relate to TPOs in various ways. There has also been guidance issued by Central Government, in the form of Memoranda, Addendums, and Circulars, the advice in which has reflected priorities prevailing at the time. Case law over the years has also helped to clarify the interpretation of the relevant Acts and regulations. There have been several Model Orders – with which TPOs should be made in substantial compliance. TPOs are made in accordance with the provisions of the Acts and associated Regulations in force at the time – but each have been slightly different,

and none of the changes were retrospective – with the result that there is a range of slightly different types of Order, with different provisions.

8.24 The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister publication -Tree Preservation Orders A Guide to the Law and Good Practice 2000[14] (hereafter, the 'blue book') states LPAs are advised to keep their TPOs under review. By making full use of their variation and revocation powers the council can ensure their TPOs are brought up to date when the time is right to do so. There are a number of reasons why, over time, it may become desirable to vary or revoke a TPO.

8.25 In addition to this, the Planning White Paper Planning for a Sustainable Future[15] outlined the Government's proposals for further reform of the planning system to help councils respond to the economic, social and environmental challenges that lie ahead. This includes making planning processes more efficient and more accessible to people who use these services. Although the White Paper focussed in particular on development control procedures, the issues about proportionality, speed, quality and clarity apply equally to the tree preservation order system. The Tree Preservation Orders: Improving Procedures Consultation Paper dated November 2007, and subsequent Government response to consultation replies dated September 2008, outline the proposed changes to the Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) 1990 and subsequent requirement for new regulations to deliver these reforms. The reforms will provide a much slimmer, simpler document to replace the long complex model. As previously stated TPOs may include different provisions, and may be subject to different rules, depending on when they were made. In advance to the wider changes to the system, the white paper made improvements which could be implemented in the shorter term and which will help reduce bureaucracy, improve the speed and quality of decisions and introduce greater clarity.

8.26 The first subsequent reform[16] came into force on 1st October 2008. In addition to making it mandatory to use a standard application form for all applications for consent to carry out work to trees protected by TPO it also included other wider provisions, a new slimmer model order and a new fast-track appeal system processed by the Planning Inspectorate (PINS). As the fast-track appeal system is based on the original application and supporting information, an important element of the new procedure is the requirement to provide specific information in support of the TPO application supplied at the time of submission for work relating to a tree's condition or the damage they are causing to property.

8.27 With the need for developers to maximise profits in a slowed economy, and guidance from the government on housing densities, trees are under increasing pressure for removal. Pre-development arboricultural assessments [17] requires the validity of a TPO to be clarified.

8.28 Given the above and, the minimal mandatory requirement of NeSDS, it is now the correct time to start bringing the Council's TPOs up to date.

8.29 Conservation Area Trees

Anyone who cuts down, uproots, tops, lops, wilfully destroys or wilfully damages a tree in a conservation area without giving a section 211 notice (or otherwise in contravention of section 211) is guilty of an offence. The same penalties as those for contravening a TPO apply. For example, anyone who cuts down a tree in a conservation area without giving a section 211 notice is liable, if convicted in the Magistrates' Court, to a fine of up to £20,000. Anyone who carries out work in a way that is not likely to destroy the tree is liable to a fine in the Magistrates' Court of up to £2,500.

8.30 Most conservation areas in the borough have been designated due to the quality of the special architectural, historical interest and their character and appearance. Nevertheless trees are important and often contribute strongly to the conservation area. Under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 the LPA has powers to protect trees in conservation areas. There is a requirement for tree owners to inform the LPA if they intend to fell, lop or top a tree above a certain size in a conservation area.

8.31 Generally all trees in conservation areas have an interim protection. Anyone proposing to carry out works of pruning or felling must give the council six weeks' notice of their intention. This is to enable the Council to examine the proposal and decide whether or not to make a Tree Preservation Order. All

[14] There is a May 2009 Addendum to the 2000 Guide. The Addendum covers changes which came into force on 6 April 2008, 1 October 2008 and 6 April 2009.

[15] Communities and Local Government, May 2007.
http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/planningsustainablefuture

[16] Town and Country Planning (Trees) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2008 (the Regulations)

[17] In accordance with British Standard 5837:2005 Tree's in Relation to Construction (Recommendations)

notifications (s211) are acknowledged by the Council and responded to. If the works are considered acceptable and/or a TPO is not justified, then the applicant can proceed. There are some minor exemptions such as trees that are less than 75mm in diameter.

8.32 The Council will use its influence to encourage tree owners to replace felled trees, and to use more replacement trees where appropriate to re-establish visual impact and wildlife resource as quickly as possible.

8.33 Tree Character Assessment

Most garden centres can often source an extensive selection of species and varieties of trees at a variety of sizes. However, for commercial reasons, stock within the centres often needs to be dictated to by fashion and purchasing trends and the indiscriminate use of cheap, short-lived species is starting to raise considerable concerns of 'shortermism' in urban landscaping. These trends are often orientated towards small garden in newer properties where small growing and highly ornamental species and varieties are most appropriate. This can sometimes create problems where such a range is widely planted in conservation areas, leading to a homogenous tree-scape and a loss of local distinctiveness as the older, and sometimes larger-growing species that may be typical of a conservation area are replaced with species and varieties which will be more distinctive of time than place. The Council will tackle this problem through the provision of advice, requirements under its role as a LPA and possibly through the provision of appropriate free or subsidised trees within, and directly adjacent, Conservation Areas.

8.34 In order to encourage appropriate planting to retain and enhance the landscape of conservation areas, the Council will investigate the possibility of a targeted free or subsidised tree scheme whereby funds could be sought to develop a subsidised or free tree scheme that would enhance conservation areas.

8.35 The Council will have special regard to the historic appropriateness of a particular species and its sitting within the boundary of, and adjacent, a conservation area. The Council will carry out an assessment of all the conservation areas identifying species and varieties of trees that are appropriate to that conservation area. Particular concern will be given to the historical appropriateness of trees based on research of post plantings, although it is acknowledged that certain varieties and species not originally used may have aesthetic qualities making them ideal for planting in a particular conservation area. Ecological appropriateness will also be considered. Following research, lists will be made available to the public giving various species and varieties across the size range of trees that the Council considers appropriate for the different conservation areas.

8.36 In considering replacement trees for those felled in conservation areas, and where replacement is required under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990, the council will be guided by the tree character assessment carried out for each conservation area. In some situations this may lead to a net long term gain in amenity as inappropriate species and varieties are replaced with those more appropriate. It is important that the use of tree character assessment does not become a 'strait-jacket' as there are places within conservation areas where uncharacteristic trees will be appropriate or can add contrast if well chosen and sited.

8.37 Permitted Development and Protected Trees

The building of structures for which permitted development rights exist may require consent. The Council has received a number of applications to fell protected trees in order to accommodate the building of structures for which there are permitted development rights. These include conservatories, small extensions and driveways. In many cases the felling of the tree is not actually needed and with suitable design to a high standard the tree could be retained. An example would be driveways where following the advice in Arboricultural Practice Note 1 (Patch and Dobson, 1996) would allow a drive to be constructed close to the tree without damage to the tree's root system. The Council will not approve the felling or disfiguring pruning of protected trees to accommodate permitted development unless there is an overriding need, such as vital disabled access to a home, and the loss can be adequately mitigated, generally with suitable tree replacement in a position of equal or greater public visibility.

8.38 Tree planting

Most of the existing individual trees are found in private gardens and many others in suburban streets. There is great potential for further planting in these areas. Schemes promoting tree planting in private gardens and streets will help to improve the environment of Ipswich's suburbia, and this should be guided by Suffolk Biodiversity Action Plan. The constraints of the urban environment can make enlargement of woodland or other semi-natural habitats impractical. However, sympathetic management and planning for both open space

and gardens that border woodland can create effective buffering and extensions to these important habitats as well as delivering a wide range of other benefits to society. Formal buffer stripes adjacent to ancient woodland, such as Spring Wood are of particular value. Significant benefits can be achieved through working with nature and encouraging natural colonisation, and such approaches should be prioritised where appropriate. Planting or colonisation should also be followed by management to ensure the ongoing health of the planted stock.

8.39 Planting and replenishment of trees by residents on private property is a significant part of the constantly changing and improved landscapes in the borough. However, trees on private property should not be relied upon to maintain the appearance of the borough's urban and rural landscapes – only to augment it. A significant benefit in broad-scale landscape improvements arises from the council engaging in well planned and coordinated plantings on council administered land. Public and private plantings together combine to create tangible and enduring environmental and amenity benefits for the borough.

8.40 On site advice to residents about private trees

The Council does not have an obligation to provide on-site advice to residents about their privately owned trees. Site visits can take considerable amounts of officer time, and many other educational activities could be undertaken that would benefit substantially more people.

8.41 There appears to be considerable demand for a list of council-approved tree contractors across the borough. Like building contractors, tree contractors may have a bad reputation as an industry with a certain number of "cowboys". Whilst there are many very good contractors operating in the borough area, there are unfortunately a smaller number of poorer contractors. The Council is not able to recommend contractors as this would involve some sort of appraisal and would place legal liabilities on the council. The distribution of advice leaflets or directing the residents to seek advice from competent contractors or consultants would be a more appropriate response to these requests. The council will formalise and standardise this in a way that helps ensure that only competent and qualified contactors or consultants are promoted, without the council recommending any individual companies (see http://www.tree-care.info/cms/index.php?section=44)

There is also demand for other types of information relating to trees. The council will provide a useful series of leaflets from both the Arboricultural Association and International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) on the following to improve tree care: tree protection, tree care, choosing a contractor, species selection and planting and trees and wildlife. Leaflets are to be advertised as being freely available and distributed through Tree wardens and the TPO ownership list.

9 Incorporating trees in proposals for development land

'Sustainable development is the core principle underlying planning ... development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs'.

(Brundtland report, 1987)

9.1 Introduction

Trees are of vital importance to the landscape and are widely recognized and appreciated for their benefits in enhancing the rural and urban environment. They make a positive contribution to the scenic character and diversity of the landscape, provide vital habitat for dependant wildlife populations and substantial environmental benefits such as quality of life and sequestration of noise while improving the climate and air quality. Trees can also help protect buildings from the elements, provide shade and assist in energy conservation. Trees can enhance the attractiveness of new development, its character, sense of maturity and overall quality thus helping with the saleability and profitability of properties. Their positive effect on the environment also helps to attract businesses and visitors to an area, thereby boosting the economy. In addition to legislative protection of trees and wildlife the public's awareness of environmental issues and the health benefits of being near trees is also increasing. Developers are therefore under increasing pressure to focus attention on trees and their role in providing a more pleasant and healthier environment.

9.2 Trees can occupy a substantial part of a development site and because of their potential size can have a major influence on the planning and use of the site. Existing or planted trees of good quality and value can greatly enhance new development, however, trees can also be a constraint. Layouts sited poorly in relation to retained trees, or the retention or planting of an inappropriate size or species may be resented by future occupiers and no amount of protection will ensure their retention and survival. To avoid such problems careful planning and expert advice is required from the outset.

In areas where large numbers of trees are proposed, drainage designs will need to take account of the increased likelihood of grates blocking with leaf litter. Developers will need to pay great attention to designing road and building floor levels so that blocked grates do not cause flooding.

9.3 Good design is essential to ensure that areas, particularly where higher density development takes place, offer high environmental quality, including open and green spaces. Landscape considerations are an integral part of the design process and can make a positive contribution to environmental protection and improvement, for example to biodiversity, air quality and the protection of water resources.

9.4 Design is a multi disciplinary activity and a successful design process is unlikely to be achieved without an understanding of the many factors and participants which are involved in influencing it. The planning system provides the means to encourage good design but the system cannot function effectively in isolation. Collaboration and a shared ambition for quality are important at each stage of the design process amongst all those responsible for the delivery of design solutions as well as users and managers of the environment. Integrated working from the outset by professionals such as planners, architects, urban designers, landscape architects, arboriculturists, transport engineers and others is one means of taking this forward.

9.5 Understanding the site and its immediate and wider context is the basis for meaningful and sustainable design response and is the responsibility of all those involved in the design process, particularly planning applicants and their agents and those formulating and implementing design policy and guidance. In general terms, good design will almost always be dependent on working within the natural constraints of the landscape and this should be the starting point from which the design of development evolves. The aim should be to achieve sustainable design solutions, which maximise the natural landscape assets and minimise environmental impact on the landscape. It is particularly important that proposals to amend or create new landscape are not considered as an afterthought and that the long-term impact of development on the landscape is fully understood. The quality of implementation and the long-term management of changes implicit in planting schemes are fundamental to a scheme's success.

9.6 A tree may take a century to reach maturity but it can be damaged or felled in a few minutes. Such damage is frequently caused unwittingly because of a failure to appreciate the vulnerability of trees,

particularly the root system, and how easily and often insidiously they can be damaged. Where trees are damaged during development of a site and subsequently decline and die, or where inappropriate or poor design leads to conflict, trees become a constant source of complaint and ultimately, any positive benefits are lost. Early erection of tree and landscape protection to form the construction exclusion zones before work commences on site is essential.

9.7 Although the juxtaposition of trees and development are often crucial to the overall design concept of a development many issues relating to incorporating trees into development proposals have previously been dealt with after an application has been determined. This approach to a material consideration does not work as it does not provide certainty in what has been agreed nor does it lead to high quality or sustainable development.

This document, and proposed Supplementary Planning Guidance that provides a guild to incorporating trees in proposals for development land shall be in addition to the councils existing non-statutory Planning Guidance –development control policies and design guidelines 1992. Of particular note is *'where trees are being retained in a housing development, dwellings must be sited so that day lighting and sun lighting standards will not be unduly infringed and in any case main widow elevations should be at least 6 metres from the outer edge of the canopy of the anticipated spread of a tree when it is fully grown'*.

9.8 Legislation and standards in Britain relating to trees in the context of planning and development are some of the most advanced in the world.

9.9 Tree planting

The planned major investment in housing, community facilities and infrastructure brings with it opportunities for innovative and strategically planned tree and woodland enhancement. It is essential that trees and woodlands are recognised as an essential part of the overall design and fabric of the project. Innovative solutions can be found in guidance documents such as 'Building Green' and 'Design for Biodiversity'. Trees and woodlands need to be mainstreamed into decision-making processes to ensure they are components of regeneration initiatives from the outset. The 'Right Place, Right Tree' approach should be adopted by all involved to maximise the benefits of trees in these circumstances. Use shall also be made of planning conditions and Section 106 Agreements (of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990) to ensure that funds are identified for long-term management. The conditions and obligations imposed should follow the priorities set out in the Tree Management Policy, and should require that long term management plans are produced, with an indication of the committed source and level of resources for that management.

9.10 In addition, opportunities exist for advanced planting of trees on derelict development sites so that the trees are well established when building work starts. It is vital that lessons from all initiatives are disseminated as widely as possible to encourage other locations to follow suit, particularly in areas earmarked for regeneration.

9.11 Developers have a valuable role as the key players in the majority of the land use changes. They need to respect existing trees and, where appropriate, also incorporate tree planting within their new developments. Target areas are likely to include: (1) appropriate sites in deprived areas, (2) key transport corridors and gateways (including rail), (3) large areas of open space with little existing natural value, (4) derelict sites and (5) public realm within new developments.

9.12 The Council's aspiration is for developers, of greater than one unit, to have urban forestry planting as an integral part, with a minimum target of 15% tree cover per site on maturity. Where this is not appropriate the council will encourage commuted sums for the planting, establishment and subsequent life long management of the tree off site.

9.13 Supplementary Planning Document (A guild to incorporating trees in proposals for development land)

There is a need for the council to develop an SPD that sets out detailed guidance on the way in which development plan policies will be applied in particular circumstances or areas. Once the SPD has been considered by consultation, and subsequently reviewed in accordance with council policy it shall be adopted as SPD and taken into account as a material consideration in all planning decisions.

9.14 A simplified version of the SPD will also be produced to provide a quick overview of the processes only. Therefore, reference to the full SPD will still be essential. The purpose of the draft SPD:

- Replace misguided perceptions of the site from one of a 'blank canvas' surrounded by a few trees with tree planting as an afterthought, to one of a site where suitable trees are integrated successfully from the outset.

- Provide information on legislative and planning policy framework that encompasses trees and the principles to be applied to achieve a satisfactory juxtaposition of trees and development.

- Provide comprehensive information to all parties involved in the harmony between trees and construction (hereafter 'developer[18]'), and on the standards the council shall expect from all new development proposals that affect trees.

- Promote the benefits of suitable trees, to encourage their sustainable management and to enhance the level and quality of tree cover throughout the county.

- Promote good design in new development, which has proper regard to the scale and character of the surrounding environment.

- Ensure all new development maximizes the natural landscape assets and aesthetic quality of an area while minimising the environmental impact.

- Ensure developers quantify and manage the risk of significant harm from tree failure for trees on land proposed for council adoption to a predetermined limit of reasonable or acceptable risk.

9.15 A Guide to Incorporating Trees into the Development Process

British Standard 5837:2005 Tree's in Relation to Construction – Recommendations provides guidance for a balanced approach on deciding which trees are appropriate for retention, on the effect of trees on design considerations and on the means of protecting these trees during development. However, it should be noted that the standard only evaluates the benefits and disbenefits of retaining the tree or group of trees in the pre-design context rather than both the pre and post design context. The Council may therefore require the developer's appointed arboricultural consultant to undertake a secondary evaluation considering the benefits and disbenefits of retaining the tree or group of trees but this time in the post-design context. It is imperative that BS 5837:2005 be used in conjunction with the councils SPD and tree policies.

9.16 Once a preliminary assessment has been undertaken and significant trees identified it would be expedient in the interest of all parties if the developer appointed an arboricultural consultant to provide advice from the outset. The arboricultural consultant can assist in identifying appropriate trees for inclusion in a Topographical Survey.

Following the Topographical Survey the existing trees affected by the proposed development, both on and adjacent to the site, shall be surveyed and categorised. The constraints these trees pose shall be plotted on a Tree Constraints Plan and those selected for retention plotted on a Tree Protection Plan through the design process. Areas for new landscaping shall be identified at this time and landscaping and protective fencing schemes prepared. The position of all excavations and any special engineering required shall be specified in the form of Arboricultural Method Statements. Once work is due to begin on site the developer appointed arboricultural consultant should meet the site agent at a pre-start meeting to ensure the correct erection of barriers and ground protection forming the Construction Exclusion Zone. Any incursion into this area can quickly destroy all the time, effort and expense which has gone into the retention of the trees and will/may lead to prosecution or enforcement action.

9.17 The success of the process depends on the co-operation of all involved in the design and development team. In particular, it is essential for those involved in the development site works to appreciate the vital requirement for maintaining the construction exclusion zone e.g. through appropriate signage and training and a conditioned Arboricultural Watching Brief.

9.18 Step by step guide to incorporate trees in proposals for development

Developing near trees need not be difficult. By following the 9 steps outlined in the Councils draft SPD you will be in a position to address the most important issues before you submit your application. This list of

[18] Including but not limited to developers, arboriculturists and contractors, architects, builders, engineers, land managers and owners, agents, landscape architects and contractors, planners, planning consultants, statutory undertakers and surveyors.

required information is not exhaustive. Depending on site circumstances and the nature of development additional information may be requested relating to specific aspects of a development proposal.

Step 1	Preliminary Assessment	The purpose of the preliminary assessment is to consider the site and its surroundings and to decide on the main issues that need to be assessed. It would be expedient in the interest of all parties if the developer appointed an **arboricultural consultant** to provide advice from the outset. Arboricultural involvement at the outset reduces superfluous Topographical Survey information, help ensure a harmonious relationship between trees and structures and can reduce unnecessary delays in design preparation and validation of the application.
Step 2	Professional Advice	The "rule of thumb" is: an arboricultural consultant will give professional advice on the health and/or safety of a tree, relationships with proposed or existing buildings, development sites or any other tree issue requiring a report, survey or expert advice. Whereas, an arboricultural contractor will give a professional service including pruning, removal and other management operations as required.
Step 3	Topographical survey	The purpose of the **topographical survey** is to collect data that shall inform the design of development.
Step 4	Tree survey and categorisation	**Tree survey** - The purpose of the tree survey is to collect data that shall inform the design of development by setting out the likely constraints imposed by trees. **Pre-design tree categorisation** - The purpose of this valuation is to consider the benefits and disbenefits of retaining the tree or group of trees in the pre-design context.
Step 5	Tree Constraints Plan	The purpose of the **Tree Constraints Plan** is to show the influence that trees on and adjacent to the site will have on the layout by virtue of below ground constraints, represented by the Root Protection Area and the above ground constraints the trees pose by virtue of their position and current and future size (including sunlight and daylight issues).
Step 6	Arboricultural Implication Assessment and design issues.	The purpose of the **Arboricultural Implication Assessment** is to identify, evaluate and mitigate the effects of development on trees and of trees on the development. Tree Loss and planting plans are often required. Design should be considered in its broadest sense as a collaborative, creative, problem solving process – embracing architecture, landscape, infrastructure and urban design – that determines the quality of our environment and that can provide the basis for its sustainable future.
Step 7	Arboricultural Method Statement and Tree Protection Plan	The purpose of the Tree Protection Plan is to provide the precise location and physical protection measures, including ground protection, for trees, woodlands, hedges/hedgerows or shrub masses present on or immediately adjacent to the development site that are identified for retention and are likely to be affected either directly or indirectly by the development.
Step 8	Site Layout drawings.	Should identify and incorporate the above as appropriate.
Step 9	The 10 point checklist.	An application shall show that all relevant issues have been considered before the Council and it's consultees can validate and assess the proposal. Please see **APPENDIX 10.**

9.19 Forestry Commission as a Consultee

In recognition of the special value of ancient woodland, the Government have requested that LPAs consult the Forestry Commission whenever specified development is proposed in or near both semi-natural and replanted ancient woodlands. This is intended to protect such woodlands and ensure that development does not damage the viability or health of such woodland. The Council will consult the Forestry Commission whenever development is proposed that will involve erecting new buildings or extending the footprint on buildings within 50m of an ancient woodland. They will also be consulted whenever major development is proposed within 500m of ancient woodlands.

Natural England and the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (Cabe) say urban areas could be transformed into healthier, wealthier and much more pleasant places if green infrastructure received even a fraction of the investment allotted "grey" areas.

10 Public realm - General Policies and Action

10.1 Introduction

Ipswich Borough Council are custodians of the borough's public tree assets, it currently manages the care and maintains an estimated 100,000 trees on + 669Ha of council administered land. The council takes a proactive approach, by regularly planting new trees on public land primarily to maintain and replenish the numbers of street trees and specimen trees in parks and open space. The Council does not manage trees on private property, with the exception of some responsibilities related to trees formally protected.

10.2 Trees are a living resource and, as such, their care requires ongoing decisions regarding maintenance, replacement and renewal, and removal. Whilst protecting trees is paramount to the principle of maintaining the quality of the present day landscape it should be recognised that trees are not everlasting permanent features. In order to avoid significant degradation of urban and rural tree cover it is necessary to maintain trees across a range of age classes, on streetscapes and within council land on an ongoing basis. Tree planting and management in streets, parks, open space and council-administered land throughout the borough is also vital to counterbalance the continuous changes occurring every day as a result of urban intensification, building development and road improvements. Without such a cycle of replacement and renewal the incremental loss of trees will create temporary gaps and/or serious long-term reductions in tree cover and may lead to landscape degradation.

10.3 Urban trees require specialised ongoing management in order to assist their survival in the highly-modified built environment. Towns and settlement areas are often high stress environments for trees, which have generally evolved in the more conducive natural growing environments of the forest, wetland or open grassland. Trees under stress – be it from water deficit, soil compaction, low nutrient levels, air pollution, elevated air temperatures, altered light levels or physical damage – are more susceptible to pests and diseases and will frequently exhibit a shortened life span. As a significant asset of the Council, maintaining existing mature urban trees in healthy condition is economically preferable to establishing new trees in the same location.

10.4 The Council's arboricultural team are experienced in the diagnosis of tree pests and diseases. Their diagnostic skills and training help to unravel the complex interactions between pathology, entomology, and the host tree: enabling an all-important distinction to be made between the symptoms and causes of tree diseases. Once the causes of tree problems have been identified, and their relative significance prioritised, they are able to target and prescribe appropriate low impact and environmentally sensitive remedial treatments. This approach gives the tree the best chance of recovering and providing many further years of enjoyment. The council aims for sustainable urban tree cover to be advanced by focusing on the economic savings intrinsic to prevention of tree problems, rather than the wasteful costs of cure.

10.5 Strong community interest in environmental issues and general support for the provision of green residential and urban amenity means that, more than ever, the council must strike the appropriate balance between the management and protection of valuable vegetation and the avoidance of real and perceived detrimental effects associated with trees. In its decision-making on trees, the Council considers the implications for all members of the community, including immediate neighbours, local residents, community members and visitors to the area, recognising that all receive some level of benefit and use from having an environment with trees.

10.6 The Council is dedicated to working cooperatively with members of the community to provide healthy, viable trees and urban forest over the long term. Where issues arise concerning tree management, the council is committed to identifying fair solutions that reflect the value of a tree or treescape to the community while addressing, to the extent possible, the concerns and interest of individual residents.

10.7 Duty of Care

Under General Liability, the council and tree owners have a 'Duty of Care' to its 'neighbours' with regards to the regular inspection and hazard abatement of its tree stock. This duty is laid down in the Occupiers

Liability Acts of 1957 & 1984, the Highways Act 1980 (especially section 130), The Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1976 'Dangerous Trees and Excavation' and Health & Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 (for bystanders sec 3(1)). Criminal Liability can be pursued under Section 3 of The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, where there is a general duty of care at Common Law to take reasonable care to avoid injury to your neighbour. Offences under section 33 of the HSWA 1974 can result in fines of up to £20,000 if pursued in Magistrates' Court or be unlimited if pursued in Crown Court. A breach of that duty may give rise to a claim of negligence from the injured party. In an extreme case this may also lead to manslaughter charges or civil action by relatives of the injured party. In the case of trees, negligence may arise by the omission of the owner to take sufficient care of a tree and to deal reasonably with hazards that were **foreseeable**. Under Civil Liability, person(s) can be found negligent if harm is caused or the potential for harm to occur is allowed to arise due to neglect or **'faults not being remedied within a reasonable amount of time'**.

10.8 In the landmark case of 1998 – *Chapman v London Borough of Barking & Dagenham* (where a falling limb resulted in a van driver being rendered a paraplegic) the judge remarked that *'foreseeability of danger can only be assessed, allowing timely remediation, if the hazardous thing (tree) is assessed'* i.e. without inspecting a tree, one is not in a position to know whether or not it poses a foreseeable danger. This case resulted in the first **£1 million** fine for damages being awarded in relation to the failure of a tree against the Local Authority.

10.9 The landmark case of 2006 - *G Poll v Viscount Asquith of Morley and Viscountess Asquith of Morley* establishes the need for tree inspectors to be qualified and competent to undertake assessments and in addition re-states the duty of care that landowners owe in respect of their trees. The case highlights the importance of tree owners of having their trees assessed on a regular basis by competent and qualified Arboriculturists. This means that tree owners, whose trees are within falling distance of the highway should have a system of risk assessment and management in place.

10.10 What is the risk? The Health and Safety executive produced the document `Management of the risk from falling trees 2007' (SIM 01/2007/05) and states *'Each year between 5 and 6 people in the UK are killed when trees fall on them. Thus the risk of being struck and killed by a tree falling is extremely low. Around 3 people are killed each year by trees in public spaces; but as almost the entire population of the UK is exposed, the risk per person is about one in 20 million. The risk, per tree, of causing fatality is of the order of one in 150 million for all trees in Britain or one in 10 million for those trees in, or adjacent to areas of high public use. However the low level of overall risk may not be perceived in this way by the public, particularly following an incident. The average risk is firmly in the "broadly acceptable" region of the tolerability of risk triangle published in HSE's "Reducing Risks Protecting People". However, "Reducing Risks, Protecting People" explicitly states that "broadly acceptable" is a general guide and not a definitive statement of what is reasonably practicable in law.`*

10.11 Around half of all fatalities due to falling trees occur in public spaces, such as a park or beside roads.

10.12 Employers, persons carrying out undertakings or in control of premises all have duties under the Health and safety at work Act (HSW Act). In particular, there is the duty to do all that is reasonably practicable to ensure that people are not exposed to risk to their health and safety. Doing all that is reasonably practicable does not mean that all trees have to be individually examined on a regular basis. A decision has to be taken on what is reasonable in the circumstances and this will include consideration of the risks to which people may be exposed.

With over 20,000 TPO trees and with 307 hectares of the borough designated as Conservation Area (approximately 17,911- 22,910 trees), it is important to check if trees are protected by making an enquiry to the council.

10.13 Re-active tree management

The aim of the following section is to develop and document the most efficient method of providing a healthy and attractive tree population while reducing risks to an acceptable level. At present much of the Councils tree resources are diverted reactively to responding to daily complaints and inquiries as they arrive. On average the Council receives about 2,000 enquires per year (most regarding seasonal minor nuisance). It is estimated that less than 25% of these are high priority that could be prioritised at source. Reactive management is not an efficient or effective use of the Council's financial and staffing resource. The council intends to put in place procedures to ensure the largest proportion possible of its resources goes towards a pro-active defendable system for managing tree risk.

10.14 Pro-active defendable system for managing tree risk

The Council operates a pro-active defendable system for managing tree risk. It now wants to incorporate an advanced, prioritised system of inspection, that ensures recommended actions are acted upon within a reasonable amount of time, and recorded, and that appropriate documentation is present electronically. The whole process is considered to be sufficiently systematic to demonstrate that the council dispenses its duty with 'reasonable care' and takes appropriate action as necessary to protect the public.

10.15 Risk management policy

The council would also like to develop its current system into a formalized risk management policy. The basic principle of the system is that it is a defendable system where actions, inspections etc are generated by potential risk. All details and actions are recorded centrally so that they can be retrieved in the event of an enquiry. Hence the system not only manages risk more effectively but also provides a more efficient audit trail and history.

10.16 The system aims to minimise the risk of trees causing injury or damage as a result of their failure. It does this by separately assessing risk and hazard. Two key terms to understanding the process are specified as follows:

- *Risk* is location based.
- *Hazard* is linked to the individual tree.

10.17 Risk zone mapping

To ensure best use of available resources the borough will be divided into risk zones under four categories:

1. Very high risk
2. High risk
3. Moderate risk
4. Low risk

The criteria to define the LA's tree risk zones are as follows:

- Roadway characteristics are prioritised according to key public safety issues such as emergency accessibility and traffic volume. Top priority areas include emergency access routes, congested junctions, major roads and railway lines.
- Public use and occupancy patterns are prioritised according to importance to public safety and public usage. Top priority areas include schools, playgrounds, emergency and medical facilities and extensively used public areas and buildings.
- Tree resource characteristics are used as an exception for trees that are found to have a higher hazard potential than their risk zone suggests. Top priority trees include old and veteran trees, very large single specimen trees in a low risk area and a high density of 'problem' species, e.g. elms, willows.

10.18 Regularity of inspections

Inspection and re-inspection schedules are based on risk zone categories or findings of individual tree hazard assessments. A key requirement is for all accessible trees to be inspected on a regular basis. The *Well maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management* (2005) recommends that: *Most trees should ideally have an arboricultural inspection every five years but this period may be reduced on the advice of an arboriculturist. Default interval is for arboricultural inspections at least every five years*.

10.19 Based on the risk zone criteria, a colour-coded map of the borough will be developed to show the designated area risk zone categories. The maps will be used to establish inspection schedules and in conjunction with the details of the inspection will determine the date for re-inspection.

10.20 Tree risk zone categories and inspection schedule is located in **APPENDIX 11**

10.21 Hazard assessment

The purpose of tree inspections in a specified risk zone is to detect defective trees, assess the severity of the defects and recommend corrective actions before tree failure occurs. The tree hazard assessment uses a

Quantified Tree Risk Assessment[19] methodology (http://www.qtra.co.uk) to rate trees for hazard to assist in quantifying the level of risk posed to public safety and in prioritising remedial action.

10.22 Only trees greater than 150mm in diameter (measured at 1.3 metres above ground level) are included in the hazard assessments. This is based on research in the USA from documented tree failures that found that most failures occur in trees greater than 150mm diameter at breast height (dbh).

10.23 Where trees are in woodlands or groups, only trees along the edges of woodlands or adjacent to recognised path systems within wooded areas and groups are surveyed.

10.24 Trees in private ownership

Trees on private land within falling distance of a highway can also present a danger to the general public. The Highways Act 1980 (s.154) deals with threats posed to the highway by dangerous private trees. The Council's Tree Inspectors note any hazardous trees on private land that can be seen from outside of the property, thereby reducing the risk to the public. Full auditable records will be kept of hazardous private trees and the actions taken to abate the risk.

10.25 Work Priorities

Work generated by programmed inspections will be prioritised according to urgency (see **APPENDIX 12**). Response timescales will be based on the priority rating.

10.26 Trees have limited supplies of energy that they must budget across competing demands. All demands cannot be met simultaneously. Similarly, the council has limited supplies of money and staff resources that it must also budget across competing demands. Again, all demands cannot be met simultaneously. Because of this, the Council's arboricultural team prioritise their work.

10.27 Although trees provide substantial amenity benefits, where people live in close proximity to trees there are a number of common sources of complaint. The Council receives requests and complaints about trees growing on council land per year, all of which take considerable time to investigate and respond to. The resources the Council has to be used holistically in keeping its management policies and in some cases works simply cannot be justified on the grounds of priority. The Council does however realise that in many cases the problems of nuisance brought to it are of real concern to the complainant, and in such cases certain works will be permitted to be undertaken at the complainants expense if they so wish using either the councils arboricultural unit or an approved contractor only.

10.28 Recording of information

Central to the system is an electronic database linked to a geographical information storage and retrieval package to hold all the relevant information concerning the council's tree management and maintenance. The system also requires that all tree inspections be recorded even if no works are specified.

It is vital that records are properly maintained including:

- Site visits supported where possible by photographic evidence.
- Details of inspections (name of inspector, recommendations, etc).
- Dates of inspection.

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[19] Quantified Tree Risk Assessment Method

Tree safety management is a matter of limiting the risk of significant harm from tree failure whilst maintaining the benefits conferred by trees. Although it may seem counter intuitive, the condition of trees should not be the first consideration. Instead, tree managers should consider first the usage of the land on which the trees stand, which in turn will inform the process of assessing the trees. The Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) system applies established and accepted risk management principles to tree safety management. Firstly, the targets upon which trees could fail are assessed and quantified, thus enabling tree managers to determine whether or not and to what degree of rigour a survey or inspection of the trees is required. Where necessary, the tree or branch is then considered in terms of both impact potential (size) and probability of failure. Values derived from the assessment of these three components are used to calculate the probability of significant harm occurring. The system moves the management of tree safety away from labelling trees as either 'safe' or 'unsafe' and thereby away from requiring definitive judgements of either tree surveyors or tree manager. Instead, QTRA quantifies the risk of significant harm from tree failure in a way that enables tree managers to balance safety with tree values and operate to a predetermined limit of reasonable or acceptable risk.

- Work history (works recommended, what work was actually undertaken, when and by whom).
- Training records (who attended what training).
- Customer complaints (action taken by whom and when).
- Public enquiries (action taken by whom and when).

10.29 Failure Log

Recording of any tree failure is an essential feature of the whole system. Failures should help inform estimation of real risk levels and produce patterns providing baseline data about potential tree failure and possible preventative/corrective actions.

10.30 Failure data will be correlated and analysed to help future priority setting and inform management strategy. It is proposed that this information will be available to the industry via the International Tree Failure Database to help provide national data to assist in future planning issues. The log will record species, age class, location, weather conditions, specific type of failure, contributing factors, observations and action taken following failure. A summary of the failure log will be presented to the management team on a quarterly basis to ensure that appropriate responses/actions are being taken to address and reduce any emerging risks to the safety of the public.

10.31 Wilful damage to Council trees

There have been several instances in recent years of members of the public wilfully damaging council trees, including deliberately killing or attempting to kill trees –**'arborcide'**. This type of activity is an offence. It also represents a wasteful squandering of public resources. The council will respond strongly to any incidence of wilful damage to council trees. The Council will use incentives, such as reward offers, for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for damage to council trees. The Council will refer incidents of wilful tree damage or death to the police, who will investigate with the intention of prosecution where sufficient evidence suggests that a person or persons have committed this offence.

10.32 Where branches may cause a hazard or obstruction, pruning will be carried out. The pruning should cause the minimum amount of stress to the tree and all efforts will be made to plan for it's shape

10.33 Overhanging branches

The Council accepts overhanging or encroaching branches can be seen as a nuisance and legally they are classed as such. There is however, no legal requirement for the tree owner to prevent branches from overhanging or encroaching onto neighbouring property. The Council cannot ensure all council trees are clear of property but on requests will look into the situation and assess each case individually.

10.34 Systematic post-planting maintenance

Whilst the maintenance of mature trees can sometimes be delayed for a year or two without risk to the health of the tree, newly planted trees require much closer attention in the course of systematic post planting maintenance.

10.35 Tree Planting

Where appropriate, removed council trees will be replaced by two trees. Often it will not be possible to plant the second replacement within the same area. In these cases the tree will be planted as close as reasonably practicable.

10.36 More imaginative planting schemes in public areas, particularly on roundabouts

Wherever possible, priority should be given to the establishment of large species that provide the greatest value to local landscapes and biodiversity. Opportunities should be exploited to maximise the use of public open space as 'arboreta for local communities', increasing tree species diversity, whilst prioritising locally characteristic species and native species that provide the greatest biodiversity benefits. Roundabouts are a good example of spaces that could be much better utilised as horticultural and arboricultural focal points, in which local communities could take pride.

11 Highway trees

11.1 Introduction

The borough's highway trees are mostly found in formal street planting and to a lesser degree in woodland and tree belt planting. Relatively few formal street tree plantings exist within the county. Many of the formal tree plantings are in the form of avenues planted at a time when there was less motorised traffic. Highway trees are very visible and their presence gives them an amenity value that surpasses many other trees in the borough. In some streets, they are the only significant natural life forms and their shape provides a contrast to sometimes otherwise harsh street-scenes. The Council can issue frontagers with a licence to plant in the highway under the Highways Act 1980 but there are no such licences in Ipswich. The Council will take this policy into account when considering such a licence.

11.2 A survey within European Union funded COST Action ER 'urban forest and trees' carried out in 1999 and 2001 suggested that on average most central European cities had a ratio of 50-80 street trees per 1,000 inhabitants. Given that there are approx. 7,000 street trees and an estimated 130,000 inhabitants the borough is at the lowest end of the ratio at 53 street trees per 1,000. For the council to meet the high end of the ratio would require an additional 3,400 trees to be planted. However, the borough is predicted to grow to 150,000 inhabitants by 2021[20]. This would, according to the research, require an additional 950 trees to maintain the existing ratio and 5,000 trees to achieve the higher ration of street trees per 1,000 inhabitants. Some caution should be given to the figures as it is unclear whether trees in open space that adjoin the highway were included in the COST survey. Needless to say, the comparison highlights both the need for further research into Ipswich's tree cover and the need for extensive highway tree planting (in accordance with 'right place – right tree' principles (**APPENDIX 4**)).

11.3 All the Council's general policies for its own trees will apply to the dealing of highway trees. Policies relating to subsidence are particularly important in relation to highway trees as these often large-growing trees, sometimes growing close to buildings with much of the potential rooting restricted.

11.4 Street trees are often the most significant tree in a locality, giving structure and individuality to each road or group of roads. It is becoming increasingly difficult to establish new trees in the highway verge due to the range of underground services competing for limited space, salt spray pollution and vandalism. Therefore the removal of existing street trees is to be strongly resisted unless the contribution of the tree cover can be assured.

11.5 Replacement of Highway Trees

Linear highway woodland type belts will primarily depend upon natural regeneration for tree replacements. Where natural regeneration is poor or new woodlands are being created, broad leaf woodland species will be planted. It is important that this does not become a 'strait-jacket' as there are places where uncharacteristic trees will be appropriate or can add contrast if well chosen and sited.

Felled Highway trees will be replaced in two years and preferably in the next planting season subject to funds being available. Only in exceptional circumstances would the Council not want to see highway trees replaced.

11.6 The choice of species and variety to replace felled highway trees is of considerable importance as the replacement tree could be expected to last 50-150 years. Where a particular species dominates highway planting, there will be a presumption in favour of planting the same species. For example, where pollarded lime trees form a highway avenue, there are strong historical and landscape arguments to replacing with another lime tree and continue with the existing management practices. In some situations there is no clear identity to the highway tree population of a particular street. Under such situations there will be greater freedom to choose species and varieties. Generally, species would be chosen initially for their hardiness in the stressful position. Choice would also seek to minimise nuisance by choosing species to minimise damage to the highway or surrounding structures. Next, it would be chosen for the correct size and growth form so

[20] One Ipswich community strategy: everyone matters 2008/2010.

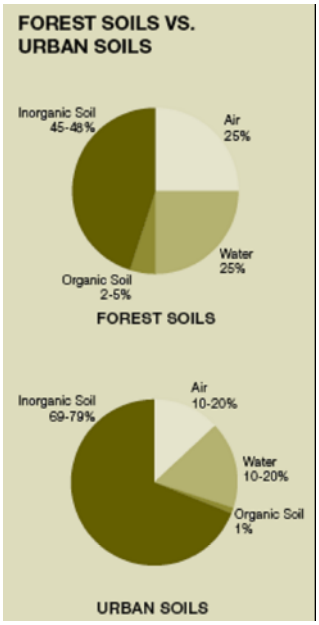
that maintenance costs are minimised. An effort would also be made to choose species to minimise minor nuisances resulting from the dropping fruit or heavy leaf fall.

11.7 There may be opportunities to create new avenues, especially where grass verges exist which avoid the problems associated with root buttress thickening, pavement narrowing and distortion. Additional funds will be investigated for example through S106 Planning Obligation Agreements. However, it is expected that this would be inadequate and additional funds will be sought through a scheme of community or commercial sponsorship of tree planting.

11.8 Greater consideration of future growth habits for street tree planting is needed. For example, new trees adjacent to low-rise buildings could be smaller species, as this could decrease the likelihood of nuisance claims.

11.9 Tree planting pits and Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems

The more that healthy soil is available to trees, the bigger they can grow. The bigger a tree grows, the more significant environmental and social benefit it provides.



11.10 USDA Forest Service research shows that a tree with a 30-inch diameter removes *70 times the pollution* of a tree with just a 3-inch diameter[21]. Typically, urban tree growth is stunted by limited access to soil and poor soil quality. Buckling pathways from roots can become hazardous and a financial burden to the council. Increased soil volumes enable large trees to flourish, providing significant aesthetic, environmental and financial benefits. The Council is investigating possible adoptable solutions to this problem for new tree pits that minimizes and controls these issues by providing unlimited soil volumes without compromising above ground surface area. Additionally, any solution will need to provide water harvesting for the tree, significantly reducing irrigation needs. On-site rain water management will also need to be an underground bio-retention system that utilizes the proven capacity of soils for rain water management.

11.11 When rainfall moves across impermeable paving, it picks up pollutants. As it is channeled off-site for storage or disposal, it deposits these pollutants in ditches, rivers, ponds or wetlands. This non-point source pollution, (which is a leading cause of diminished water quality[22]) and the flooding and erosion associated with it need to be mitigated. Through soil filtration, bio-remediation and evapotranspiration, any proposed tree pit design should utilize the tree and the soil within the tree pit to treat rain water directly on-site, restoring ecological balance and saving money while protecting one of our most valuable resources.

11.12 Current engineering standards for paving and other hardscapes typically result in very poor soil quality and biology. High quality soil is critical for supporting ecological function, but current engineering standards for paving and other hardscapes typically result in very poor soil quality and biology. High compaction, inorganic matter and pollutants in the soil all contribute to the premature death and reduced environmental benefits of urban trees. Any proposed tree pit should make using increased quantities of native or specialized soils possible, ensuring high quality soils and expanded rooting zones to grow vibrant, healthy trees with long life expectancies.

11.13 In addition to supporting and sustaining the growth of trees, soil is an ideal medium to capture, filter, and retain rain water. Tree pits provide a unique underground bioretention areas while maximizing all the aboveground useable space.

11.14 Tree Root Protection Systems

The council needs to investigate adoptable Tree Root Protection System that provides a flexible and permeable solution for protecting tree roots while creating a strong stable surface for pedestrian and possibly light vehicular traffic. With increased urbanisation and more redevelopments of existing public highways, the need to be mindful of the impact on the surrounding environment is more important than ever. The demand

[21] David Nowak, "Trees Pollute? A "TREE" Explains It All." (Proceedings of the 7th National Urban Forest Conference, Washington, D.C., USA, 1995).

[22] Environmental Protection Agency. Polluted! Questions & Answers. (Washington, D.C.: Environmental Protection Agency, 1994).

for access, driveways and parking around existing trees can have a potentially fatal impact on the tree if carried out incorrectly. Tree preservation orders (TPO's) ensure that trees are not wilfully damaged. However the need for vehicle access over and around tree roots on Highway land can still cause the following problems:

- Compaction of sub- soils (especially by construction traffic) causing oxygen and nutrient depletion
- Creating an impermeable surface that prevents water reaching the roots
- Changes in ground level and 'water table'
- Damage caused during excavation
- Contamination of the subsoil

11.15 The Council would like to investigate the potential use of Tree Root Protection System to avoid or mitigate problems and ensure the tree's long-term future. BS 5837:2005 and APN 1 provide information for the protection of trees during the construction process, and any adoptable system must provide a well-established solution that conforms to these guidelines.

11.16 Trench works near trees

In contrast to the common misconception of a tree with a deep tap root, most trees actually possess a very shallow root system with most of the roots in the upper seam of soil. Such roots in the top one metre of soil are easily damaged by trench works that are required to repair existing services and lay new facilities. Significant damage to the roots will have an obvious and severe effect on the health of a tree. The damage may be worse than expected particularly for highway trees as they are often already stressed and severance of the roots on the non road side (such as where the services run along the pavement and the tree lies between this and the roadway) will destroy a disproportionate number of roots.

11.17 Guidance is available on service maintenance and installation near trees. The National Joint Utilities Group 'Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Services in Proximity to Trees' (NJUG, 1985 http://www.njug.org.uk/publication/51/), or NJUG10, provides guidance to minimise damage and advises when careful hand-digging or the use of tunnel boring technology is appropriate. The Council requires the guidance of NJUG 10 to be followed by all underground service maintainers and providers. The Council requires utilities to force their contractors to take a responsible attitude when working adjacent to highway, and other, trees. Unfortunately under the terms of the New Roads and Street Works Act, the Council are not given advanced notice of all utility works due to the emergency nature of some works. Where major works are planned, however, the Council will take appropriate action to ensure that contractors are taking precautions to protect highway trees. In all cases the Council would require appropriate supervision of staff and sub-contractors involved in trench works and action taken against those ignoring NJUG10.

11.18 The Council undertakes trench works through its maintenance of sewers. The Council will protect trees to at least the standard of NJUG 10 (or BS5837:2005). Consultation will continue to take place between the appropriate council engineering team and an arboriculturalist within the council when trench works are proposed near a tree. An arboriculturalist will be consulted whenever it is proposed to cut roots greater than 25 mm in diameter.

11.19 If all other measures were shown to be ineffective, the council would consider the use of temporary TPOs on highway trees where it considers them to be of significant or outstanding amenity value and are endangered by street works. Although most contractors carrying out street works would be protected by statutory undertaker/license holder immunity, it could be argued that work ignoring NJUG 10 guidance that damaged a tree would be illegal and the Council will consider prosecution. Procedures will need to be improved so that this process can be partially automated and carried out quickly.

11.20 The Growth Environment

Where possible, verges around trees will be re-instated to allow existing trees to receive moisture or to establish new trees. Sodium and Chloride the constituents of de-icing salts are photo toxins, which may pull trees or severely stress them each year. These chemicals are washed into tree pits and the root system.

11.21 Road de-icing salt poses a serious but unquantifiable threat to some street trees. Currently there are no effective or reasonably cost-effective surrogates to salts for what is obviously a vital product to ensure public safety. This situation will be periodically re-assessed. If alternatives show it to be effective, they will be considered for use in areas where highways adjoin tree vulnerable to salt damage. Meanwhile the Council will continue to aim to minimise its salt use, as it already is doing for cost reasons.

Another stress on highway trees is non-permeable bound surfacing up to the very base of the tree. Tree crowns intercept large amounts of water and a significant amount of it runs down the branches and then the stem. To exploit this trees often concentrate fine roots around the base. Unfortunately, where non-permeable bound surfacing extends to the base, the water runs into the street drain and is not available to the tree that may be already stressed by drought. Repeated relaying of non-permeable bound surfacing near tree buttresses undoubtedly causes damage, allowing the entrance of decay organisms and promoting thickening which may worsen an already distorted pavement. Creating even a very narrow ring of soft bedding around highway tree stems would have a significant effect on their health. This will not be appropriate in all cases, especially where mature trees are already taking a disproportionate amount of pavement space, or where the beds would create a trip hazard, but it will be evaluated and carried out if appropriate and where funds are available.

11.22 Highway Obstruction and Trees

Through its responsibilities as agent to the Highway Authority (Suffolk County Council) the Council is responsible for ensuring the safe unobstructed passage of vehicles and pedestrians on the Highway network. Where they grow in or near the highway, trees often require management to allow visibility of signs, signals and street lamps. The Council manages its own trees to ensure sufficient highway visibility. Where visibility or physical passage is obstructed by privately-owned roadside trees, the Council will continue to demand the pruning, or occasionally felling, of trees and hedges under the Highways Act 1980. Where trees represent a danger to users of the Highway, the Council has powers under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to require trees to be made safe. These powers will be used where necessary to ensure that the primary objective of public safety is upheld. In planting replacement trees, the Council will consider highway safety. In some situations it may be necessary to plant a replacement tree in another location in order to alleviate a hazard caused by obstruction of sightlines or street lamps.

11.23 CCTV Surveillance and Trees

Closed circuit television (CCTV) cameras are being installed in a number of locations to increase public safety. In new developments, tree planting and CCTV systems can be designed together to ensure conflicts are minimised. However, conflicts can occur where cameras are installed in an area with existing trees. In these areas, total surveillance coverage cannot be achieved without tree work that could harm the environment. The Council's arboriculturalist team shall be consulted to ensure felling and severe pruning is minimised. The Council aims to avoid felling or severe pruning existing mature trees purely to install CCTV cameras, although under exceptional circumstances the Council recognises that greater public benefit in terms of safety will accrue from camera placement, subject to it being mitigated with appropriate replacement planting nearby.

11.24 Damage to the Highway by Trees

Highway trees can cause problems where the development of roots and buttresses distorts the pavement surface, whether this is tarmac or paving slabs. Some trees are worse than others. In maintaining the highway the Council works within the standards defined by the Highway Maintenance Operation Plan 2008. Where the distortion exceeds the thresholds for trip and undulation height defined by this standard, it is necessary to take action to safeguard public safety. In many cases it will be possible to alleviate the problem with limited root pruning or the relaying of surfaces, but eventually a point will be reached with some trees when it is not possible to continue taking this action and, where no other options are available in servere cases, it may be necessary to fell such trees in order to safeguard public safety, for which the council has a legal responsibility. Generally the Council will aim to avoid the problem of pavement distortion through the choice design of species, rootstocks and surrounding surfacing when planting or replacing trees.

11.25 Vehicle cross over

Trees will not usually be removed to allow for new vehicular access unless there are good arboricultural reasons to do so for example, where the tree has a reduced life expectancy as assessed by the Council's Arboriculturalist. In this scenario, the Council will require a contribution towards planting a young replacement nearby. Where the tree is young enough to be relocated and a suitable location exists nearby then relocation will be expected at the applicant's expense. Surfacing materials should be mindful of future root growth of any planted tree. I.e. flexible such as blocks .

11.26 All costs for these works and the planting of replacement trees will depend on the size of the tree to be removed (i.e. 0.5m -10m = two replacement trees, 10-15m = three replacement trees.)

12 Public open space trees

12.1 Introduction

Generally, many of the policies and actions relevant to trees in public open space have been dealt with elsewhere and hence will not be repeated here. All the general policies and action for Council trees apply. Woodlands, hedgerows and veteran trees may be contained in public open space, and their specific management requirements are considered elsewhere. References to other policies will be introduced as appropriate.

12.2 Open space trees

In contrast to formal parks and cemeteries dominated by exotic species, public open space is predominately characterised by native species, whether original rural hedges and trees that have been incorporated or newer "urban forestry" planting characterised by dense planting of native species. The management of trees in these areas will reflect the urban forest vision, with lower input management characterised by coppicing, group felling and mass planting of small stock.

12.3 Open Space Management Plans

Management plans will be produced for all major parks and other open space. These will not be limited to trees, but trees will be an important part and the use of a plan should help to develop a vision for tree management and planting. It will also help the Council make applications for external funding, for example through the Lottery. Management plans will allow the identification of the historic and contemporary character of individual parks and set objectives and actions that will conserve, enhance and improve the area. Management plans offer an opportunity to promote site-specific management addressing the special problem or objectives of a particular site. For example, on a site plagued by vandalism of trees, the plan would identify solutions such as community participation or new planting techniques such as mass planting or under planting.

12.4 Events within Parks

Parks, such as Christchurch Park, hold many exciting events throughout the year for the Ipswich community. Many such events involve heavy vehicular and pedestrian traffic that have the potential to cause branch damage and soil compaction to the rooting area around veteran and other trees alike. Such damage could be caused unwittingly because of a failure to appreciate the vulnerability of trees; particularly the root system and how easily and often insidiously they can be damaged. There is a need to have some areas of rooting zone protected during some events. Although minimum protection areas around trees in general are provided in a British standard relating to trees and construction the calculation is capped at 707m^2. Given that tree roots in general grow outside this minimum area and there is a lack of full scientific certainty about veteran trees rooting zones each veteran tree should be assessed individually providing as much space as possible mindful of the precautionary Principle: Rio Declaration[23].

12.5 There is therefore a need for a Tree Constraints Plan to be developed in some parks, such as Christchurch, to meet the needs of the present events without compromising the ability of future generations to benefit from the outstanding tree-scape. The purpose of the tree Constraints Plan would be to show the influence that trees on and adjacent to the site will have on any event by virtue of below ground constraints, represented by the Root Protection Area and the above ground constraints the trees pose by virtue of their position and current and future size.

12.6 Tree Collections

Ipswich has a strong heritage of horticultural excellence and the borough supports a number of outstanding parks and plant collections, including tree collections. Historically, residents have recognised the excellent growing conditions and establishing fine gardens. As a result of the skill, foresight and generosity of these residents, built on by subsequent decades of skilful management by talented individuals, Ipswich now boasts a number of parks of county significance, including Christchurch and Holywells Parks. Given the

[23] *"where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost effective measures to prevent environmental degradation"*

high level of local expertise and exceptional botanical collections managed by the council, Ipswich Borough Council aspires to become recognised as a centre of arboricultural excellence.

12.7 Tree collections are groups of trees formally planted and managed at a site to enhance the diversity and value of the borough tree asset. Collections may be single species, or multiple species. They may be composed of native or exotic species or a mixture of species. Tree collections are a dynamic resource. Their management involves ongoing maintenance, replacement, removal and renewal. All decisions related to the management of tree collections should be based on sound arboricultural principles and best practices.

12.8 The tree collections make an important contribution to community prestige and enjoyment. A long term sustainable management approach needs to be applied to ensure that the quality and value of tree collections continues to be maintained and enhanced in the borough to increase in environmental and community value for many generations to come. Numerous opportunities exist to build on existing collections. A strategy needs to be developed that identifies priorities and funding for development of botanical collections, with local consultation. Opportunities exist to develop sites by integrating a high value tree framework within open space to create the potential for passive recreational values in the future.

12.9 The Council would like to expand its botanical tree collections beyond the gates of the parks to develop collections of valuable trees and botanical specimens throughout the borough that builds on a local heritage of horticultural expertise and establishes the borough as a centre of arboricultural excellence.

12.10 Commemorative trees

Trees have been planted on public land throughout the borough to commemorate specific people and events. Commemorative plantings are often undertaken in the memory of someone who has recently passed away or celebrate the birth of a child as a 'tree for life'. Visiting dignitaries may plant a tree to provide a lasting memento of their visit. Trees have also been donated by groups and organisations as a contribution to the borough. The Council regularly receives requests for new plantings. Commemorative trees hold a special significance to people and their management is, therefore, particularly sensitive. In addition to managing the physical needs of the tree, the history of the tree also needs to be recorded and preserved.

12.11 Once planted, commemorative trees become a council asset and shall be maintained to council standards. As with all council managed trees, plantings need to be appropriate to the site and area, maintenance must be according to best arboricultural practice, and tree removals may be necessary on occasion. All of these matters will be dealt with according to the Tree Management Policy.

12.12 Community Involvement

An important part of management of public open space will be the involvement of local communities which will be encouraged through the individual management plans, and will meet the Council's objective to improve community participation made through the Agenda 21 process. The majority of the work of managing trees in public open space will be by council staff, but the council welcomes the involvement of the local community where appropriate. A later Chapter will provide policies and action to increase this, and it is considered that all these projects and concepts, such as the *community consultation*, the *Tree Warden Scheme* and *tree sponsorship* will be appropriate in parks, cemeteries and green space, perhaps far more so than with highway trees where public safety and nuisance considerations allow less consideration of alternative management options.

12.13 An important concept is that voluntary work carried out by the local community supplements that done by the council. When tree planting and maintenance budgets are relatively small, the work carried out by the council is going to be limited to routine maintenance and the involvement of the local community offers an exciting opportunity to undertake additional planting or work that would otherwise not take place. It also offers other advantages such as community empowerment, reduced vandalism and more appropriate design.

12.14 Park and Cemetery Trees

Trees are an integral and important part of the borough's parks and cemeteries and their management should be aided by the production of individual management plans. The Council would wish to maintain and enhance the parks character and recognises that these sites are ideal places to plant a wide diversity of species, notwithstanding the need for strong design.

12.15 Besides being a visual feature, the planting of a wide diversity of species and varieties in parks can provide a valuable function as an arboretum. Householders wishing to buy a tree for the garden are usually hindered by the limited choice available in many garden centres and often choose standard and commonly available species or varieties because there is limited information available on the many trees available. The council will develop and publicise a 'Register of Significant Trees' providing the location of some of the best examples of particular species and varieties in the borough. People interested in a particular tree can then visit the tree and observe its mature characteristics. A Register of Significant Trees need not be limited to council park trees and could include all of the Councils land along with other trees with the owners permission. Many trees have a story to tell and trees or groups with an interesting history will be included in the arboretum project, which will be organised through the Tree Warden Scheme.

12.16 Allotment Trees

The Council has developed small-scale "allotment forestry" as a partnership between the Council and tenants as part of the Allotment Forum Initiative. One of the most successful large schemes was with the kind assistance of the Ipswich Wildlife Group that covers a number of plots in Northgate Allotments. The Council recognises that many allotments, particularly where there are derelict plots, are a haven for wildlife such as slow-worms, and appropriate planting of trees would improve an allotment site, both as a wildlife habitat and visually. We have created wildlife areas on parts of many fields. Often this involves the planting of useful trees in positions which do not affect the sites primary function as a place to grow vegetables. The most obvious trees to plant are local varieties of fruit and nut trees as they produce a useful product and are limited in size, or can be further limited by dwarfing rootstocks so that they do not significantly affect vegetable production through shading or soil competition. Besides apples, plums and pears, there are other trees such as damsons, cobnuts, mulberry, medlar, quince, walnut and even exotic trees such as fig, apricot, peach and almond where an opportunity is available to wall-train. There are also opportunities for trees to be planted either on unoccupied plots or communally in disused plots which were not suitable for individual occupation. The Council encourages tenants to plant appropriate fruit trees where they will not significantly interfere with production. To ensure this, tenants must provide the species of tree, proposed location and reason for planting for the councils approval prior to planting. With trees comes a duty of care. To assist tenants fulfilling this duty of care the council requires the tenant to formally "give" their trees to the council upon planting. This 'gift' allows the Council, in consultation with the tenant, to inspect and maintain the tree to an acceptable level of risk. As these trees become the Council's it will not seek to recharge for works, however, will recharge for requested pruning by the tenant .i.e for fruit production. The tenant will be allowed to prune and manage the tree as if it were theirs for the reasons planted.

12.17 The Council will inspect all other trees within the allotments and however may recharge tenants who have not formally ''given'' the council the tree on their plot for essential works to fulfil a duty of care, whether they planted it or not.

12.18 In disputes regarding tree ownerships the plot holder with the largest proportion of the stem, near to ground level, shall be considered as the owner.

12.19 Besides fruit trees, there is also more potential for the planting of further small coppice areas if it received support from tenants. These additional areas could be planted on plots that, because of shading or say water logging, are unsuitable for vegetable growing. Coppice of hazel, willow, ash or sweet chestnut would produce valuable products such as bean poles and pea sticks which could be harvested communally and would represent a sustainable use of these plots while maintaining wildlife value. Because the trees are cut on a short rotation, nuisance to adjacent plot-holders would be minimal. The pioneering scheme undertaken with Ipswich Wildlife Group at the Northgate Allotments undertakes coppice work and holds the borough's only 'Bean pole festival' every May. There may be an opportunity to involve tree wardens both in assistance and in providing trees for planting in other areas.

13 Council housing Trees

13.1 Introduction

The Council has responsibility for many houses with important trees in the garden. Responsibility for trees in the gardens of Council-owned houses rests with the Area Housing Office.

13.2 Council tenants are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of their own gardens, including shrubs and trees. The Council will only pay for tree works to safeguard either the Council's, tenants or private property and the public if;

a) the tenant could only make the tree safe using specialist arboricultural equipment

b) the services of a tree surgeon are required

c) carrying out remedial work would put the tenant, Council or private property at risk.

The Council will not pay for cosmetic tree surgery of Council housing trees.

13.3 Council Housing Sales and Tree Protection

Government policy has led to many previously council owned houses being sold. The Council may place a TPO on some of the important trees prior to sale. In order to protect trees at the point when they are sold, the planning department will be notified of all council houses being sold where trees are present so that the trees can be inspected for public amenity value.

14 Woodlands and the urban forest

14.1 Urban forest management in England is essentially a local government function.

14.2 The Council is directly responsible for planting, maintaining and managing publicly owned trees and woodlands, a substantial proportion of the total cover and within the borough. The Council also has powers to exert a considerable degree of influence over the development of the previously owned urban forest, mainly though the implementation of planning legislation.

14.3 The Council wishes to develop, through new planting and long term management, a vastly increased mixed-aged sustainable public and private tree resource to provide enhanced landscape, amenity, ecological and environmental benefits.

14.4 Woodlands

Deciduous woodlands are important habitats for biodiversity, representing in the case of Ancient, Semi-natural woodlands continuous tree cover stretching back over centuries. However, despite this length of time, man to a greater or lesser extent has affected all deciduous woodlands.

14.5 Some Sites of Nature Conservation Importance (SINC) have been declared by the Council for their woodland habitat, some have been classified under NVC types and can now be identified as belonging to the five habitats. The remainder of the SINC woodlands are unclassified at present but may reveal further information about the current status of these priority habitats.

14.6 Tree Species and Provenance Choice

The use of species, variety and provenance of tree will depend entirely on context. Within an urban or other formal context, exotic trees and varieties may be relevant and their use can be beneficial in adding diversity and allowing the exact matching of characteristics to an environment which may be particularly stressful. A completely different approach is required with areas of woodland. Generally biodiversity is a primary objective (alongside amenity) and hence locally native tree species will be favoured, although occasionally non native but appropriate trees may be utilised, for example Scots pine or beech as a focal point.

14.7 Many characteristics of trees are inherited genetically and there is some evidence that these are reflected in local populations of trees. Biodiversity aims to conserve genetic as well as species diversity and within blocks of “natural” planting the Council will use or require the use of planting stock derived from seed of local provenance (ideally veteran trees would be identified for some of the seed stock), as this will conserve genetic biodiversity and there is some evidence that local genotypes are better adapted to local conditions and their phenology is ideally synchronised to local wildlife. This is especially important in, or adjacent to the ancient woodlands or hedgerows. Horticultural cultivars should never be used in large blocks of informal planting as their often uniform and unusual characteristics look out of place and the lack of genetic diversity may make them more vulnerable to stand epidemics and hinder the eventually-desired naturally regenerating tree population.

14.8 Where biodiversity is a primary objective, the use of the National Vegetation Classification as a planting mixture template will be promoted or used. The NVC (Rodwell, 1991) describes semi-natural woodland types that occur in Britain and its use should ensure that if a natural woodland is sought, then a representative mixture is obtained, without the “pick-and-mix” eccentricities that sometimes define urban “native” planting.

14.9 Use of the NVC in creating new native woodlands is advised in SN3 of the UK Forestry Standard and advice is given in Rodwell and Patterson (1994). Use of the NVC should not be a strait-jacket on all urban forestry as eccentric mixtures have their place, especially in very urban situations where planting of trees and stands of foreign derivation may celebrate the cosmopolitan nature of the urban area and the many interesting colours and forms that are not available in the small number of locally, or even nationally native species.

14.10 Woodland Management

The Council recognises the uniqueness of ancient woodland and manage such woodlands sympathetically to retain and enhance ecological and historical value. Wherever it is responsible for woodlands, the Council will aim to manage them following national advice and the established best practice. The BAP includes a habitat action plan for woodlands and provides local guidance on the sustainable management of such woodlands. Generally objectives will be to improve the ecological and amenity value of a woodland, maintain historical value and if possible obtain revenue from the woodland through sustainable harvesting of timber and other products. Natural regeneration will be relied on and any limited planting will utilise local provenance trees only.

14.11 Wherever plans exist the Council will aim to follow such plans and it will aim to review and update all plans on a five year cycle and obtain plans for any areas of woodland not already covered and also for any newly planted areas of woodland. All management plans for Council-owned woodlands and plantations will include an ecological survey and monitoring programme so that the success of management operation in relation to vegetation and wildlife can be assessed.

14.12 All the general policies apply to the Council's approach to woodland creation and management. Generally the council will aim to follow national and BAP policy when seeking to manage its woodland or in considering woodlands as a local planning authority.

14.13 Timber Marketing

There are opportunities for the Council to gain certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for the management of all the woodlands and trees for which it is responsible, and we should be looking to repeat the good practice lessons learned from the London Borough of Croydon which was the first council in the world to be certified. Running FSC certificate is largely a matter of good management rather than an onerous burden. On the negative side costs will be significant although certification allows wood product access into markets that would otherwise be closed and higher prices are often not obtainable. However, overall the experience of being certified should prove worthwhile and it is a status the borough would seek to maintain in the long term.

14.14 Timber or Tree Stations are sites (either urban or rural) to which local woodland and tree managers can bring woody waste. They can produce a wide range of products including fuel for heat and power, compost, charcoal and sawn timber for sale into local markets. Such initiatives, when linked to recycling and avoidance of landfill, can open up real opportunities for using woodland products in the future. However, further research is required to examine the true potential of woodland products, and how these could be supported and marketed, such as the use of 'certification' schemes, which guarantee sustainable management, and offer verification of quality and source.

14.15 There is a need for a review of both arboricultural and silvicultural opportunities and timber marketing opportunities throughout the borough wherever the council owns trees. These would include both woodland and non woodland trees, but the greatest opportunities would lie in woodland because the timber is often of a better quality, there are greater opportunities to fell timber at the best grown stage without adverse community reaction, and there is an opportunity to market timber in (usually marginally) economic packages. Where trees are being felled singly or in small numbers, there may be opportunities, where the timber will not deteriorate, in stockpiling timber to sell on in packages of at least a lorry-load. Marketing of timber and other wood products is important as not only does it earn revenue for the Council which will fund other important tree and woodland, it also represents a sustainable timber end-use and helps the Council meet LA 21 commitments.

14.16 The felling of trees requires a felling licence from the Forestry Commission. There are certain exemptions, but where these do not apply the Council will of course obtain a felling license. If timber quality is to be improved, it is particularly important that areas of new planting are managed properly.

14.17 The Council as an English Woodland Grant Scheme / Felling Licence Consultee

One of the Council's roles in relation to woodlands is as a landowner, but it also has a role as a LPA. The Council also has a very minor role as a potential consultee for WGS or felling licence applications.

14.18 National policy on forestry and woodlands is the responsibility of the Forestry Commission which is the Government department for forestry. They regulate felling under the Forestry Act 1967 and provide grant aid for creating new woodlands and managing existing ones through the EWGS. The UK Forestry

Standard (Forestry Authority, 1998 but subject to a major revision in 2010) describes national policy to ensure the sustainable management of woodlands, following the commitments made at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro and at the 1993 Ministerial Conference on the Protection of European Forests in Helsinki. The current standard notes on creating new native woodland, managing semi-natural woodland, and planting and managing small woods are particularly relevant to the Council's roles. Also of relevance are the Environmental Practice Guidelines and the Forestry Practice Guides for the management of semi-natural woodlands.

14.19 The Council has an opportunity to comment on all applications for felling licences or the Forestry Commission grant applications.

14.20 Woodland regulations

The Forestry Commission is the Relevant or Competent Authority for a variety of regulations:

- A Felling Licence is normally required from the FC for the felling of trees
- Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) – consent is required for woodland creation, deforestation, road or quarry operations that could have a significant effect on the environment
- Habitat Regulations - a licence may be required for woodland operations that affect European Protected Species, notably dormouse, otter, great crested newt, sand lizard and all species of bat
- Countryside & Rights of Way (CRoW) – approval is required to restrict public access in a woodland that has been dedicated under CRoW
- Plant Health - to protect forests and the timber industry by applying rules on the import and export of forestry material and its movement within the EU.
- Forest Reproductive Material – to provide a system of identification and control of seeds, cuttings and planting stock used for forestry purposes in Great Britain.

15 Hedgerows & veteran trees

15.1 Introduction

Hedgerows and parkland trees are important habitats and, like woodlands, often possess considerable historical and ecological value. As with woodlands, there are also ancient hedgerows that are colonised by many species, or were originally developed, or 'assarted' from ancient woodland and they often have considerable ecological value. Even the more recent nineteenth century enclosure hedgerows composed entirely of hawthorn have value, especially as an animal migration corridor, or when they are unclipped and provide a valuable source of nectar, pollen and berries to wildlife. There is considerable regional variation in hedgerows so that, as with historical urban planting, sensitive appraisal and management is necessary to retain and enhance local distinctiveness. Because of their special requirements and objectives their management, promotion and protection has been considered separately here alongside veteran trees.

15.2 The Hedgerow Regulations

Under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997, all persons intending to remove a hedgerow must (except in limited circumstances) inform the Council's planning department who can protect the hedgerow if it meets certain "importance" criteria. These criteria provide an indication of the ecological or historical value of the hedgerow.

15.3 The Government is currently reviewing the Hedgerow regulations (DETR, 1998a) and has stated that they wish to see them improved as they only protect a small proportion of hedgerows (CPRE, 1999). The current regulations have considerable application as the criteria are strict and non-agricultural or only part-agricultural hedges are excluded from protection. The Regulations do not allow the protection of hedgerows for amenity or landscape conservation. Hedgerows are explicitly denied protection through TPOs. However, linear tree features that meet the criteria can be protected. Hedgerows can be temporarily protected with planning conditions, but these are limited in their long term effectiveness.

15.4 The Council manages its own hedges according to current best practice in order to maintain their ecological, historical and amenity importance while possibly managing their size. In this work the Council will be guided by the Biodiversity Action Plan which has been prepared for species-rich hedgerows. In some circumstances the best management may be to allow them to grow effectively unmanaged while in other circumstances, laying or trimming may be appropriate. Where the Council has an interest in the management of a hedge as a LPA it will obviously also wish to see hedges managed according to best practise.

15.5 Hedgerows and Development

There is a presumption against removal of old hedgerows in development. Part of the value of hedgerows is as part of an overall enclosure network, with woodland hedgerows and planted hedges from the Anglo-Saxon, medieval and Enclosure Act periods, whose distinctive nature and pattern reflects changing land-use. The Council will attempt to retain a ghost of field enclosure hedges even if frequently breached before approval is given for the removal of, or other damage to, a hedgerow in relation to development. The Council will require a full assessment of that hedgerow's ecological and historical value, following the process used in establishing the importance of agricultural hedgerows when hedgerow removal notices are received.

15.6 Wherever historical agricultural hedgerows have been removed in the past, the Council will seriously consider planting a replacement hedgerow, although it is acknowledged that this will not replace the value of the lost hedgerow. With all planted hedgerows, as with woodlands, the Council will seek a simple pattern whose species composition reflects that of similar hedges in the wild, but avoids the use of excessive diversity that mimics that of genuinely species-rich ancient hedgerows.

15.7 Within development areas, wherever an established hedgerow borders a proposed area of public open space, the Council will attempt to have the whole of the hedgerow transferred to council ownership, and commuted sums sought for future management costs. The Council will continue this policy as it allows ecologically, historically and visually important hedgerows to be better managed as a whole unit. Where

hedgerows have been passed into the ownership of various individual homes it is generally noticed that the condition and appearance of the hedgerow deteriorates as each small section is managed differently.

15.8 Veteran Trees and Associated Wildlife

In recent times, the term veteran, or ancient tree have come into use. The terms are not capable of precise definition but it encompasses trees defined by three guiding principles: trees of interest biologically, aesthetically or culturally because of their age; trees in the ancient stage of their life; trees that are old relative to others of the same species. Some trees are instantly recognizable as veterans but many are less obvious.

15.9 The borough is fortunate in containing a number of old and characterful former hedgerow, wood and field trees. As with hedgerows, these trees have a considerable historical value as they may be hundreds of years old and reveal the former land-use that may have now practically disappeared from Britain. Ipswich is also extremely privileged in having some of Suffolk's largest and most majestic veteran/ancient trees within easy walking distance of the town, in Christchurch Park. These living landmarks are of irreplaceable historical and biological value and reveal a visual link with the former land use of the park. The Council recognizes the value of old single trees as a habitat, especially for birds and bats, but also invertebrates, fungi and other mammals.

15.10 The Council will seek to continue promoting the value of these old or "veteran" trees within the borough using Christchurch Park as the keystone. The Council intends to expand its veteran tree survey, that aims to identify all trees of size and value in the borough, and to formalize and expand information gathering, updating the national veteran tree database through the veteran tree hunt program.

15.11 The Council intends to manage its veteran trees, such as those within Christchurch Park, in accordance with English Natures publication *Veteran Trees: a guide to good management* with advice and guidance being sought when appropriate from both the Ancient Tree Forum and English Nature. To undertake this it would be beneficial to develop a management statement for the veteran trees that focuses on; the land around veteran trees, landscape and cultural interest, managing of veterans for other organisms, the next generation of veterans, dealing with conflicting management priorities and public access and veteran trees.

15.12 Prior to any major public event the Council will undertake a walking tree survey to ensure that trees do not pose an unacceptable level of risk to the general public.

15.13 Some hedgerow and other countryside trees will be protected by the requirement to obtain a felling licence, particularly where the tree is very large or more than one is being felled. However, this protection is often inadequate to protect single trees, trees that have been absorbed into gardens or where inappropriate pruning is intended. The Council will aim to protect all veteran trees where a TPO can be justified on public amenity grounds. Generally, such trees are of tremendous ecological and historical value and while the council recognises that this is not sufficient to justify a TPO alone it can be taken into account as a complement to the amenity value. With the increased understanding of the ecological value of veteran trees, and other 'woody' habitats, the Council would wish to see ecological criteria considered as sole grounds for making a TPO.

15.14 The Council recognises the value of old single trees as a habitat, especially for birds and bats, but also invertebrates, fungi and other mammals. It will also ensure that the needs of such wildlife are taken into account in both the management of its own trees and through its involvement with trees as a local planning authority where it can promote good practice. Its management of such trees will be led by the BAP. The Council will also take account of the legal protection of certain species through the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 or the Habitats Directive. Within the borough this is most likely to relate to nesting birds, bat species and badger setts at the bases of trees. Where relevant, conditions will be imposed requiring that the needs of protected wildlife is taken into account when work is carried out to protected trees.

15.15 Old trees are an important habitat for bats, either as a summer roost or for hibernation. It is proposed to carry out a survey of some old trees to find out how common bats are there. Where work is proposed to trees that may contain bats, a survey should be carried out and if necessary advice taken from a suitable body.

16 Community involvement

16.1 Introduction

In line with national policy and its own commitments, such as that to the Local Agenda 21 process, the Council would wish to see a greater community involvement in the protection, promotion and management of trees, woodland and hedgerows in the borough.

16.2 The Tree Warden Scheme

The Tree Warden Scheme offers an opportunity for members of the public to become involved in the care, protection and promotion of trees. There are over one hundred schemes in the country, including many in urban areas such as Colchester, Nottingham and many London Boroughs. The Council would like to set up a scheme that covers both urban and more rural areas. The Council wishes to secure funds for setting up and initial training of the wardens. One approach to developing support structure for community involvement would be for the 'back-bone' of these structures to rely on a full time staff rather than volunteers either as staff within the Council itself or as part of a major voluntary organisation working in partnership with the Council. This aiming to attract a substantial amount of additional resources for trees in the borough.

16.3 It is intended to develop the scheme in the borough and support to eventually develop a network of well-informed tree wardens covering the whole borough, who can assist the council protect the trees we have, care for them and plant more trees. Wardens are often appointed by residents associations or other community groups, where they are active. In other areas where this structure is not available, individuals have been appointed and encouraged to create links with the community.

16.4 In the first year the emphasis will be on training the wardens, and expanding the scheme as total coverage of the borough will not be achieved in one promotion of the scheme. During this first year tree wardens might also get involved in practical tree maintenance and perhaps survey work, such as that proposed for ancient trees, or to create the 'Register of Significant Trees' or Arboretum'. It is hoped that wardens will assist the council in planting trees and raising awareness about trees and their associated habitat. As the scheme develops and the wardens gain more experience, knowledge and confidence, the council would wish to adopt a more 'hands-off' approach, encouraging and supporting wardens to develop a role or projects that further the objectives of this strategy. An example might be a warden who wished to develop a community tree nursery, develop environmental education projects with local schools or set up a community environment group to undertake environmental projects in their area. In these situations the council would be able to support through the provision of advice, training, assistance with grant applications and possibly project sites and financial assistance.

16.5 Tree Promotion and Environmental Education

A number of 'tree weeks' are organised by the Tree Council to promote trees across the country. These include a 'Tree Week' in November and a 'Walk in the Woods' week in June. These and other projects such as the 'Tree Dressing Day', 'Apple Day' and 'Trees of Time and Place' project to collect seed and grow trees locally offer an opportunity for the council to positively promote trees, hedgerows and woodlands. The council will actively support these and other appropriate national projects for the opportunity that they provide to promote the many positive aspects of trees in the borough.

16.6 The celebration of trees can take place in a variety of ways including religious and arboricultural festivals and local community events. The Jewish festival of Tu Bishvat, the birthday of the trees, is a day which celebrates tree planting. Festivals celebrating the importance of trees to the community can involve demonstrations of how to grow trees from seed, tree planting and care. recycling and so on, which helps raise peoples awareness.

16.7 It is important to engage young people in trees. In most situations a minority of young people are the main agents of vandalism. There is considerable evidence that when local young people are involved in tree planting and environmental education projects the problem of vandalism is considerably lessened. Where there is a demand, the council will work with schools and youth groups to educate children and young people about trees (and the environment generally) and provide an opportunity for young people to contribute to and interact positively with their environment. The Tree Warden Scheme provides an opportunity for volunteers to get involved in environmental education.

16.8 Public Consultation and Involvement

There is often great public concern when major tree works, especially felling, is carried out in an area. For this reason the council may decide to use a system of advance neighbour notice to inform the public of proposed major tree works projects. However, given the amount of tree works undertaken by the council and its resources it will not always be possible to provide such notice with other tree works. Advanced neighbour notice gives an opportunity for the reasons to be explained beforehand and any debate to take place. The council will continue to use and develop a system of advance neighbour notice where it is undertaking major tree works in an area.

16.9 It is important that any consultation of the public is a two-way process rather than simply the provision of information by the council. Whilst in some situations work will be carried out due to safety or financial reasons which the council is best placed to judge, in other situations there is considerable scope to involve local communities at an early stage in the process. An example would be urban forestry schemes, where involving the community at an early design stage would result in a scheme that better met local requirements and desires. Where this approach has been adopted, accompanied by environmental education, there is usually felt to be a considerable benefit in reduced vandalism or complaints associated with urban forest planting projects. Once established, tree wardens will have a vital role in community consultation, as they will be well situated to improve communication between the public and council.

16.10 In addition to consultation over the design of the scheme, there is also considerable opportunity to involve the community in the practical implementation of certain tasks such as simple tree-planting and after care. There would be considerable long-term opportunity for tree wardens to get involved with this by organising promotion and assisting with supervision. Besides the immediate community, there is also an opportunity to involve the wider community.

16.11 Subsidised Tree Scheme

Planting in the highway is sometimes problematic as it can be difficult to establish trees in a very stressful street environment. As they grow, there is considerable scope for damage to existing essential underground services. Where gardens are long enough and there are no existing highway avenues, a better option is often to encourage the community to contribute to the street scene through front garden planting, where this does not affect the visibility required for safe access to the highway. It would be unrealistic to aim for formal planting of avenues, but there is scope for informal and diverse mixtures with each tree independently chosen and managed. There is considerable scope for the council to promote such front garden planting through the provision of information and advice and possibly through a subsidised tree scheme.

16.12 In order to encourage appropriate new planting, the council will investigate the creation of a free or subsidised tree scheme where there will be a clear benefit to public amenity or the environment. Although various schemes are already in existence, they are targeted at rural planting, generally involving large numbers of trees, and grants are not available for the planting opportunities which most people have in their gardens. Where amenity is the primary objective, assistance will be targeted according to the following priorities:

- Conservation areas, sites significantly viewable from major transport routes (including rail and water) and areas with a low tree cover.
- Other historic sites and sites viewable from other transport routes.
- Traditional Orchards.
- Other sites.

16.13 Funds raised from the conversion and sale of arboricultural by-products may need to be subsidised by external funds to help create a small grant scheme to provide a free or subsidised tree scheme.

16.14 Initially the scheme would utilise small commercially purchased stock, grown on in the councils nursery but in the future there is considerable scope to involve tree wardens in the scheme, with the possible setting up of a tree nursery (i.e. local variety fruit trees) if there was sufficient enthusiasm. These trees could then be available for tree wardens to giving to householders and landowners.

16.15 Where trees were to be grown for environmental objectives, such a tree warden run tree nursery project would have the advantage of utilising local provenance seed at a time when trees grown from such seed are in limited supply and tends to be of regional, rather than local provenance veteran trees will be identified for seed. Any nursery set up by tree wardens and supported by the Council would not need to be limited to native trees. Urban trees are often distinctively cosmopolitan and many non-native species such as horse chestnut, Norway maple or holm oak are easily propagated from seed.

16.16 In most situations where a tree has been subsidised, or given, by the council, and a significant future amenity value has been recognised, the council may consider a TPO appropriate to safeguard this future amenity value.

16.17 Sponsorship of Trees

Another way to involve the community in tree management is through sponsorship of trees. This encourages stewardship by the public of their trees and can be expected to reduce vandalism, especially where the sponsors are involved in the planting and subsequent aftercare of the tree and frequently visit the site. Besides increasing stewardship, sponsorship schemes contribute to the otherwise limited financial resources that are available to plant trees. This is especially so with highway trees and parks open space, where the Council's desire to plant trees in historical and new locations will be limited by the funds available required for essential maintenance of existing trees and replacement of recently felled trees. The Council will continue to seek and encourage sponsorship, both private and corporate, of trees, both in the highway and public open space where suitable positions can be identified. Maintenance and aftercare is crucial if a tree is to establish successfully and the Council will encourage sponsors to contribute to this cost.

16.18 Sponsorship of trees – business

The involvement of businesses in planting, sponsoring and caring for trees are well established and should continue to be encouraged, particularly through partnership schemes and within the town centres. Businesses should be encouraged to develop the following;

- Initiating landscape schemes and planting trees on street frontages where space permits.
- Sponsoring and helping facilitate tree planting in the town centre, retail areas and commercial areas and other parts of the borough.
- Caring for and managing existing trees on business premises in accordance with best practice.
- The Council encourages sponsorship of individual tree care or assessment: an example would be veteran trees with complex issues and assessments being sponsored by arboricultural or ecological consultants.

16.19 Schools

Educating people to be aware of the value of trees starts at nursery school. A number of initiatives can be developed further;

- Adopting a tree for life.
- Growing trees from seeds.
- Joining local groups who are involved in caring for trees.
- Donating or sponsoring trees for planting.

16.20 Environmental studies are already part of the National Curriculum. The profile of trees and woodlands could be raised, such as provision of teaching materials, planting in school grounds, and study visits. Woodlands can be excellent outdoor classrooms. There are numerous environmental education initiatives, but woodland related schemes are a very small proportion of these.

16.21 The Council deems it important to keep accurate records of the number of days worked by communities volunteers. This can be valuable information in terms of justifying the level of its own resources it devotes to community involvement.

Appendix 1 – Trees in Towns II targets

The ten targets[24] identified in Trees in Town II are listed in brief below. However, for a more detailed description and explanation of these targets, readers should consult the full report.

1) To have at least one specialist tree officer.

2) To obtain at least £15,000 in external funding for the LA tree programme over the next five years.

3) To develop and implement a comprehensive tree strategy. **The strategy should embrace all trees and woodland within the LA district, both public and privately owned. It should be a specific tree strategy, either as a separate document or a distinct and detailed part of a wider strategy. Only 28% of the LAs had an existing tree strategy and many of these were far from comprehensive with a number of major flaws. The strategy should be developed through extensive consultation both within the LA and among the local community. It should have some SMART targets focusing on major aspects of planned, systematic and integrated management. Regular monitoring of the strategy's progress should be undertaken and the whole document revised every five years.**

4) To undertake a Best Value Review of the LA's tree programme. **75% of the LAs had not conducted a BVR and had no plans to do so. Preferably, the review should cover all aspects of the tree program, embracing both public and privately owned trees. The BVR can be an important management tool in putting the spotlight on the tree program by asking pertinent questions. Ideally, it should be undertaken as soon as possible so that improvements to the service can be identified and implemented without any unnecessary delay.**

5) To install a computerised tree management system. **If utilised effectively, these systems can make a vital contribution to the efficiency of the LA tree program. The wide range of commercial software programs now available covers the needs of all types and sizes of LAs and the different priorities of their tree programs. Once installed, it is important to maximise the use of the system. This topic is linked to e-government targets.**

6) At least 40% of the LA's tree maintenance work should be done on a systematic, regularly scheduled cycle. **This is in contrast to work that is done 'on demand' in response to requests, complaints or hazardous situations. The 40% level is recognised as indicating a relatively systematic and planned approach to tree maintenance work. 65% of the LAs were not achieving this level.**

7) At least 90% of all the LA's newly planted trees, excluding woodland plantings, should receive systematic post-planting maintenance until they are established. **The focus is on individual and small groups of trees rather than woodland plantings that often receive much better initial maintenance. 60% of LAs were not achieving this level of 90%. Ideally, no tree should be planted without a commitment to ensure adequate post-planting maintenance.**

8) Establish a programme within the next five years that will ensure every TPO is reviewed on a specified cycle. **Nearly 52% of the LAs had not yet undertaken, or were not currently undertaking, such a review. While it may be unrealistic to expect all LAs to have conducted a review within the next five years, they should have established a programme to ensure this happens.**

9) Every LA that has a planning function to have a comprehensive Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) document relating to trees and development. **The document should state the LA's policies and recommended practice on this topic and guide applicants towards achieving a sustainable development. Nearly 73% of the LAs did not have any SPG relating to trees and development.**

[24] The research team was conscious of not appearing to be too prescriptive. While trying to encourage all LAs to achieve these targets, consideration was also given to the fact that individual circumstances, priorities and constraints among some LAs may make the achievement of some targets difficult or inappropriate within the timescale suggested.

10) Every consent to work on protected trees to be monitored regularly and enforcement action taken where necessary. **The results suggest that with some LAs there may be a distinct lack of enforcement of TPO legislation. Regular monitoring of protected trees is essential to ensure that infringements are identified at an early stage. Enforcement action should be taken where necessary. The LA should also record and publish data on its performance in relation to all aspects of its work with protected trees.**

There is undoubtedly an important role for central government departments and agencies and other national bodies to provide encouragement and support for the LAs to achieve these targets. The precise nature of that role will depend on the organizations concerned and the individual contribution they may wish to make. However, this could include the production of advisory literature, providing technical support and offering grant aid.

Appendix 2 – Nation policy context

There are many policies that affect trees and woodlands in Ipswich, which have been taken into account in this Tree Management Policy. Some of these are specific to trees or woodland, and many more deal with wider issues in which trees and woodlands play an important part. Only a brief summary of the more important of these is provided in here, please refer to the original documents for the full detail.

A Better Quality of Life - UK Sustainable Development Strategy. Trees and woodlands are recognised as key features within the environmental protection chapter of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy. A dedicated section sets out the Government's strategy for forests and woodlands. The headline aims include:

- sustainable management of forests and woodlands (led by the UK Forestry Standard and supported by surveys)
- protection of ancient and semi-natural woodlands
- woodland expansion
- sustainable timber production
- benefits for urban and rural development – direct employment in forestry activities, linked employment (such as recreation and tourism) and promotion of planting on degraded and contaminated land on the fringes of towns.

England's Trees Woods and Forests (ETWF). The Government's Strategy for England Trees, Woods and Forests, launched in 2007, highlights the contribution that trees make to social, environmental and economic objectives today and sets out a vision for their future role. The goal is that by 2020 more woods will be brought into sustainable woodland management supplying raw materials for use in construction and for woodfuel, and we will have a healthier landscape for wildlife and an increase in people visiting woodlands. For the first time the Strategy covers the full spectrum - from extensive forests to street trees and hedgerows. This brings new challenges, but also new opportunities to ensure that trees enhance more people's lives.

The Delivery Plan - prepared by the Forestry Commission and Natural England - with contributions from more than 100 organisations has three main themes:

Building connections and developing partnerships

The breadth of stakeholders and partners who have contributed to ETWF is impressive and the Forestry Commission is committed to building on this partnership approach and making connections with new partners who may not be aware of how trees, woods and forests can help them to achieve their aims.

Targeting time, energy and resources

The overarching aim of ETWF is to provide 'the right tree in the right place' where they can contribute most in terms of social, economic and environmental benefits now and for future generations.

Removing barriers

In line with moves across Government the plan includes commitment to reduce the regulatory burden for woodland owners and managers, help to develop new markets such as woodfuel and measures to address the physical and cultural barriers that limit some people's enjoyment of trees, woods and forests.

Sustainable Communities Plan. The Sustainable Communities Plan outlines plans for growth and regeneration in England. It includes significant additional housing development in the south-east. The Plan includes the following objectives:

- creation of the Land Restoration Trust, which will seek to restore and
- manage brownfield land that is suitable only for use as public green space
- encouragement of the role of Community Forests at the urban fringe, citing their benefits as providing access to green spaces and woodlands on the urban doorstep, protecting and improving the countryside and boosting economic investment
- greater emphasis on the role of green networks and corridors.

Working with the Grain of Nature - England Biodiversity Strategy. The England Biodiversity Strategy identifies woodland as a key theme and habitat. The Strategy's vision is to ensure 'woodlands and forests are managed and created to enhance both woodland and non-woodland species and habitats, that at the same time provide sustainable goods, environmental services and recreational benefits enhancing people's quality of life'. The Biodiversity Strategy's actions for achieving this vision include:

- protect native woodland from further damage
- enhance, extend and restore the existing native woodland resource
- manage non-native woodland to improve biodiversity in the wide landscape
- realise the broader quality of life benefits of woodland biodiversity

The Strategy also addresses biodiversity within urban settlements. One of the key aims is to 'ensure that biodiversity conservation is integral to sustainable communities, both in the built environment, and in parks and green spaces'.

National Planning Policy. Several national Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes relate to the protection, management and enhancement of woodlands and trees. At the time of publication the following PPSs and PPGs were of direct relevance:

- PPS7 Sustainable Development in Rural Areas
- PPS9 Biodiversity and Geological Conservation
- PPG17 Open Space, Sport and Recreation.

The following policy documents are relevant in part:

- PPG2 Green Belts
- PPS3 Housing
- PPS6 Town Centres and Retail Developments
- PPG15 Planning and the Historic Environment
- PPS25 Development and Flood Risk

Other Planning Policy Statements and Guidance Notes relate to spatial planning topics which can result in less direct effects on tree management.

Hedgerow Regulations. If trees are within a hedgerow and the removal of the hedgerow is proposed, permission must be sought for the removal under the Hedgerow Regulations 1997. The local planning authority can grant or refuse permission for removal of hedgerows based on examining the hedge using certain criteria. The criteria identify hedgerows of particular archeological, historical, wildlife or landscape value.

Tackling Health Inequalities Programme for Action. The programme for action sets out priorities for reducing health inequalities and addressing the underlying determinants of health. It identifies the importance of co-ordinated national, regional and local action on a range of issues. These include:

- the need to increase levels of physical activity especially among disadvantaged groups, older people and women
- the need to improve green spaces so that they can be used for exercise and provide children's play areas
- the need for better and safer local environments so people are more able to engage in social and physical activities in public spaces close to where they live and work.

The Government encourages local authorities to develop long-term strategies for the management and care of trees in their ownership. These strategies should plan for the eventual replacement of old trees, enable authorities to take advantage of new opportunities for tree planting provided by other urban improvement measures, and integrate

awareness of the contribution which trees make to the quality of life in urban areas into the full range of local authorities' activities.

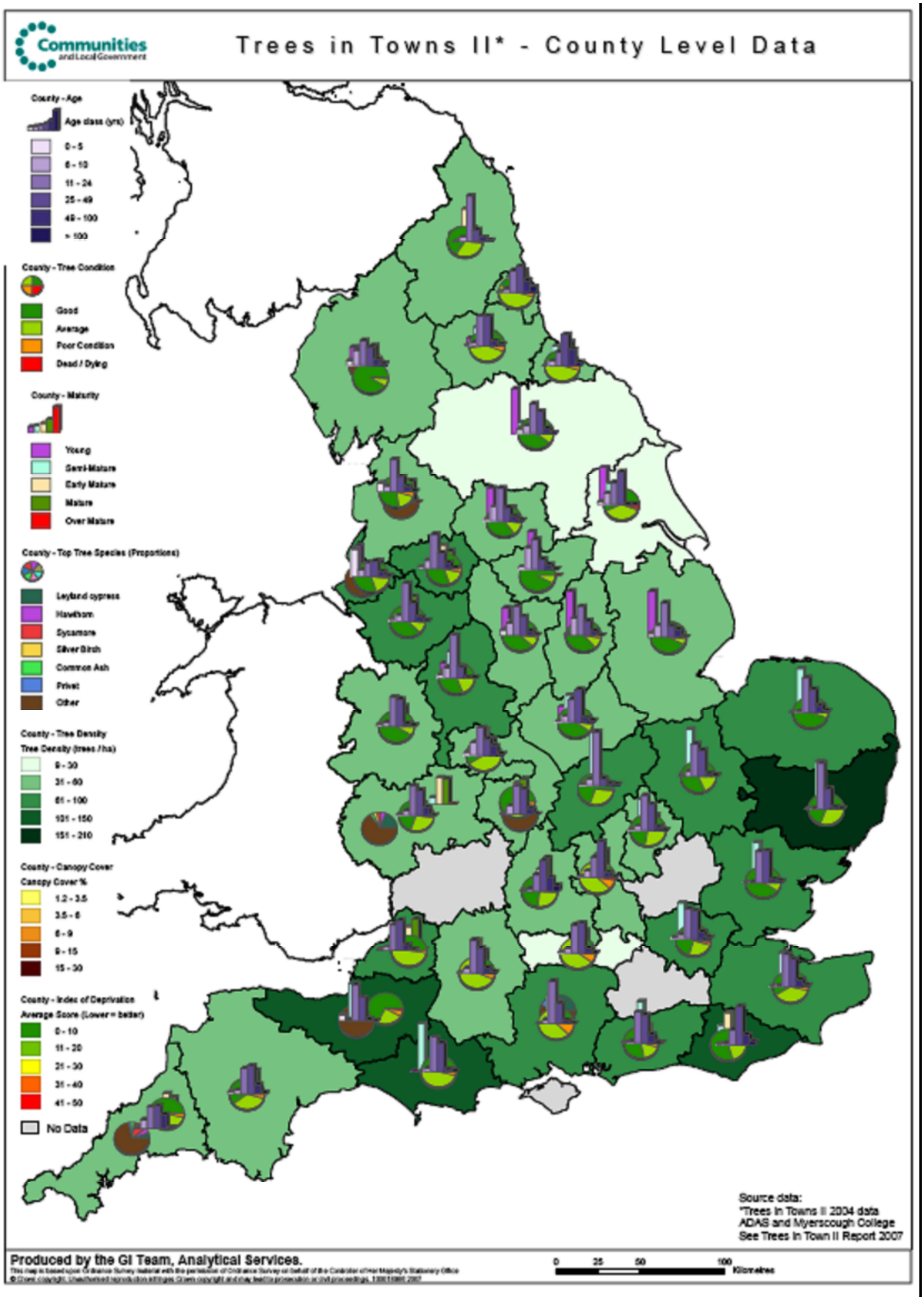
Appendix 3 – legislative and planning framework

Town and Country Planning Act 1990
Town and Country Planning Act (General Development Order) 1988 (Statutory Instrument 1988 No. 1813)
Town and Country Planning (trees) Regulations 1999
Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation Order Regulations 1969)(As Amended)
Town and Country Planning (Trees and Conservation Area Regulations 1975)(As Amended)
Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 (GPDO) (SI 1995 No 418);
Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995 (GDPO) (SI 1995 No 419);
Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (the Use Classes Order) (SI 1987 No 764);
Town and Country Planning (Development Plan) Regulations 1991 (SI 1991 No 2794);
Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992 (SI 1992 No 1492).
Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004
The Hedgerow Regulations 1997 ((SI 1997/1160)
High Hedge Regulations under Part 8 (High Hedges) of the Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981
Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
EU Habitats Directive 1992
Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994
Protection of Badgers Act 1992
Forestry Act 1967
Forestry Act 1967 (Part II) as amended by the trees Act 1970 and the Forestry Acts 1979 and 1986
Forestry (Felling of trees) Regulations 1979 (SI 1979 No 791) as amended by the Forestry (Felling of trees) (Amendment) Regulations 1987 (SI 1987 No 632)
Forestry (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) Regulations 1979 (SI 1979 No 792) as amended by the Forestry Act (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) (Amendments) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No 1572) and by the Forestry Act (Exceptions from Restriction of Felling) (Amendment) Regulations 1988 (SI 1988 No 970)
Forestry (Modifications of Felling Restriction) Regulations 1985 (SI 1985 No 1958)
Proposal for the draft Regulatory reform (Forestry) order 2006
Commons Act 1899
Environmental Impact Assessment (Forestry)(England and Wales) Regulation 1999 [1999/2228]
Plant Health Act 1967 (c.8)
The Plant Health (Forestry) (Great Britain) Order 1993 (SI 1993 No 1283, as amended by SI 1994 No 3094, SI 1995 No 1989, SI 1996 No 751, SI 1998 No 2206, SI 1998 No 3109, SI 2001 No 299, SI 2002 No 295)
The Plant Health (Forestry) Order 2005 (SI 2005 No. 2517)
The Watermark Disease Local Authorities Order 1974 (SI 1974 No 768, as amended by SI 1984 No 688, SI 1986 No 1342 and SI 1992 No 44)
The Dutch elm disease (Local Authorities) Order 1984 (SI 1984 No 687, as amended by SI 1988 No 604
European Community Council Directive 2000/29/EC, which consolidates and repeals Council Directive 77/93/EEC and its various amendments
Environment Act 1994
The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM)
Health and Safety at Work Regulation 1992, and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulation 1992
The Human Rights Act
NERC Act 2006 (Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006)

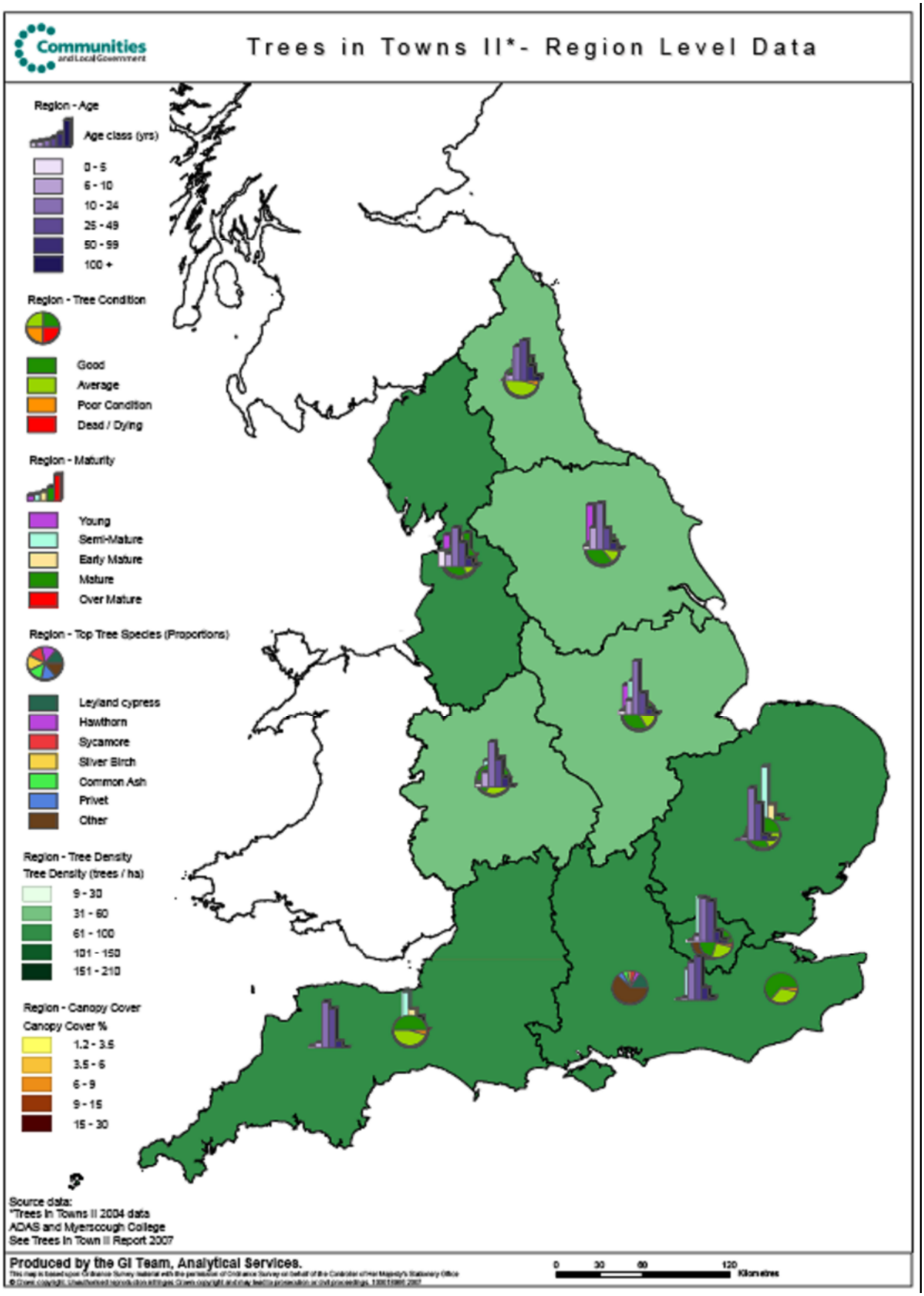
Appendix 4 – Right place – Right tree

right place - right tree checklist	
appropriate locations	• What is the existing value of the space, and would the impact of trees be positive?
	• **Existing habitat and landscape value**: establish the habitat and landscape type of the site - shade cast by trees, and their demands on soil, water and nutrients, mean that they can kill or damage valuable wildlife habitats such as wetlands, heathlands, flower rich grasslands and brownfields so check for existing value before committing to planting.
	• **Tree cover history**: check historical records to see if the site is in an area where there have been trees in the past, to establish whether the creation of new woodland or tree cover would be appropriate.
appropriate species and design	• **Development design**: trees should not be located where they will experience inappropriate growing conditions e.g. in the shadow of tall buildings.
	• **Local character**: check if there is a history in the area for the use of particular species that could be a reflected in the planned planting.
	• **Work with nature**: in natural areas, employ stock of locally native origin. Best of all, work with natural colonisation.
	• **Great trees of the future**: where the setting allows, take opportunities to plant large species of trees with a long lifespan.
	• **Accessibility**: new trees and woodlands are most needed where they can provide people with access to nature and natural landscape in areas presently lacking in such access.
	• **Infrastructure**: consider existing and future infrastructure requirements – do not plant too close to over/underground infrastructure. Replace removed trees in the same pit if appropriate.
	• **Highways**: meet the statutory safety requirements to maintain a clear route along roads (consider heights of buses, HGVs, cars, cycles and horses).
	• **Space**: check available space against the final height and spread of the proposed species with a view to minimising frequency and amount of pruning required.
	• **Soil condition**: the soil in hard landscaped areas is often poor. Soil compaction needs to be limited in the tree pit and adequate nutrients supplied. Use species known to be robust to these limitations.

Appendix 5 – Country level Tree data



Appendix 6 – Regional level Tree database



Appendix 7 – Evidence for trees in relation to subsidence cases

Expected levels of evidence for trees in relation to subsidence cases

Site Information & Tests		LTOA Amenity Value (informed by BS5837)			
		None No intrinsic value, dead, serious structural defects, pathogen infections	Low A tree that could be removed and replaced	Medium A tree that makes an important contribution to the area	High A tree that makes an exceptionally important contribution to the area
Site Information	Engineers report (assessment of damage)	Not Required			
	Plan & profile of foundations	N/R			
	Site plan (building, trees both on and adjacent to the site)	N/R		N/R	N/R
	Site plan (building, trees & significant vegetation both on and adjacent to the site)	N/R	N/R		
	Arboricultural report; identification & details of physical attributes of significant vegetation in relation to area of damage	N/R	N/R		
Tests	Trial pit (3-5m bore hole, soil profile below foundations)	N/R			
	Control borehole	N/R	N/R		
	Root identification below foundations	N/R			
	Soil moisture content throughout soil profile	N/R			
	Soil suction tests through out soil profile (on app clay soils)	N/R	N/R		
	Liquid limit test	N/R			
	Plastic limit test	N/R			
	Soil plasticity (calculated using tests 10 & 11 calculations)	N/R			
	Assessment of desiccation (Driscoll method, 0.4 x liquid limit)	N/R			
	Shear strength tests through out soil profile	N/R	N/R		
	Drainage survey (by CCTV) & pressure testing (where present in vicinity of damage	N/R	N/R		
	Crack monitoring (over a relevant period)	N/R	N/R		
	Level survey	N/R	N/R		
	Level monitoring with deep datum	N/R	N/R	N/R	Note A
	BS1377 Part 2 test 6.1; Determination of shrinkage characteristics	N/R	N/R	N/R	Note A
	BS1377 Part 2 test 9.0; Determination of particle size distribution	N/R	N/R	N/R	Note A

Note A: Some tests are less than reliable and unsatisfactory as other tests detailed in BS1377 Soils Classification Tests. Where trees of high (exceptional) amenity value have been implicated and a number of the above tests give inconclusive results, the more accurate tests shown as 'Note A' on the chart should be relied on to make the assessment.

Appendix 8 – amenity category used for subsidence cases

The four amenity categories used for subsidence cases

London Tree Officer's Association (LTOA) category	BS 5837 category and definition
No value A tree with no intrinsic value that is dead or with serious structural defects and pathogenic infections that should be removed and replaced	**Category R** Those in such a condition that any existing value would be lost within 10 years. • Trees that have a serious, irremediable structural defect • Trees that are dead or dying • Trees infected with pathogens of significance to the health/ safety of the tree. • Very low quality trees suppressing development of adjacent trees of better quality.
Low value A tree that could be removed and replaced • Small, young or with limited life (less than10 years) • Location with no/limited public views (e.g. rear garden)	**Category C** Those of low quality and value • Trees in adequate condition , less than 10 years useful life • Trees with very limited conservation, historical, commemorative or other value
Medium value A medium value tree that makes an important contribution to the area • Safe useful life expectancy of more than 20 years. • Other trees present, not an outstanding individual specimen • Moderate impact if removed	**Category B** Those of moderate quality and value • Tree in such a condition as to make a significant contribution (more than 20 years) • Trees that might by included under Category A but are downgraded due to impaired condition (remediable defects, poor management, minor storm damage) • Trees with clearly identifiable conservation, historical, commemorative or other value
High value A high value tree that makes an exceptionally important contribution to the area. • Safe useful life expectancy of more than 40 years • Few other trees present • Outstanding specimen/feature • Significant impact if removed	**Category A** Those of high quality and value. • Trees in such a condition as to be able to make a substantial continuation (more than 40 years) • Trees that are particularly good examples of their species • Essential components of groups or of formal or semi-formal arboricultural features • Trees, groups or woodlands that provide a definite screening effect • Trees, groups or woodlands of significant conservation, historical, commemorative or other value

Appendix 9 – Key areas for e-tree

Key areas for development of the LA's Tree Programme include:

TPOs and Conservation Areas

On-line GIS-based TPO searches (*LA Planning Department/The Planning Portal*)

On-line application to carry out works (*LA Planning Department/The Planning Portal*)

View applications and decisions (*LA Planning Department/The Planning Portal*)

Tree planting opportunities and planned operations

Planting initiatives and events (*regional and national links, tree portal*)

Sources of trees (*regional and national links, tree portal*)

LA planned operations (*LA Tree Section web info*)

Tree maintenance and planned operations

Damaged/injured tree reporting (*text, e-mail, online form*)

LA planned operations (*LA Tree Section web info*)

General information dissemination

Regular newsletter on-line and emailed to subscribers

Trees (*LA tree/parks/countryside sections, links to organisations, tree portals*)

Planning (*LA Planning Department/The Planning Portal*)

Environment scenario modelling (*LA Environment Department, Planning Department, links to organisations and portals*)

Information collation

On-line questionnaires to ascertain attitudes and opinions about any subject

Activities/learning

Workshops/Talks (*links, on-line booking and reservation facilities*)

Walks (*maps, routes, national initiatives, health links*)

Volunteering opportunities

Events

Appendix 10 - The 10 point checklist and other issues

An application shall show that all these relevant issues have been considered before the Council and its consultees can assess the proposals.

Applications – 10 Point Checklist for trees		
1.	Topographical Survey complete?	
2.	Tree survey and schedule complete with trees categorised by quality? Ecological advice needed? Ecological advice sought? Necessary surveys of flora and fauna (especially protected species) / hedgerows completed?	
3.	Tree Constraints Plan completed?	
4.	Site layout and design informed by 1, 2 & 3 above? Have you shown us precisely which trees you wish to retain and which trees you wish to remove? Have you thought about and identified tree protection (exclusion zones) and tree/building separation distances?	
5.	Arboricultural Implications Assessment (assessment of impact of proposals on trees). What affect will your proposals have on the trees? Will there be future pressure from occupants to fell or severely prune trees? Could you live with such trees? Are there any changes to existing ground levels that will affect trees? Will the proposed removal of trees have an adverse effect on the site or adjoining properties? If so, do you have any remedial proposals to mitigate the effect? Have you assessed whether installation of roads, parking bays, services, hard surfacing etc will impact on trees? If it does, have you provided the Council with information on your design solutions?	
6.	Schedule of Arboricultural Works completed? Sometimes this may be included with the initial tree schedule or the arboricultural method statement.	
7.	Tree Protection Plan completed?	
	Tree Protection Zones indicated? Have you indicated location of fences and precisely specified how you will build them? Have you left yourself enough room to build the property after installation of the fencing? Have you proposed to install soil protection measures where fencing has to be installed closer than normally acceptable to trees? Have you indicated its position and specified how you are going to build it?	
8.	Underground Utilities Drawing completed or utilities marked on site layout drawing.	
9.	Site Allocation Drawing showing layout of site huts, contractor parking, material storage etc completed? Have you included all of this information on your site layout drawing?	
10.	Landscaping Drawing and proposals completed along with details of proposed new planting?	

In determining planning applications the Council may:

- Grant planning permission subject to planning conditions relating to tree retention and/or planting.
- Invite applicants to enter into a legal agreement with the Council to secure future management of trees.
- Make tree Preservation Orders where it is considered appropriate.

Appendix 11 – Tree risk zone categories and inspection schedule

Categories	Colour Codes	Examples	Timing of inspection
Very High Hazard	Dark Red	To be surveyed 12 months – 18 months (consideration could be given to extending the period to 18 months (leaf on/ leaf off regime)) 1. All emergency access routes 2. Medical and emergency facilities and shelters, disabled access areas 3. Overhead utility lines, especially Electricity (LV or HV) and alarm systems 4. Schools (high usage areas) 5. Playgrounds and play areas 6. Arterial road traffic routes and pedestrian pathways 7. High-use areas in parks/public areas; permanent structures with a constant target 8. Permanent structures with a value in excess of £50,000 or are habitable 9. Seating areas 10. Known informal recreation 'hotspots' used for impromptu 'gatherings' of school age children 11. Footpaths/access ways with greater than 36 pedestrians per hour 12. Individual trees or neighbourhoods with very high-risk tree characteristics such as; a) standing dead trees or those with very poor condition class ratings severely storm damaged trees. b) trees that visually obstruct traffic signs, traffic lights, or street lamps, c) tree roots causing severe footpath buckling 13. IBC trees near railway lines 14. Trunk roads (all areas) and above 15. Principle Roads in built up areas Guide; Pedestrian rates over 36 per hour – constant, structures cost of repair over > £50,000 – 1,000,000	Walk by / individual Level 3 tree inspector minimum
High Hazard	Red	To be surveyed within 18 months – 30 months Main roads; congested junctions and visually obstructed traffic lights/signs 1. In high use parks/ public areas; informal play areas, minor paths, grass recreation areas 2. Golf courses (excluding areas in red zone) 3. Car parks adjacent to moderate /low use areas 4. Bus stops in high use thoroughfares 5. Individual trees of neighbourhoods with high risk characteristics, such as; a) old and veteran trees, b) high density of large, mature or 'problem' tree species, c) areas of recent root disturbance such as footway reconstruction, trenching, drainage etc 6. Shopping Centres 7. Cemeteries (high use areas) 8. Bus Routes 9. Schools (low-use areas) 10. Public buildings and community centres 11. Work depots Guide; pedestrian rates between 10-36 per hour (<1,800 per day), structures cost of repair >£13,888 - £50,000	Walk by / individual (consider a drive-by survey in off years) Level 3 tree inspector minimum
Moderate Hazard	Amber	To be surveyed within 4 years 1. Secondary and low use roads (C roads) and footpaths; congested junctions and visually obstructed traffic lights/signs. 2. Neighbourhoods with moderate to low canopy densities of large diameter, mature or 'problem' species trees. 3. Moderate to low use parks, playgrounds and picnic areas. 4. Public areas with dispersed recreation e.g. fishing pegs. 5. Open areas, woods, greenways, riparian and peripheral areas with limited use or access. 6. Residential OAP homes 7. Cemeteries (low use areas) 8. Residential car parks 9. Allotments 10. Council housing gardens Guide pedestrian rates lower than 1 per day – 10 per hour (<500 per day), and structural cost of repair >£57.87 -£13,888	Walk by / individual or drive-by survey Level 3 tree inspector minimum
Low Risk	Light amber	To be surveyed within 5 years 1. Low use minor roads (urban and rural) very low use private tracks 2. Other open spaces Guide pedestrian rates 1 per week (<2.1 per day), and structural cost of repair >£8.60 -£57.87	Drive-by survey Level 3 tree inspector minimum
All Zones - Drive-by survey after storm conditions occur (if potentially hazardous trees are noted then follow up with walk – by survey)			

Appendix 12 – Prioritisation of work

Proposed Funding	Work Category	Details	Target Response Time
Borough Treecare Budget	Emergency	Response to trees that are perceived as imminently dangerous.	2 hours maximum
	Urgent Work	Response to trees that are perceived to be dangerous but where work needs to be undertaken at a safe time.	2 weeks
	Planned Red	Works on hazardous trees identified through inspection	Works to be completed within 12 weeks of inspection.
	Planned Amber	Work to abate or remove actual or potential nuisance caused by council trees.	Works to be completed within 12 months of inspection.
	Planned Green	'Good neighbour' issues, e.g. reduce encroachment over properties.	Works to be completed within 12 months of inspection
Extra Payment	Recharge	Ad hoc projects and cosmetic tree works / minor seasonal nuisance	Inspect within 20 days of enquirers. Works as and when required
	Private Emergency recharge	Emergency response to deal with hazardous private trees blocking or threatening highways or the general public.	2 hours maximum
	Private Planned recharge	Agreed works to deal with hazardous trees, e.g. on Council leased land.	As and when required.

Appendix 13 – Policy statements

Policies and actions for all trees

Ref	*Aim*	*Subject*	*Policy*	*Resource implications*
A01	*1,3, 5*	***Fundamentals***	*Public safety shall be of foremost importance when making decisions about trees in the borough.*	*1- Work is ongoing*
A02	*1, 2, 3,4,*		*The council recognises the value of trees as a tangible asset and will care for all trees, woodland and hedgerows to promote healthy growth and development.*	*1 - Work is ongoing*
A03	*1, 2,3,4,5*		*The council will aim for the management of trees in the borough contributes to making Ipswich's environment attractive and healthy.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A04	*1, 2,3,4,5*		*The council shall adopt tree health as a Quality of Life indicator for Ipswich Borough*	*5 achievable only with additional resources - Investigate - The council should consider the addition of a new 'Quality of Life' sustainability indicator based on the population size, species composition, age structure and condition of our urban trees. The recognised amenity, social and health benefits of urban trees would justify the inclusion of such an indicator, and data from this and proposed future Trees in Towns surveys would facilitate the measurement of progress towards agreed targets*
A05	*1, 2,3,4,5*		*Plant more trees (particularly large species that are long lived), woodlands and hedgerows where appropriate to increase sustainable tree cover and link strategic areas of green space.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A06	*1,2,5*		*The council shall record Tree Management information in an agreed format so as to measure its performance against the performance of other Local Planning Authorities.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A07	*1, 2,3,4,5*		*The council shall aspire to achieving the ten Trees in Towns II targets before 2013.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources*

A08	*1, 2,3,4,5*	***Agenda 21***	*The council will work to, and encourage other parties to work to; the aims of the local Agenda 21 programme using trees and related activities.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A09	*1, 2,3,4,5*	***Consistency***	*The council shall aim to achieve a transparency in its action and all its decision-making on trees.* *The council shall use consistent standards to evaluate the health, condition and monetary value of trees, or any potential tree related hazards on council administered land. In undertaking its duties the council shall take a similar approach in assessing trees on private land.*	*1 -Works are ongoing The council shall develop / adopt consistent standards for tree assessment i.e. Visual Tree Assessments (VTA), Quantified Tree Risk Assessments (QTRA), Right place – right tree, Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) etc*
A10	*1, 2,3,4,5*	***Safeguarding***	*The council shall safeguard, and improve the management of Ipswich's existing tree and woodland resource, particularly its ancient woodland and veterans.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Undertake a GIS based assessment and estimate the local number of trees and shrubs (canopy cover) making recommendations to increase canopy cover to an agreed and justified target i.e. 2.5-5% over the next 10 years i.e. to reduce run-off water by 1-2%….*
A11	*1, 2,3,4,5*		*Conservation of old, large and distinctive trees in the same way as listed buildings (i.e. veterans)*	*3 – achievable with some extra resources - Investigate an at risk register and 'flagging' of noted trees within a set distance from any proposed development, on or off the site (e.g. ancient woodland and forestry commission)*
A12	*1, 2,3,4,5*		*The council shall sustainably protect and enhance existing veteran trees, trees, woodlands and hedgerows and ensure no further loss of ancient woodlands.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A13	*1, 2,3,4,5*	***Presumption against felling***	*In managing its own trees the council shall maintain a general presumption against the removal of trees, allowing felling only in accordance with good arboricultural and streetscape principles, and to ensure that adequate and appropriate replacement planting takes place where planting is aesthetically necessary and sustainable*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A14	*1, 2,3,4,5*	***Cumulative damage***	*Unless, there are overriding cultural, biodiversity or ecological reasons, in its capacity as both a land owner and a LPA, the council shall aspire and encourage managing of the presence and severity of predisposing factors (biological, cultural, and environmental) that stress and cause cumulative damage to high amenity trees to a minimal level from the outset.*	*3 – achievable with some extra resources -*

A15	*1, 2,3,5*	***Standards of work***	*The council will not undertake, permit or encourage the lopping and topping of trees to reduce the height or undertake any tree works deemed to be arboriculturally unacceptable and not conforming to best practice. Exceptions:* *a) Where trees are near power lines, in preference to removing the trees altogether. However, if identified as low value and high maintenance some consideration may be given to removal.* *b) Where trees are considered a safety hazard and removal of the upper crown is deemed acceptable in order to alleviate the hazard and retain the tree(s).* *c) Where trees interfere with agreed shipping navigation, radio or telecommunications facilities.* d) *Where trees are undermining a flood protection or erosion control structure.* *e) Where a group of trees constitutes a hedge.* *f) If part of an agreed veteran tree management program*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A16	*1*	***Arboricultural excellence***	*The council will recognise and provide incentives, in the form of awards, and other publicity, to arboricultural consultants and contractors' developers who demonstrate arboricultural excellence.*	*1 -Works are ongoing - Investigate opportunities for certificated awards. i.e. yearly by Mayor and in local press.*
A17	*1,*		*Sustainably maintain, and where necessary improve, established arboricultural, silvicultural and ecological techniques and practice in both the public and private sectors.* *The council will require that all the work for which it has responsibility is carried out according to BS3998:1989 "British Standard Recommendations for Tree Work" and/or in the European Tree Pruning Guide published in 2001 by the Arboricultural Association, (© European Arboricultural Council, 1999) as a minimum standard. The council shall aspire for arboricultural excellence in managing its own tree assets and will encourage others to do so.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*

A18		***The Urban forest***	*The council acknowledges the tree program can only be as effective as allowed by the level of resources it receives. These resources are both financial and human. To ensure the effective implementation of policies set out in the Tree Management Policy and reflect a planned level of service the council shall allocate and sustain appropriate resources specifically for in-house arboricultural activities including tree protection, caring for trees (tree surgery) and planting more trees. Where possible it shall seek external funding through partnerships or grant schemes.* *The council shall actively support the role of the Arboricultural Team and Rangers by increasing the political profile of trees, and associated environment, and proactively encouraging adequate budget provision for staff resources, tree protection, tree care and the planting of more trees.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Provide a detailed tree and woodland strategy for the management of tree assets and provide a clear idea of the level of annual funding required maintaining the asset in a safe and sustainable condition. The council shall also calculate the financial value of the urban forest as a public asset, based on an assessment of the more tangible benefits it can provide. If this is done, then any increase or decrease in funding for the tree programme can be translated into measurable changes in the safety, sustainability and value of that asset.*
A19			*The council shall prioritise resources for urban forest protection and management towards the following: ancient woodlands, heavily used woodlands, accessible woodlands with important biodiversity interest and veteran trees. The council shall prioritise resources for tree protection and management towards street and high amenity trees.*	
A20			*The council shall establish common management principles to be followed across Ipswich. Develop an Ipswich Tree Strategy that provides principles and proposals for street tree, park tree, cemetery and garden tree management, and shall support initiatives and campaigns with a view to raising awareness of the importance of older trees.*	

A21	*1,5*	***Planning for climate change***	*The council recognises the impact of climate change and will consider and plan for the effects of climate change in its capacity as both a land owner and LPA specifically in relation to tree health management through the inspection process and tree planting.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources The council shallinvestigate and disseminate latest research and predictions for climate change and the impacts on trees and woodlands with partners, and look to develop guidance on methods for accommodating climate change in urban environments, e.g. species to be planted, changes in planting and management techniques. Improve knowledge of the potential role of trees and woodlands in flood control, improving air and water quality, soil stability and climate control including information on flood risk areas and the opportunities and constraints for planting The council needs to consider and evaluate the tree population including species mix and the vulnerability/resilience to climate change. Where necessary new species, more tolerant of drought or high temperatures should be considered for introduction gradually to replace more vulnerable ones. The vulnerability of the tree-scape to pathogens, both specific and general and the development of a strategy on disease control. The need to guard against the introduction of new invasive species (including pathogens) suited to the changing climate. Evaluate increased demands for tree planting for shade, particularly for children and helping to cool buildings through shading effects.As well as these specific measures, arboricultural practices need to be evaluated to assess the need for adaptation to take account of the changing climate. Soil protection will be important to offset the affects of drought. Avoiding compaction, aeration and mulching with composted wood-chip are all likely to play a part. Consideration should be given to irrigating selected trees such as those within the public highway through Sustainable Urban Drains Systems (SUDS) and permeable surfacing, and the careful matching of plants to soil types will certainly become an important consideration.*

A22	***1,3,4,5***	***Enhancing knowledge and understanding***	*The council shall enhance its knowledge and understanding of Ipswich's existing tree and woodland resource both on private and public land.* .	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The council shall compile, assess and map existing information on the nature, extent, condition and ownership of the urban forest in Ipswich, and identify gaps in data to be addressed. Make urban forest survey information widely available in order to promote co-ordinated strategies.*
A23			*The council shall help shape the built environment and new development in a way that strengthens the positive character and diversity of Ipswich. The council shall raise awareness and understanding of the role that trees and woodlands play in the townscape and defining 'sense of place'.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Analyse and map the character of the urban landscape, drawing out* the factors which make each distinct, including the built environment and the role trees and woodlands play in defining different types of urban environment.
A24			*Actively support the existing cross boundary strategic and local initiatives to link Ipswich Urban Forest Assets with its neighbour and promote the role of trees and woodlands in creating strategic linkages between them across government boundaries.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A25			*The council recognises the relationship between trees, especially new trees, and the built environment, promoting architectural vision in tree planting, particularly in and around the vicinity of Conservation Areas.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A26	***1,3,4,5***	***Tree planting***	*The council shall actively promote and use the 'Right Place Right Tree' principles and disseminate guidance to all stakeholders*	*1 -Works are ongoing -The council shall increase the stock of trees in appropriate locations on public land throughout the borough by the tree planting programme, and by encouraging the planting of trees and landscape improvements on privately owned land by providing advice and information.*
A27			*Establish priority locations for new tree planting (in line with the Right Place Right Tree principles), taking into account such factors as levels of social deprivation, transport corridors (including rail and water) and gateways, derelict land, biodiversity objectives, areas of regeneration and community forests (as well as identifying habitats inappropriately planted for tree removal)*	
A28			*Draw on lessons from existing planting initiatives and disseminate good practice. Seek to review, revise, monitor and evaluate these lessons as appropriate.*	

A29	***3, 5***	***Tree roots and structures***	*The council will aim to ensure the needs and impact of trees and woodlands are properly addressed in an ever more compact town, especially with regards to subsidence. An 'assumption of innocence' for all trees, with the preference always being for retention of public trees (with management to control water uptake, where necessary).* *Where a council owned or protected tree is alleged to be causing damage to a building, the council will normally agree to or permit the removal of the tree provided that:* • *sufficient evidence (based on the LTOA approach) is provided to demonstrate that, on the balance of probabilities, the tree is an influencing cause; and* • *the removal of the tree is necessary to deal with the problem or if it were dealt with by pruning, this would effectively destroy the public amenity value of the tree; and* • *the removal can be carried out without contravening wildlife legislation; and* • *in the case of council trees, the complainant indemnifies the council against any claim for heave or settlement as a result of the tree removal.* • *The council will not normally subject its trees to a regular cycle of heavy pruning to deal with suspected subsidence damage. Instead it will usually opt for removal and replacement planting with an alternative species that will not cause future subsidence related problems.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Analyse - Provide and distribute documentation to help reduce the number of and repudiate actual insurance claims with respect to subsidence. Provide and distribute documentation and publications to the general public to counter negative perception of trees in relation to subsidence, giving the facts and allaying the fears.* *The council shall investigate and develop a formalized approach to dealing with the trees and buildings based on the LTOA approach.*
A30	***1,2, 3, 5***		***Publicly Owned Trees:*** *The council shall instigate a regime of cyclical pruning of council tree stock in areas redisposed to building movement where this is appropriate. The council shall provide dedicated resources for dealing with subsidence generated claims directed at council owned trees.* *The council shall instigate a regime of selective removal and replacement of street tree stock in areas predisposed to building movement where this is appropriate.* ***Privately owned Trees:*** *The council shall provide dedicated resources for dealing with subsidence generated Conservation Area notifications and Tree Preservation Order applications. The council shall review all existing unsettled claims providing dedicated resources to challenge those unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated and inaccurate evidence or where in the case of preserved trees the Town & Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 can provide relief from the claim.* ***All Trees:*** *The council shall challenge unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated or inaccurate evidence.*	

A31	***1, 2, 3,5***	***Tree-related nuisance***	*The council will not carry out or authorise any tree work to alleviate a nuisance, which will not have a significant effect on that nuisance.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A32	***1, 2, 3,5***		*Where a tree is contributing towards a person's poor health the council will endeavour to do as much as reasonably practicable to improve the situation. In some circumstances where a tree is said to be causing health problems the council shall ask to see a doctor's letter clearly indicating that the tree is contributing towards the person's health problems. The council shall not pay for any expense incurred by the writing of the letter.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A33	***1, 2,3,4,5***		*In managing its tree assets on public lands, the council shall take a "good neighbourly" approach. At the same time, the council acknowledges its additional responsibility of conducting its affairs to promote the well-being of all of the people in the borough. To this end, the council shall seek a reasonable approach to tree management that effectively balances the interests of individual landowners with those of the wider community.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A34	***1,4***		*The council will not arbitrate in private tree owner disputes, unless, the trees at issue would affect land owned or managed by the council, or pose an unacceptable level of risk to very high usage private land (so as to effectively confer public usage, for example children trespassing and playing on unsecured derelict land).*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A35	***1,2,3,4,5***		*Where trees have subjectively become the focal point of anti-social behaviour, it is unlikely that pruning or felling, will eliminate the problem and will therefore be resisted. Consideration should be given to alternative methods of nuisance abatement in accordance with the council's anti-social behaviour policy.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A36	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council will resist felling or severe pruning of its own, or protected trees, purely because of minor or seasonal nuisances such as honeydew, bird droppings, leaf-fall and the dropping of fruit (conkers, apples, berries, cones, seeds, or other fruit products) and flower and pollen. The council's street cleaning arrangements include provision for dealing with leaf fall on council roads and paths.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A37	***1,2,3,4,5***		*Only in exceptional circumstances will trees be pruned/removed as a response to complaints of falling leaves, fruit or other deposits. For example, where there may be a high risk to public safety, in such cases replacement by more suitable species will be a primary option.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A38	***1,4***		*The council will approve works to trees to increase light where it will not be detrimental to public amenity or in conflict with established good arboricultural practise.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*

A39	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council will not fell or prune trees for reasons of light, unless they are blocking daylight from a habitable room to a severe and unreasonable degree*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A40	***1,2,3,5***		*Where houses have been built with an existing high established tree density or extensive landscape planting, the council will assume that it would have been reasonable to foresee seasonal light differences or the growth of trees associated with a development and the council will be less willing to carry out or authorise pruning that would detract from public amenity.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A41	***1,2,3,5***		*The council will usually resist the removal or severe pruning of trees of significant amenity value to establish or recreate landscape views (e.g. indicated on Ordinance Survey Map) except within designated historical landscape areas where such views are an integral part of the landscape or where there is a recognised potential for significant landscape or amenity benefit.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A42	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council shall use its powers under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003 to deal with High Hedge complaints;* *a) ensuring that a careful procedure is followed using government guidance.* *b) Adopting guidance prepared by the Building Research Establishment (BRE) entitled 'Hedge height and light loss'* *c) Issue remedial notices where appropriate.* *The council shall be prepared to use its powers under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003, to ensure that remedial notices are carried out.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A43	***1,2,3,5***	***Tree Size and Amenity***	*Trees should be placed for mainly uninterrupted growth, except where there are over-riding historical or design needs to do otherwise.* *Wherever there is space to allow a tree to grow to full size without the need for disfiguring pruning, or is causing a serious nuisance, the Council will seek to plant, or encourage or require the planting of, the largest tree possible in a site. Notwithstanding the need to select trees for other features, such as form, colour, historical or ecological interest or character or design.* *Potentially large trees shall be planted wherever appropriate space permits. Exceptions are areas where there is a potential risk to safety or where there is potential for an unreasonable level of impact on neighbouring properties.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*

A44	***1,2,5***	***Arboricultural By-products***	*The council will aim to dispose of all timber and tree-work arisings in an environmentally sustainable manner, and encourage others to do so*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - - The Council will investigate and support the tree station concept, local markets for 1woodchips, firewood, charcoal, timber and other arboricultural by-products.* *Draw on lessons from existing planting initiatives and disseminate good practice. Seek to review, revise, monitor and evaluate these lessons as appropriate*
A45	***1,2,5***		*Where possible the council will recycle arboricultural by-products for use as a mulch in parks, open space and on allotments. Where possible the council will seek partnerships for the use of the resultant timber and arisings and investigations into external markets.*	
A46	***1,2,5***		*The council shall use the revenue from the sale of arboricultural by-products to support subsidised tree planting and management projects.*	
A47	***2,3,5***	***Trees and Wildlife***	*In all its dealings with trees the council will aim to carry out, approve or encourage management of trees that protects and enhances wildlife.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A48	***2,3,5***		*The council will not carry out tree surgery to individual trees known to have active birds nest sites and will carry out work in woodlands and plantations outside the nesting season, except in emergencies.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A49	***2,3,5***		*Wherever practical, the council will encourage the retention of ivy within native trees.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A50	***2,3,5***		*The council will encourage the retention of dead trees and deadwood within trees in appropriate locations such as woodlands and where public safety is not compromised.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A51	***2,3,5***		*Where bats or birds or other protected species are discovered (after previous checking has taken place) during tree work operations, all works will be stopped. The council will liaise with appropriate bodies until suitable measures are in place and all parties are satisfied with the outcome.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A52	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Sustainable Economy***	*The council shall promote the role of trees and woodlands in creating an environment that attracts people to live, work and visit, and as an essential element of environmental infrastructure.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A53	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council shall ensure any development, regeneration strategy or design for new development proposals give proper attention to the needs of trees and woodlands and maximizes the benefits that existing or proposed trees and woodlands can make to the overall scheme.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*

A54	***1,4,5***	***Empowering community ownership***	*The council shall encourage and enable communities to take greater ownership of their local trees and woodlands, especially in deprived areas and more excluded communities and localities.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Identify those communities where there is a combination of social deprivation, poor availability of existing trees, and the opportunity to improve access to trees and woodlands.* *Prioritise 'socially and tree/woodland deprived' communities for engagement, and define and organise projects to involve the community in tree and woodland planning and management.*
A55	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Improve the accessibility to trees***	*The council shall encourage and enable greater use of tree collections, woodlands and parks and open space through outreach work, infrastructural change and welcoming events.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A56	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council shall promote the wide resource of trees and woodlands within the borough and improve on site educational information where appropriate.*	*3 – achievable with some extra resources -*
A57	***3,4,5***		*The council shall improve signage and linkages from transport nodes to parks and woodlands and, where possible, will address access obstacles for all users (e.g. through way-marking and planting to emphasise link routes).*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A58	***2,4,5***	***Awareness raising***	*The council shall support and enhance existing environmental educational programmes linked to tree environments.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Survey residents and visitors to assess how they value trees and woodlands.*
A59	***1,2,3,4,5***		*Promote the use of woodlands and Parks as an outdoor classroom, as part of the Citizenship component of the National Curriculum, ensuring that work packs and information are available, accessible and cater for the diverse cultural and ethnic nature of Ipswich's population*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A60	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council shall undertake a marketing campaign to assist in the identification of sound arboricultural practices and techniques that will help reduce the number of badly managed and/or damaged trees and encourage appropriate tree planting on private residential land.*	*5- achievable only with additional resources -*

A61	***1***	*Archaeology and trees*	*The council shall seek to avoid damage to historic features and archaeological remains when carrying out or permitting tree surgery or considering new tree planting, by following existing codes of practice.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*

Policies and actions for private trees

Ref	Objective	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A62	***1,4,5***	***Dangerous Privately-owned Trees***	*The council will use its discretionary powers, as a last resort, to make safe dangerous trees where public safety is threatened on land with public access. The council will not use these discretionary powers where danger is presented on private land without public access, except in exceptional circumstance.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A63	***1,5***		*If the council attends to an emergency to a tree growing on land not owned by the council, the council will carry out the work as a chargeable service.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A64	***1,2,3,4,5,***	***Application Quality***	*The council will require TPO applications and Section 211 notices to be submitted in accordance with the application guidance. Applications that do not meet the required standard shall not be validated.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A65	***1,2,3,4,5,***	***Unnecessary Works***	*The Council will resist applications for any pruning where this is considered to be unnecessary.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A66	***1,2,3,4,5,***	***Tree planting and Replacements***	*The council will endeavour to promote the greening of residential areas.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A67	***1,5***		*Where permission is given to fell a protected tree, the council will always seek replacement except in exceptional circumstances.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A68			*Where permission is given to fell a protected tree, and replacement on site is not possible, the council may seek funds for tree planting elsewhere.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A69	***1,5***		*The council will encourage advance planting of a replacement tree where space permits and it will accept such trees as replacements when felling is necessary.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*
A70	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Monitoring***	*The council shall ensure every consent to work on protected tree, including planting, shall be monitored regularly and enforcement action taken where necessary.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A71	***1,2,3,5***	***Protected trees***	*Where trees are protected as a TPO group, the council recognises that it may be generally beneficial to encourage irregularity of age and species in some situations and will accept planned felling and regeneration to achieve this.*	*1 -Works are ongoing*

A72	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council shall extend Tree Preservation Order coverage, in line with the criteria stated in the Tree Protection guideline.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -The council shall develop a Tree Protection Guideline that sets out strategic locations for TPOs*
A73	***1,4***		*The council will assess the amenity value of trees for a Tree Preservation Orders in a reasonable, consistent and transparent way.*	*1 -Works are ongoing - Develop an amenity system for assessing TPOs*
A74	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council shall use its powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to protect and manage important trees within the borough;* *a) keeping an accurate, up to date & publicly available record of protected trees.* *b) Ensure that each application for work on or removal of protected tree or a tree in a conservation area will be appropriately validated and assessed by a competent Arboriculturalist.* *Administering the system in accordance with current guidance and council procedure.*	*1 -Works are ongoing - The council will continue to systematically surveyed to identify and protect trees with significant or outstanding amenity value that are under threat.*
A75	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council will seek to maintain and enhance the environmental benefits given to localities by trees in private ownership by the use of TPOs /conservation Areas and other legislation where these trees are judged to make a significant contribution to the visual amenity of the locality.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A76	***1,2,3,5***		*The council will encourage the use of suitably qualified and experienced tree surgeons to carry out work to trees protected by TPOs, Conservation Area, Planning Condition and Covenants.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A77	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Hedgerow regulations***	*The council shall use its powers under the Environment Act 1995 to retain important hedgerows within Ipswich Borough by;* *a) ensuring that a careful procedure is followed in order to properly administer the process and assess Hedgerow removal notices.* *b) Ensure that all hedgerows are properly assessed under the criteria of the Regulations and all assessments carried out by competent professionals* *Keeping accurate records of all Hedgerow Removal Notices and Retained Hedges*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A78	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Unauthorised Works and enforcement***	*On encountering unauthorised works to trees, the council will invite tree-owners or contractors to submit proof of exemption or technical justification of the work. Where this is not forth-coming or the Council's Planning Sub-Committee would not have been minded to approve the unauthorised work, the council will always seek prosecution.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*

A80	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Enforcement***	*The council shall initiate prosecution where unauthorised tree work has taken place, or to take enforcement action where breach of planning permission has occurred where it is expedient to do so. Successful prosecution and enforcement action will be publicised.*	*1 -Works are ongoing - With regards to any enforcement action, especially where criminal proceedings may be involved, each case will be considered on its individual merits. Any decision to prosecute will have regard to the two stage test set out in the Code of Crown Prosecutors. This provides that proceedings should only be instituted where evidence is such as to render a conviction more likely than not and, that proceedings should only be commenced where it is in the public interest to do so.*
A81	***1,2,3,5***	***Overhanging branches of a protected tree***	*The council acknowledges that under common law, one is allowed to remove branches growing over a boundary from a tree rooted in a neighbouring property. However, the council requires that where trees are protected, this right can only be exercised once an application or S211 notice has been made and an approval decision issued.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A82	***1,2,3,4,5***	***TPOs: - Permitted Development***	*The council will not approve the felling or disfiguring pruning of protected trees to accommodate permitted development other than in exceptional circumstances.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A83	***1,2,3,4,5***	***E-tree***	*As an absolute minimum, the council shall comply with the mandatory requirements of the National e-Service Delivery Standard* ***'NeSDS raising e-standards to improve delivery standards v 1.0 trees'*** *that defines standards for the delivery of Tree Services within a Local Authority and forms part of the National e-Service*	*3 – achievable with some extra resources --The Council will continue to update and develop its existing GIS system to improve available information of the protected trees*
A84	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Rationalisation***	*The council will continue to systematically review all current TPOs; revoking, modifying or remaking orders as necessary*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Undertake a TPO scoping study to priorities TPO's for review. Undertake the review.*
A85	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Conservation Areas:***	*The council will continue to place TPOs on trees in conservation areas where it receives notification of tree work that it judges to be detrimental to public amenity.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A86	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council will investigate sustainable solutions, such as the sale of arboricultural by products and community involvement, to fund/support a free or subsidised tree planting program within and directly adjacent conservation areas.*	*3 – achievable with some extra resources -- Investigate opportunities*
A87	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Conservation Areas: - Tree Character***	*In considering replacement trees for those felled in conservation areas, the Council will be guided by the conservation area Tree Character Assessment.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The Council will carry out an assessment of all the conservation areas identifying species and*

A88	***1,2,3,4,5***		*The council will have special regard to the historic appropriateness of a particular tree species and their siting within the boundary of, and adjacent to, a conservation area. It is important that the use of tree character assessment does not become a 'strait-jacket' as there are places within conservation areas where uncharacteristic trees will be appropriate or can add contrast if well chosen and sited (i.e. varieties and species not originally used may have aesthetic qualities/ecological appropriateness making them ideal for planting in a particular conservation area).*	*varieties of trees that are appropriate to that conservation area. The council will then develop and freely publicise individual Tree Character Assessments for each Conservation Area.*
A89	***1,4,5***	***Dangerous trees***	*The council shall;* *a) remove trees on council land that pose an unacceptable level of risk,* *b) use its powers where appropriate to reduce dangerous trees to an acceptable level of risk on private land, following procedures in regard to the Miscellaneous Provisions Act.* *c)* Act promptly in emergency situations to reduce the risk to an acceptable level of trees that are imminently dangerous	*1 -Works are ongoing –*

Policies and actions for all developments

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A91	***1,4,5***	***Urban forest***	*The council will recognise and provide incentives, in the form of awards, and other publicity, to developers who excel in tree retention; tree protection and tree cover at maturity targets.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -Investigate, develop and promote an annual award scheme, in the form of certification or tree planting presented by the current mayor.*
A92	***1.2.3.5***		*The council shall improve the appearance of industrial areas through careful designed landscaping.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A93	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall use its powers to ensure that where it is conducive with other planning objectives there is maximum retention of appropriate trees on new development sites.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A94	***1,2,3,5***		*The council will seek and encourage opportunities to create, expand and join areas of established woodland along landscape ecology principles using commuted sums.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A95	***1,5***		*The council will ensure that street tree and urban woodland policies are reviewed in line with any significant change in the overall council's risk management strategy.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A96	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall establish major areas of woodland or tree belts on land associated with existing and proposed housing estates.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A97	***1,2,3,5***		*The Council will respond positively to opportunities to receive land and woodlands offered to them, and purchase available woodland and other land suitable for tree planting, through compulsory purchase if necessary.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A98	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall create new and extension of existing green corridors for both wildlife and public access to rural and larger woodland or open spaces using commuted sums.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A99	***1,3,5***	***Off road parking***	*The council shall resist off- street car parking in forecourts and gardens if the proposal would result in the loss of any tree(s) of amenity value (including street trees).*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*

A100	***1,3,5***	***Subterranean development***	*The council shall resist subterranean development where a satisfactory scheme of landscaping including adequate soil depth has not been provided or where there would be a loss of trees of high amenity value.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A101	***1,2,3,5***	***Vacant land***	*The council shall encourage and establish semi-permanent or temporary woodland as a visual and environmental improvement on appropriate areas of vacant land.*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A102	***1,3,5***	***Ancient woodlands***	*The Forestry Commission will be consulted whenever development is proposed that will involve erecting new buildings or extending the footprint on buildings within 50m of an ancient woodland. They will also be consulted whenever major development is proposed within 500m of ancient woodlands.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A103	***1,2,3,5***	***Planning permission will not be granted for:***	*The council shall not grant planning permission for development proposals that directly or indirectly threaten trees or woodlands of significant environmental/amenity value.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A104	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall not grant planning permission for development proposals that include inadequate or inappropriate landscape and tree planting proposals that fail to provide measures to conserve and, where appropriate, enhance the character of the landscape.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A105	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall not grant planning permission for development proposals that directly or indirectly threaten 'important' hedgerows.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A106	***1,2,3,5***		*Suitable trees should be successfully integrated into development proposals from the outset. The council shall not grant planning permission where there has been a misguided perception of the site as one of a 'blank canvas' surrounded by a few trees with tree planting as an afterthought.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A107	***1,2,3,5***	***Trees on land proposed for adoption***	*Developers shall quantify and manage the risk of significant harm from tree failure for trees on land proposed for council adoption to a predetermined limit of reasonable or acceptable risk. Developers shall ensure all trees are surveyed and risks quantified and presented in a format which works with the council's computerised tree management programme. The council shall not adopt land that does not meet the above.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A108	***1,2,3,5***		*Developers should not be under the misguided perception that the council is willing to adopt little fragmented bits of land left over from development (often including existing mature trees). The council may, at its sole discretion be prepared to adopt land that has resulted of a well thought out and planned green space infrastructure strategy.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*

A109	***1,2,3,5***		*Developers should expect to pay, through the Section 106 Agreement or Highways Act agreement, a financial sum to fully cover the future costs to the council of adopting land as public open space or highway verge before the council takes responsibility for managing the trees to a reasonably acceptable level of risk for their safe useful life.*	*1 -Works are ongoing -*
A110	***1,2,3,5***	***Design***	*Design in new development should have proper regard to the scale and character of the surrounding environment particularly protected trees. The council shall ensure all new development maximizes the natural landscape assets and aesthetic quality of an area while minimising the environmental impact.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Development of SPD (trees) required.*
A111	***1,2,3,5***	***Protection of trees***	*The council shall seek to protect trees, groups of trees and areas of woodland where they have natural heritage value or contribute to the character or amenity of a particular locality. Ancient and semi-natural woodlands are irreplaceable habitats of high biodiversity value that should be protected from development that would result in significant damage.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A112	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall, as appropriate, make full use of its powers to protect and plant trees to maintain and improve the appearance of the countryside and built up areas.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A113	***1,2,3,5***	***Arboricultural Guidance***	*Council owned land- the council shall adhere to its own* ***Supplementary Planning Document Trees and development – incorporating trees in proposals*** *in all developments with trees present on or immediately adjacent to the development site and are likely to be affected either directly or indirectly by the development*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The council shall produce a supplementary planning document to ensure protection of trees to be retained on development sites and to require high standards of replacement tree planting and landscaping. The document shall be entitled Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)' Trees and development – incorporating trees in proposals'. The SPD shall set out the details on the following topics: Procedure and design criteria necessary to ensure the successful integration of existing trees and the planting of new trees into development; procedure and compliance with BS 5837 trees in Relation to Construction 2005; compliance with relevant Development Plan Policies relating to trees, landscape and Nature Conservation and other Environmental matters to support Development Plan Core and General Policies on trees and Landscape including the draft Tree Management Policy.*
A114	***1,2,3,5***		*All developments with trees present on or immediately adjacent to the development site and are likely to be affected either directly or indirectly by the development shall follow the councils own* ***Supplementary Planning Document Trees and development – incorporating trees in proposals****. This is for all applications for one dwelling and above and all major non-residential applications and also encompasses outline applications, change of use and permitted development. Applications for residential extensions are unlikely to require all the information. However, there shall be some circumstances when arboricultural information shall be submitted.*	
A115	***1,2,3,5***		*The council strongly recommends and encourages that all developments with trees present on or immediately adjacent to the development site and are likely to be affected either directly or indirectly by the development involve arboricultural consultants from the outset. This is for all applications for one dwelling and above and all major non-residential applications and also encompasses outline applications, change of use and permitted development. The council also strongly recommends and encourages provisions are made for an arboricultural watching brief and onsite supervision during construction phase of the project.*	

Policies and action for council trees

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A116	***1,2,3,5***	***Computerised tree management system***	*The council shall ensure its tree management system is fully computerised and that all relevant information is electronically collected, maintained and stored on a day to day basis. The computer system shall be GIS based and provide functionality compatible with the needs of the Tree Management Policies. The council intends the computerised tree management system to become the centre point for all tree issues.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - Undertake a full review of the current computerised tree management system ensuring it is able to meet the councils growing needs and is efficient and effective for collecting, storing and retrieving tree data. Undertake a review to fully computerise the records of the arboricultural unit.*
A117	***1,3,5***		*Before the Council will consider a claim against it for tree-related damage, an appropriate professional report shall be presented.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A118	***1,2,3,5***	***Tree works***	*Management decisions are made in the context of the wider benefit of the trees to the general public and wildlife conservation. Tree works will be evaluated primarily in relation to the assessment of risk posed, visual amenity and environmental benefit offered. Work to trees outside the programmed maintenance plan will only be undertaken when the tree is clearly identified as being a hazard or with reasonable probability will become a hazard (see prioritisation of work).*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A119	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Realize the multiple benefits derived from trees***	*A long-term strategy of maintaining trees of substance and value shall be implemented throughout the borough to realise the multiple benefits derived from trees. This will include the planting of local native species, where appropriate.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A120	***1,2,3,5***	***Tree inspections***	*The council shall operate a pro-active defendable system for managing tree risk that incorporates an advanced prioritised system of inspection, that ensures recommended actions are acted upon within a reasonable amount of time, and recorded and that appropriate documentation is present electronically. The whole process is sufficiently systematic to demonstrate that the council dispenses its duty with 'reasonable care' and takes appropriate action as necessary to protect the public.*	*1-Works are ongoing -The council shall develop its current system into a formalized risk management policy. The basic principle of the system is that it is a defendable system where actions, inspections etc are generated by potential risk. All details and actions are recorded centrally so that they can be retrieved in the event of an enquiry. Hence the system not only manages risk more effectively but also provides a more efficient audit trail and history.*

A121	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall inspect trees and continuingly implement and develop its Tree Risk Zone mapping categories and inspection schedule.*	*1-Works are ongoing -Develop a risk zone master plan*
A122	***1,2,3,5***		*The council's Tree Inspectors shall record any hazardous trees on private land that can be seen from outside of the property, thereby reducing the risk to the public. Full auditable records will be kept of hazardous private trees and the actions taken to abate the risk.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A123	***1,2,3,5***	***Wilful damage of council trees***	*The council will assess and, where appropriate, replace trees on council land that have been wilfully killed or damaged.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A123	***1,2,3,4***		*The council will refer incidents of wilful tree damage or death to the police, who will investigate with the intention of prosecution where sufficient evidence suggests that a person or persons have committed this offence.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A124	***1,4,5***		*The council will use incentives, such as reward offers, for information leading to the arrest of individuals responsible for damage to council trees.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A125	***1,4,5***		*The council will erect billboards at the site of significant vandalism to bring the issue to the attention of the public and to explain the council response.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A126	***1,5***		*Persons found guilty of wilfully damaging council trees will be pursued for the cost of the council's reasonable costs, removal of the dead trees as well a tree replacement and establishment.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A127	***1,4,5***		*If the tree that is killed has been planted following public consultation, the council will not have to consult again before undertaking replacement planting.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*
A128	***1,5***	***Requests from residents***	*Service requests and complaints will be recorded and prioritised. Any that concern a dangerous or potentially dangerous tree will be treated with urgency and normally on the same or next day. Emergencies will be dealt with within 2 hours. Those of non-urgent nature will be inspected within 20 working days. In all cases the resident will be informed of this policy when the call is first received and will be informed of what action the council will take after the tree has been inspected based on the 'prioritisation of work' document.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*

A129	***1,2,3,5***	***Ensuring consistent criteria applied when considering requests for council tree pruning***	*Tree pruning shall only be undertaken where there is sound justification for the work. Where pruning is done it will be in accordance with good arboricultural practices to ensure minimum harm to the tree. Pruning will be resisted if the tree has been pruned within the last five years. The following are situations where pruning will be considered;* • *A tree that is obstructing a public highway or public right of way. Generally a minimum clearance of 2.3m will be maintained over pedestrian areas and 5.2m above the carriageway and the area immediately adjacent for a distance of 0.45cm.* • *A tree causing a legal nuisance to an adjoining property.* • *A tree that is causing soil shrinkage and structural damage to adjoining property, where it is felt that it is appropriate to restrict the size and moisture demand of the tree.* • *Tree restricting access to property for maintenance or physical contact with building or roof.* • *Trees interfering with street lights, highway signage or other vital services equipment.* • *Trees obstructing council monitored CCTV surveillance cameras. Pruning will be the minimum necessary to maintain visibility without detriment to the health of the tree.* • *Trees needing formative pruning to shape or train them during the early years.* • *Removal of dead and diseased branches.*	*1-Works are ongoing -*

A130	***1,2,3,5***	***Ensuring consistent criteria applied when considering the removal of council trees.***	*The council will avoid felling trees unless it is necessary. Each case will be carefully judged on its own merits. Replacement trees will normally be planted, through not necessarily in the same place as the tree felled. The following cases may require a tree to be removed:* *The Tree:* • *Is dead, dying, diseased, decayed or disfigured with no realistic chance of recovery.* • *Presents an immediate or potential danger to people or property, or is shown to be potentially a severe health or safety risk to neighboring residents as identified by the council adopted tree risk assessment methodology.* • *A tree causing a legal nuisance to an adjoining property, where the nuisance is proven and pruning would not address the problem. A 'legal nuisance' is one that is actionable in law. Examples might include soil subsidence, physical damage to another owner's property.* • *Trees that, in the judgment of a qualified arboriculturist, are clearly of size and species inappropriate for their location. Example would be large willows or conifers very close to properties.* • *Is encroaching into the carriageway in such a way that visibility is reduced or clearly causing a significant hazard and remedial work cannot mitigate the hazard without severely disfiguring or otherwise compromising the health or aesthetic qualities of the tree.* • *Is inhibiting the proper management or maintenance of the council property or other council land.* • *Is inhibiting the growth, development or health of other trees of greater value.* • *Is deemed to be of low amenity value and is poorly sited or requires unduly high maintenance (such as in a location which conflicts with services).* • *Is unsustainable i.e. is unsuitable for the site due to its long term potential to cause problems or the inappropriateness of the species in relation to the site.* • *Is recognised as a weed species with high dispersion potential (i.e. ornamental species in ancient woodland).* • *Was planted for revenue producing purposes and is, as a result, being harvested.* • *Thinning of trees to prevent overcrowding or removal for habitat improvement and/or landscape restoration in accordance with a management plan.* • *Removal to allow authorized development. It may sometimes be necessary to remove trees to permit a development to take place.* *The council is required to apply for a felling license from the Forestry Commission unless the work is exempt or is being undertaken as part of a Forestry Commission approved English Woodland Grant Scheme.*	*1-Works are on-going*

A131	***1,2,3,5***	***Pest and diseases***	*Sound arboricultural practices and appropriate care strategies shall aim to reduce pest and disease establishment to an acceptable level and to maintain good tree health. Plant pest and disease control measures shall focus on known aggressive decay organisms, insect infestations and diseases that have the capacity to severely debilitate or kill trees.*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A132	***1,2,3,5***		*The council will carry out the pruning or felling of council owned trees, when appropriate, to help prevent the spread of pests or diseases through an individual tree or group of trees or to make safe a tree which has become dangerous because of pests or diseases.*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A133	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall carry out any pruning or felling work necessary to council owned trees to contain outbreaks of Brown Tailed Moth (Euproctis chrysorrhoea)*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A134	***1,2,3,5***		*Research into biological pests and diseases that threaten urban trees will continue to be actively supported by the council.*	*1-Works are ongoing -Promote joint pest and disease control strategies with neighbouring councils.*
A135	***1,5***	***Pruning and street lights***	*All reasonably practicable effort shall be taken to clear street lights and lights on council land to minimise any reduction in light penetration resulting from obstruction by trees. Where trees are obstructing a street light and accepted arboricultural practices, such as pruning, cannot be used to resolve the problem, the council will investigate options to maintain safety standards, such as relocating the street light or the tree or installing new additional lighting..*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A136	***1,3,5***	*Pruning for phone wires*	*The council will not undertake pruning of any of its trees to provide clearance of phone wires unless it is vital to the council's own activities.*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A137	***1,2,3,5***	*Removal of trees due to complaint*	*There will be a presumption against the removal of trees that are healthy by subject to complaint, unless the basis of the complaint has an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.*	*1-Works are ongoing*

A138	***1,5***	***User pays for council tree pruning costs***	*The process of applying for pruning of a healthy and sustainable tree on public land is a user-pays process. The following are criteria for assessing whether an applicant should pay for the pruning of a tree. The applicant will be required to pay for tree pruning in consideration of the following criteria, the level of contribution to be decided on a case-by-case basis:* • *The tree is healthy and is not presenting any immediate danger to people, property or services.* • *The tree does not meet other criteria outlined in Policy for tree pruning.* • *The council would not have scheduled the pruning of this tree as part of its works without the application.* • *The council is able to demonstrate that the maintenance of the tree has been appropriate.* • *The pruning of the tree benefits one or a few individuals and not the larger public.* *Requests for tree works will only be considered after consultation, the level of which will be commensurate with the level of significance of the tree and landscape. Requested tree removals involving previously consulted design tree plantings may require a public consultation process involving the wider community.* *"Trade offs" that provide for long-term quality replacement trees at the expense of more short term or lower value trees may be considered. Such action will resolve tree related issues. Trade offs may include replacement trees elsewhere on the site or on a different site as agreed with the council.*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A139	***1,5***		*Requests for trees to be significantly altered or removed to accommodate specialist activities will not normally be approved where it will compromise the landscape character of the treescape. Costs for any work carried out or subsequently beyond normal maintenance to accommodate such activities shall be recovered from the specialist user. This will include the cost of tree replacement and initial maintenance.*	*1-Works are ongoing*
A140	***1,5***	***Service delivery***	*The council will deliver its tree and urban woodland services to the highest possible standard ensuring a well maintained, safe and attractive environment on, and around our borough in line with environmental legislation and guidance.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

A141	***1,5***		*The council will ensure its high quality maintenance regime is continued and that it provides adequate resources for tree management. The latest technology will be integrated to ensure maintenance and management programs continue to meet national best practice.*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A142	***1,3,5***	***Overhanging council trees***	*Overhanging branches from council owned trees will only be pruned if they are defective, dangerous or for the following reasons:* • *If the branches are below clearance height of 2.4m for all situations other than roads which is 5.2m* • *Where branches are physically touching property. Where the council states trees or branches are inappropriately positioned and will cause long term problems (the council will look to plant a new tree as mitigation in the following planting cycle)*	*1- Works are ongoing*
A143	***1,2,3,5***	***Reducing the need for tree maintenance***	*To reduce the necessity for intensive maintenance of trees the council shall plan plantings to ensure that:* • *Only quality plant stock is used* • *Standardised specifications and techniques and practices are used to install plant materials* • *The correct species is chosen in relation to the limitations of the site (right place – right tree)* *To reduce the necessity for intensive maintenance of trees the council shall also give preference to planting species that:* • *are pest and disease resistant* • *provide maximum environmental/ecological benefits* • *have a proven track record for establishment and sustainability, and require less maintenance*	*1- Works are ongoing*
A144	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Tree planting***	*Plantings will be designed using the correct choice of species and position so as to prevent undue interference with a neighbour having reasonable enjoyment of their property (right place – right tree). This may include planting at a distance from the boundaries of adjoining properties with consideration for the local topography and the expected growth height of the tree.*	*1- Works are ongoing*

A145	***1,2,3,4,5***		*Council tree planting will ensure the existing distinctive landscape characters of the district are reinforced, using species which are appropriate to the location and site (may be native, exotic or a mixture).*	*1- Works are ongoing*
A146	***1,3,5***		*Tree species will be selected that are appropriate to the growing conditions of the site but that are also most suited to meet the objectives for the planting (e.g., amenity value, shade provision, trees to attract native bird species). Exotic species, natives, or a mixture of both may be used to achieve these objectives*	*1- Works are ongoing*
A147	***1,3,5***		*Where a tree on council land is removed, the council shall endeavour to plant at least two trees at a most appropriate site in the locality, should this not be possible then an alternative site will be sought.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A148	***1,3,5***		*Trees of longevity and heritage value shall be planted, incorporating, where possible, nursery stock material specially propagated from existing notable, old or veteran trees.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A149	***1,3,5***		*Existing borough wide planting themes established for the urban areas of the borough shall be implemented.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The long-term cost impacts associated with ongoing maintenance shall be considered.*
A150	***1,3,45***		*Selected exotic species may be planted, as a contrast to the native plantings and to emphasise the diversity of the vegetation of the borough.*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A151	***1,3,5***		*Local character species shall be used to provide a backdrop and framework for the planting of a range of selected species, while enhancing open space. Appropriate species may be those associated with habitat types such as coastal, lowland or wetland areas.*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A152	***1,2,3,5***	***Unauthorised planting of trees***	*Unauthorised planting of trees by residents on council land is not permitted and this activity shall be actively discouraged. The council may remove trees that are planted without council authorisation.*	*1- Works are ongoing*

Policies and action for highway trees

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A153	***1,2,3,5***	*Highway Tree Replacement*	*Where possible, the Council will seek to replace all felled highway trees with two replacement trees preferably within the next planting season.* *In exceptional circumstances where highway trees cannot not be replaced, an alternative replacement position will always be sought in the highway, or failing that in nearby council-owned land highly visible from the highway*	*1- Works are ongoing - Species and varieties suitable for replacement in any street or section of street will be identified as part of the highway tree survey* *Additional funds from both the Council and private sponsorship will be sought for a highway tree planting programme*
A154	***1,3,4,5***		*Tree plantings shall be targeted to streets where:* • *there is sufficient support by residents* • *there is sufficient space to accommodate the mature rooting zone of the tree* • *street trees are unlikely to cause significant long term management problems (such as potential conflict with overhead wires, underground services, traffic visibility and alternative road plans), and trees will enhance the quality of the streetscape*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A155	***1,3,4,5***		*The council shall comply with the Highway Act 1980 – code of practice and the Disabilities Discrimination Act regarding any highway replacement trees.*	*1- Works are ongoing -*
A156	***1,3,5***		*Where a particular species dominates street planting, there will be a presumption in favour of planting the same species, or visually similar species*	*1- Works are ongoing -*
A157	***1,2,3,5***		*The council will endeavour to protect street trees, and street tree planting locations, and the growing environment from threats such as; loss of and damage to verges (including the use of verges for unauthorised parking), the activities of statutory undertakers and other excavating near trees.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A158	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall maintain the current tree stock along main transportation routes and endeavour to enhance these routes wherever possible with further tree planting.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A159	***1,2,3,5***		*In areas where the type of tree makes a less strong contribution to the amenity, the council will exercise more variety in species choice.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

A160	***1,3,5***		*Consideration will be given to written requests from residents not to have a street tree outside their property, and a decision will be based on how critical the tree is to the overall design for the street.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A161	***1,3,4,5***		*Where street planting is impractical or inappropriate, the council shall encourage residents to plant appropriate trees on private land adjoining the street frontage by providing suitable plant material and advice (i.e. through the subsidised tree planting scheme). The responsibility for the maintenance of these trees remains with the landowner. The council may decide it appropriate to protect these trees after planting by the use of a Tree Preservation Order.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A162	***1,3,4,5***	***Trench Works and Trees***	*The council shall endeavour to ensure that where utility services are installed and maintained in close proximity to council owned or highway trees, or those afforded other protection, the National Joint Utilities Group guidelines for planning, installation and maintenance of services in proximity to Trees (NJUG 10) are adhered to.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A163	***1,3,5***		*Consultation will continue to take place between the appropriate Council Transport Policy or Highways and Construction team and a council Arboriculturalist when trench works are proposed near a tree.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A164	***1,2,5***		*The council encourages better co-ordination of street works, and will enforce stiff financial penalties for utilities damaging trees when digging up the road and pavements.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A165	***1,2,5***		*Where other protection is considered to be inadequate, the Council will consider the use of temporary TPOs on highway trees where it considers them to be endangered by trench works*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A166	***1,2,5***	***The Growth Environment***	*The council will periodically review its methods for de-icing footpaths and roads to favour unsalinated material wherever practicable in areas that contain trees.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A167	***1,2,5***		*The council will remove tarmac from the immediate base of trees where appropriate and where funds are available.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A168	***1,5***	***Highway Obstruction***	*The council will carry out work, or require work, to highway and roadside trees to ensure the safe passage of pedestrians and appropriate vehicles and ensure essential highway visibility*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

A169	***1,5***	***CCTV Obstruction***	*Wherever possible, and with the consultation of the arboricultural team, CCTV cameras are to be sited where there is no obstruction by trees, but new highway trees will not be planted in new positions which obscure existing CCTV views*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A170	***1,3,5***	***Damage to the Highway***	*Every effort will be made to avoid pavement distortion through the choice of species, varieties, rootstocks and surrounding surfacing when planting or replacing highway trees*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A171	***3,5***	***Reducing and Eliminating street clutter***	*Street furniture in the form of matching tree guards and grilles will have, from time to time, been used within the borough to protect the root zone and trunk of establishing trees from damage. The council shall seek to eliminate clutter and the unnecessary use of items such as these where possible. If temporary support or protection is required, good quality guarding will be used.*	*3– achievable with some extra resources -*
A712	***3,5***	***Physical services***	*Physical services, such as rainwater, roads, kerb and channelling, and carriageways, shall be designed to minimise or mitigate potential adverse effects on the quality and intrinsic values of trees.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -*
A173	***1,5***	***Damage to the Highway***	*Occasionally, as a last resort, it may be necessary to fell trees where their roots create pavement distortion which is a severe public safety hazard which cannot be alleviated through other actions*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

Policies and action for open space trees

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A174	***1,2,3,5***	***Plans***	*The council shall seek to create a varied and sustainable tree population in council parks.*	*1 - Works are ongoing -The council shall aim to develop and maintain long term management plans for trees in parks and open spaces aiming to ensure perpetuity of tree cover.*
A175	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Community Involvement***	*The council will seek the involvement of the local community in the appropriate care and management of trees in public open space. The council shall encourage the community to become involved in tree stewardship, through consultation and participation in council organised programmes and events, such as Arbor Day plantings.* *The council shall promote the beauty and diversity of the council's treescapes during regional and national events.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources*
A176	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Tree collections***	*The council shall maintain and enhance existing tree collections for the amenity, aesthetic, enjoyment, environmental, educational and economic benefit of the people of Ipswich, now and into the future. Tree collections will be managed to be aesthetically pleasing as well as for their functional and botanical values. The council shall also actively manage all tree collections according to contemporary arboricultural practice and to a standard befitting a centre of arboricultural excellence.* *The council shall continue to develop collections of valuable trees and botanical specimens throughout the borough and establish a 'borough wide arboretum' type approach.* *The council shall develop a range of types of tree collection, including single species and mixed species collections and a variety of themes suited to the borough and its ecology and heritage.* *Increase public awareness about the council tree collections and its aspirations through the use of brochures and posters.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The Council will develop and publicise a "Register of Significant Trees", providing the location of historically important trees or the best examples of any species or variety in the borough or park*

A177	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Commemora-tive trees***	• *The council shall continue to keep an up-to-date record of commemorative trees in the borough stating the purpose of the planting and sponsoring individuals or groups will be included in the record* • *Commemorative trees shall be maintained to council standards* • *Relocation or removal of a commemorative tree may be undertaken only in exceptional circumstances, and shall be based on an assessment of the value of the tree, the ability to relocate or replace to another site, and the costs and benefits to community well-being of various tree management options* • *Where practicable, commemorative trees that have died or need to be removed may be replaced, although a more suitable species and/or site may be selected for the replacement tree* • *Where appropriate and feasible, the sponsors of a commemorative planting will be informed if a tree(s) needs to be removed or relocated* • *The council will not always place plaques on commemorative trees* • *The council shall strategically plan and manage the location and species of future commemorative plantings. Where appropriate, the council shall utilise commemorative tree planting to support the aspirations of the borough wide arboretum*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A178	***1,3,5***	***Park and Cemetery Trees***	*The council recognises the potential of formal parks and cemeteries as arboretum and where appropriate will attempt to grow a wide variety of appropriate species and varieties in a well designed setting*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A179	***1,2,3,5***	***Green space Trees***	*In contrast to formal parks and cemeteries, the management of green space trees will be more informal and will utilise a greater use of native species*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A180	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Allotment Trees***	*The council will respond positively to requests for permission to plant appropriate trees on allotments when this does not detract from the primary purpose of allotments*	*3– achievable with some minor extra resources - The Council will continue to work in partnership to develop 'allotment forestry' plots where there is support and uncultivatable plots available*

Policies and action for housing trees

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A181	***1,2,3,5***	***Council Housing and TPO'S***	*The council shall endeavour to inspect significant trees on council owned sites before the transfer of council property into private ownership and where judged suitable protect these trees using a Tree Preservation Order.* *The council will survey all areas of Council housing and TPOs will be placed on all previously council-owned trees with significant amenity value*	*1 - Works are ongoing - Develop procedure - Before sale the assistant arboricultural manager shall be notified of any intended sale of council land with significant trees to enable comments to be made and a Tree Preservation Order made if appropriate.*
A182	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Housing trees***	• *In accordance with tenancy agreements, the council shall not allow tenants to undertake arboricultural work on council trees without approval.* • *The council shall investigate aiming to resolve tree issues where ownership is disputed.* • *The council shall actively discourage the new planting of conifers for example, Leyland cypress, on housing land. Only certain circumstances will such planting be allowed.* • *The council shall actively encourage new tree planting in suitable council house gardens.* • *The council shall encourage new tree planting to create a balance between natural and native tree species.* • *The council shall endeavour to fulfil its obligation to ensure the safety of people and property.* • *The council shall endeavour to consult residents on the regular pro-active tree management where appropriate.* • *There will be a presumption against the removal of housing trees which are healthy but subject to complaint unless the basis of the complaint is overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

Policies and action for woodlands and the urban forest

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
A183	***1,2,3,5***	***Urban Forestry Planting***	*The council will seek and encourage opportunities to create, expand and join areas of established woodland along landscape ecology principles using both its own funds and external grants where appropriate*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources -A study will be carried out to identify areas suitable for additional tree-planting*
A185	***1,2,3,5***		*Sustainably manage and care for all existing trees, woodlands and hedgerows to account for the multiple-use objectives of conserving and enhancing biodiversity, recreational, landscape, historical and educational value.*	
A186	***1,2,3,5***		*The council shall promote the concepts of the "urban forest" and tree and hedgerow care by involving the community.*	
A187	***1,2,3,5***		*The council will* • *Improve the age structure of the urban tree population, by planting more young trees and retaining more old trees.* • *Actively encourage imaginative planting, utilising a broader range of species and cultivars, whilst maximising their use of large broadleaves, native species and locally distinctive species – wherever appropriate.* • *Reverse the trend to increasingly plant roadsides with the ubiquitous Sorbus and Prunus cultivars.*	
A188	***1,2,5***		*Major tree planting will be subject to ecological assessment to ensure that valuable open ground habitat is not destroyed.*	
A189	***1,2,3,5***	***Dead wood***	*Where appropriate, the council will ensure dead and fallen wood is left on site unless there are sound conservation, economic or safety reasons for its removal and will provide log piles from pruning and coppicing to encourage the biodiversity of the site.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

A190	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Develop and manage urban the forests***	*a) Provide woodland/tree management advice and grant aid advice.* *b) Formally liaise with the Forestry Commission to promote urban planting and the use of management grants.* *c) Encourage co-ordination & co-operation between landowner, local authority and other organisations.* *d) Establish new woodland areas for recreation, wildlife and timber production, providing all residents with ready access to an area of woodland.* *e) Establish semi-permanent or temporary woodland as a visual and environmental improvement on appropriate areas of vacant land.* *f) Make use of trees and woodland to reduce wind speed and provide shelter in both built up areas and amenity open spaces.* *g) Creation of new and extension of existing green corridors for both wildlife and public access to rural and larger woodland or open spaces.* *h) Make use of woodland and trees to enhance existing landscape, define different areas, and provide local identity.* *i) Liaise closely with Housing Associations with regard to the design and maintenance of green space in Housing Association developments.* *j) Encourage advanced planting on any greenfield sites.* *k) Target woodland and tree planting along principal transport routes, within key urban centres, industrial/ commercial areas and in school grounds.* l) *Consult locally on urban forestry proposals affecting parks and other areas of public open space.* m) *The council will respond positively to opportunities to receive land and woodlands offered to them, and purchase available woodland and other land suitable for tree planting, through compulsory purchase if necessary.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources*

A191	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Woodlands***	*a) Encourage surveys to identify further woodlands that comprise local woodland habitat types. Where they meet SSSI selection criteria they should be designated as such.* *b) Woodland SINC sites within the borough should be evaluated to ensure that they are properly classified. Other woodlands should be considered for selection as SINCs.* *c) Ensure that woodlands within the ownership of the council and other conservation bodies are appropriately managed.* *d) Ensure that management plans and appropriate management regimes are in place for all designated sites.* *e) Promote management advice and support the development of markets for sustainable woodland products through the Tree Station project to woodland owners.* *f) Produce council Tree and Woodland Strategy.* *g) Encourage the reversion of conifer plantations on ancient woodland sites back to a native woodland character.* *Raise awareness of the nature conservation value of deciduous woodlands in all sectors of the community, including agriculture, business, developers, government and the general public.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources*
A192	***1,2,3,5***	***Species and Provenance Choice***	*In predominately native and informal tree planting, the use of local provenance seed will be encouraged*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A193	***1,2,3,5***		*Where urban forestry planting is taking place and nature conservation is a primary objective the use of the NVC will be used as a planting mixture template*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A194	***1,2,3,5***	***Woodland Management***	*The Council recognises the uniqueness of ancient woodland and will manage such woodlands sympathetically, with nature conservation as a primary objective*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The Council will apply the woodland management plan that it has obtained for its own woodlands and create or obtain plans for those wooded areas that do not yet possess a plan.* *The council will continue to lease with the National Urban Forestry unit, the urban Wildlife Trust, the Groundwork trust and British Trust for Conservation Volunteers in the production and possible implementation of woodland management plans for Council owned woodlands.*

A195	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Timber Marketing***	*The council will aim to increase the marketability of its woodland where it does not detract from the primary objectives of recreation, amenity and nature conservation.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources – A plan will be produced which investigates timber quality, quantity, thinning, pruning and access provision for all the council's land where sale of timber is feasible and reasonable.*
A196	***1,2,3,4,5***	***Felling Licence / EWGS Consultation***	*The council's approach when consulted would be to follow local plan policies and to encourage good silvicultural practise which maintains and improves biodiversity, amenity and recreational access*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
A197			*The Council will encourage appropriate private woodland planting, and will offer advice where appropriate*	*1 - Works are ongoing*

Policies and action for Hedgerows and Veteran Trees

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
198	1,2,3,4,5	General	*Sustainably protect and enhance existing veteran trees, trees, woodlands and hedgerows and ensure no further loss of ancient woodlands*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources*
199	1,2,3,5	**Hedgerow Regulation**	*The Council will aim to protect all hedges meeting the Hedgerow Regulations criteria*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources*
200	1,2,3,5	**Hedgerow Management and Promotion**	*The Council will aim to manage its own hedgerows as an example of best practice*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
201	1,2,3,5	**Hedgerows and Development**	*There is a strong presumption against removal of old hedgerows in development. The Council will also aim to retain and enhance any previous or weak hedge lines*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
202	1,2,3,5		*Wherever it is proposed to remove or create a large breach in a hedgerow on a development site, a full hedgerow survey will be required, including an assessment of the hedgerow's ecological and historical value*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
203	1,2,3,5		*The council shall promote and encourage the planting and maintenance of hedgerows through existing policies and strategies and raise awareness of the hedgerow regulations through the distribution of existing literature.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
203	1,2,3,5		*Wherever established hedgerows border proposed public open space in developments, the Council will seek to have the whole of the hedge transferred to its ownership.*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
204	1,2,3,5	**Veteran Trees**	*The Council will aim to protect all appropriate veteran trees with a TPO where it can be justified on amenity grounds.*	*1 - Works are ongoing -The Council will launch a veteran tree survey to identify all such trees of size and value and ensure their sympathetic management*
205	1,2,3,5		*The Council would wish to see significant ecological value considered as sole grounds for making a TPO*	
206	1,2,3,5		*The Council will ensure that the needs of wildlife are taken into account in both the management of its own trees and through its involvement with trees as a LPA where it can promote good practice and draw attention appropriate wildlife protection legislation*	

Policies and action for Community involvement

Ref	Aim	Subject	Policy	Resource implications
L207	1,2,3,4,5	Tree Warden Scheme	*The Council will develop a Tree Warden Scheme for the borough and establish a network of wardens*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The Council aims to set up a tree warden-training scheme and four training days will be provided in the first year.*
L208	1,2,3,4,5	**Promotion and Education**	*The Council will actively support national and local tree promotion projects in order to promote trees, woodlands and hedgerows within the borough*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
L209	1,2,3,4,5		*The council shall prepare and distribute promotional materials to increase awareness about the Tree Management Policy and its purpose and content. This may include publications, posters & displays and shall be placed on the councils website.* *The council shall inform and educate residents, businesses and developers about the value of trees, and explore ways for greater involvement, consultation and protection.* *The council shall liaise with organisations promoting projects which celebrate significant events such as National Tree Week, Veteran Trees and other initiatives.* *The council shall encourage residents and businesses in the borough to get involved in planting and caring for trees.*	*5 - achievable only with additional resources - The Council will design and make available free leaflets on: tree protection, tree care, choosing a contractor, species selection and planting, trees and wildlife and hedgerow management* *The council shall produce and make available to the public, upon request, occasional leaflets and other literature about trees and tree related matters. The council will continue to give arboricultural advice to the public*
L210	1,2,4,5	Tree health promotion	*The council shall seek to raise the understanding and awareness of trees to benefit the health of the tree population as a whole throughout the borough;* *a) promoting and encouraging good arboricultural practices and woodland management.* *b) Providing up to date information on tree issues* c) *Raising awareness of tree issues where possible and appropriate.*	

.211	**.2,3,4,5**	**chools**	*The Council will work with schools to educate children and young people, particularly in deprived areas, about trees and therefore ensure their continued care and protection.*	*3– achievable with some extra resources - Investigate the opportunities of The council increasing awareness of trees among school children through environmental education programmes and to become actively involved in growing, planting, caring for, and celebrating trees, and to consider appropriate partners for sponsorship.*
.212	**.4,5**	**ublic onsultation & nvolvement**	*The Council will aim towards a system of advance neighbour notice where it is undertaking major tree works in an area*	*3– achievable with some extra resources*
.213	**.4,5**		*The Council will aim to maintain or improve community consultation on all major schemes involving tree planting or management*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
.214	**.4,5**		*The Council will respond positively to requests for appropriate planting on public land, and it will aim to involve local people in planting and management, wherever possible*	*1 - Works are ongoing*
.215	**.4,5**	**ublic nformation**	*The Council will aim to educate the public with regard to their tree-related responsibilities and the need to take professional advice on their trees where necessary*	*3– achievable with minor financial resources*
.216	**.2,3,4,5**	**rivate planting**	*The Council will promote and encourage appropriate front garden planting which contributes to public amenity*	*3– achievable with minor financial resources*
.217	**.2,3,4,5**	**ubsidised Tree cheme**	*The council shall develop a subsidised tree scheme.* *Subsidised trees will generally receive a tree preservation order to safeguard their future amenity value*	*3– achievable with minor financial resources - The Council will investigate the creation of a free or subsidised tree scheme where there will be a clear benefit to public amenity or the environment* *The Council will investigate the development of a small grant scheme to provide assistance to maintain trees of significant amenity or ecological value*
.218	**.2,3,4,5**	**ree Sponsorship**	*The Council will encourage and seek private and corporate sponsorship of tree planting in the highway and public open space where suitable positions can be identified*	*1 - Works are ongoing*