

Policy and Performance Briefing Note

Tree Strategy and Supplementary Planning Document

Tree Strategy

Sets a vision for the Borough in relation to Trees and the ambition.

Where we are now

In February 2020 the Council made a commitment to plant 160,000 additional trees in the borough by the end of 2030. This net increase in tree planting will be delivered through a combination of developer contributions, government grants and local off setting initiatives.

In June Hampshire County Council published a Tree strategy¹, which includes a target for 1,000,000 additional trees to be planted in Hampshire by 2050. This target is likely to take into account any planting carried out by District & Borough Councils.

Internal elements of the strategy

- Council's own estate management
- Ecology, Country Park and Countryside teams
- Highway and Engineering in relation to highways, verges and hedgerows;
- Landscape design team
- Planning Policy (SPD) and Development Management
- Streetscene involvement in management
- Relationship with the Tree Nursery
- Linkages with other Council Activities and strategies (including Climate and Environmental Emergency, Health and Wellbeing, Biodiversity and Waste Management).

Working with Partners and Residents

How the Council will work with residents, Businesses, and key partners including:

- Parish Councils
- Other Community Groups (Such as Friends of Wildern Nature Reserve)
- Hampshire County Council (and other neighbouring Local Authorities)
- The Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission
- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (and other Nature Charities)

¹ <https://documents.hants.gov.uk/environment/tree-strategy.pdf>

Tree Supplementary Planning Document (SPD)

Supplementary planning documents build upon and provide more detailed advice or guidance on policies in a local plan. As they do not form part of the development plan, they cannot introduce new planning policies into the development plan. They are however a material consideration in decision-making.

Areas for consideration

Protection of existing trees and design guidance

Number of trees planted to mitigate removal; possible options include:

- **Ratio** – Number of trees planted to replace each removed
- **Canopy Cover Net Gain** - % target for Borough level of Tree Cover
- **Leaf Area Index Net Gain** – Detailed assessment of full ecological value of each tree removed

Types of trees planted – Specifying the Woodland Trust's planting specifications (Local, Native, Resilient and Disease free)

Maintenance of new trees – Funding (number of years and specifications, possible requirement to utilise Council services).

Proximity of new development to Woodland - Development buffer zones around Ancient and other woodland.

Next Steps for both the Strategy and SPD

Following Policy and Performance on 10 September:

- Further engagement internally and with key external stakeholders
- Public Consultation for 6 weeks from mid-October
- Back to P&P for consideration on 7 December
- Cabinet on 10 January to consider sign off.