Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council

Tree Strategy

January 2007

Glossary

Actionable nuisance	Where actual damage to property has been caused, or, if no action is taken to prevent it, damage will be imminently caused. It does not mean just the pure encroachment of roots or branches over the adjoining land.
Ancient semi natural woodland	Woodland that has existed continuously on that site since before 1600 and is now valued for its locally native species and wildlife habitats.
Bio-diversity	A range of species which live within a particular habitat.
BS 3998 (1991)	British Standard 3998 (1991) Recommendations for tree work – This standard relates to Arboricultural operations and methods.
Conservation Area	Conservation Areas are areas of special architectural or historical interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve. Anyone wishing to cut down or carry out work on a tree in a conservation area is required to give the Council six weeks' prior notice.
Conservation Tree Belt	Narrow woodland areas left behind following residential development derived from ancient semi natural woodland containing native species.
Estate Management Scheme	The Estate Management scheme is part of the Leasehold Reform Act 1967. This is administered for purpose of maintaining and enhancing amenities and values in Welwyn Garden City. The scheme requires that written consent be obtained to cut down, lop or top any tree exceeding 15ft within the Estate Management areas.
Hazard	(In this instance) a tree which has the potential to harm persons or property.
Industry best practise	Industry best practise is the use of Arboricultural techniques, methods or process which have been industry proven to be the most effective
Natural regeneration	Young trees resulting from germination of seeds, which occur as a consequence of natural seeding
Landmark trees	Trees which are considered to be prominent identifying features within the landscape

Lapsed pollard	A pollarded tree that has not been cut in a regular cycle but left uncut for many years
Native species	Those trees which are considered to be naturally occurring in the UK
Non-intervention	The management of woods where nothing is done to allow the succession of the wood to occur naturally
Pathogen	A micro-organism causing disease.
Pollard	A tree cut once or repeatedly where the main stem forms the crown. Usually cut on a regular basis, with the whole or part of the crown removed.
Risk	The likelihood that a tree (in this instance) will cause harm to person or property.
Subsidence	A sinking (or movement) of structures due to shrinkage when clay soils dry out, sometimes due to extraction of moisture by tree roots.
Suckers	Shoots that arise from an underground stem or root of a tree
Thinning	Removal of weak trees or trees with poor form from a group to allow the remaining trees to prosper.
Town and Country Planning Act	An Act of Parliament which consolidates certain enactments relating to town and country planning.
Tree Belts	Areas of trees which are sometimes small areas of woodland throughout the Borough which where originally planted to provided a visual and sometimes audio barrier to separate housing development from other estates.
Tree Preservation Order	A Tree Preservation Order (TPO) is order made by a Local Planning Authority (LPA) in respect to trees, groups of trees, woodlands and areas of trees. The principal effect of a TPO is to prohibit the cutting down, uprooting, topping, lopping, wilful damage or wilful destruction of trees without the LPAs consent. Relevant primary and secondary legislation is Part

VIII of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 and in the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999.

Vegetation Islands	Areas of plant cover left to provide natural habitat thereby increasing the bio-diversity and ecological value within tree belts
Veteran Tree	A tree that is of interest biologically, culturally or aesthetically because of its age, size or condition.
Visual amenity	The visual amenity of a tree is its intrinsic beauty and/or its contribution to the landscape.
Wind Throw	The blowing over of a tree or stand of trees at its roots due to excessive wind.

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Introduction by the Executive Member for the Environment

I am pleased to introduce the Council's Tree Strategy. The Borough has a varied landscape, steeped in history with a range of small settlements, two main towns (Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City) and expansive areas of open countryside and wooded areas. Trees make an important contribution to both the Borough's urban and rural areas and the Council recognises that the effective management, conservation and enhancement of the Borough's critical assets will help secure a quality environment for present and future generations. In March 2006 I was delighted to host the inaugural meeting of our Tree Warden Scheme, over 70 people came to the launch and expressed a willingness to join with us in caring for the trees.

This Tree Strategy sets out what we consider the Council's priorities and, interests should be over the next 20 years.

Following consultation, submissions from the public and environmental groups a draft of this document was amended to encompass the wider public view. The draft was then presented to the Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Cabinet in late 2006 and adopted as Council Policy at Full Council on 22nd January 2007.

Councillor Alan Franey   *Date: 22nd January 2007*

Introduction by the Tree Council

I know for a fact that the people of Welwyn Hatfield feel strongly about the trees in their Borough. How do I know this? Because at the end of March 2006 I spoke at the launch of the Welwyn Hatfield Tree Wardens Scheme where there was an unprecedented turn out of people from all over the Borough willing to help manage the trees.

The importance of trees is indisputable and it could be argued that the importance of trees in an urban environment is even greater. Trees provide a fundamental contact with nature and the seasons and heighten pleasure in our surroundings. They provide variety and colour, form, texture, sound, odours and patterns in the landscape. Trees also soften architectural line and accentuate structural details, provide focal points, form vistas and define space. Trees can also add to the character of an area and provide a sense of historical continuity.

However the pressures on trees in an urban environment are greater due to harsh growing conditions, development and conflict of space with vehicles and buildings. It is important that there is a clear approach to the management of these trees to ensure their survival.

This strategy sets out a framework for the protection and enhancement of the trees, working in partnership with groups such as the Tree Wardens and other local groups to ensure that the high quality treescape of the Borough is there for generations to come.

The Tree Council supports this strategy through its involvement with the Tree Wardens and encourages you to support Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council in the execution of this plan.

Jon Stokes   January 2007.
Director of Community Projects

The Tree Council was founded in 1974 and is an independent registered charity. The Tree Council's aim is to improve the environment in town and country by promoting the planting and conservation of trees and woods throughout the United Kingdom and to disseminate knowledge about trees and their management.

Interested?

If you would like to know more about becoming a Tree Warden, please contact Claire Lilley on 01707 357000 or c.lilley@welhat.gov.uk.

1.0 The Importance of Trees

The Value of Trees

1.1 Trees enhance the quality of the urban environment and form an integral part of its diversity. They are essential to our health and well being, not only in filtering out the harmful effects of pollution but enhancing people's enjoyment of urban areas. They provide form, colour, texture and movement and change with the season of the year. Trees planted along streets help to define and frame them, giving them visual significance and enhancing their appearance.

1.2 In urban areas trees help to modify the climate, providing shade from sun in summer, shelter from rain and reducing wind speeds. Trees complement buildings through their size, scale, mass and colour at different times of the year.

1.3 Most people prefer to live and work in leafy surroundings. Trees help to enhance the character and appearance of the Borough, as well as property values. These qualities encourage businesses to locate and attract people to live locally, enhancing the social and economic life of the Borough.

1.4 Trees help to provide privacy to our homes and help to screen eyesores. They can also help new developments blend quickly into the streetscape.

1.5 Trees have intrinsic value as highly complex and varied living organisms. They also support a host of other species from wood-boring beetles, lichens and mistletoe to insects that feed on nectar. They provide roosts for bats and birds. Many species of birds nest in urban trees, especially in the quieter, residential roads. Tree belts are often large enough to provide undisturbed habitat for small mammals such as mice and voles.

1.6 The impact of climate change in our environment cannot be ignored. Increasingly dry winters followed by hotter springs will affect trees. Establishing young trees will be harder but more importantly mature and declining trees will be stressed by the harsher conditions. We may well see losses in the mature street tree population, most particularly amongst the mountain ash, hawthorn, crab apple and cherry trees (the Rosaeceous species). Persistent change in weather patterns may lead to the use of more drought tolerant species.

Healthier, Cleaner Borough

1.7   One of the most common concerns in urban life is the effect of increased levels of pollution on our health and welfare. Trees are an important agent in reducing these levels. They are able to absorb carbon dioxide from the air, as well as sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide, in the form of smoke and dust.

1.8   Trees can absorb noise. Although not as effective as solid walls, they are far cheaper and a more attractive feature in the environment.

1.9   Trees help to screen harmful ultra violet rays from the sun. This can be particularly important in shading school playgrounds.

1.10   Trees can have a positive psychological effect, particularly, for example with the passing of winter and the advent of spring.

2.0   What is the Tree Strategy?

2.1   This Tree Strategy sets out the Council's 20 year strategy for the sustainable management, conservation and enhancement of the Borough's tree and landscaping assets.
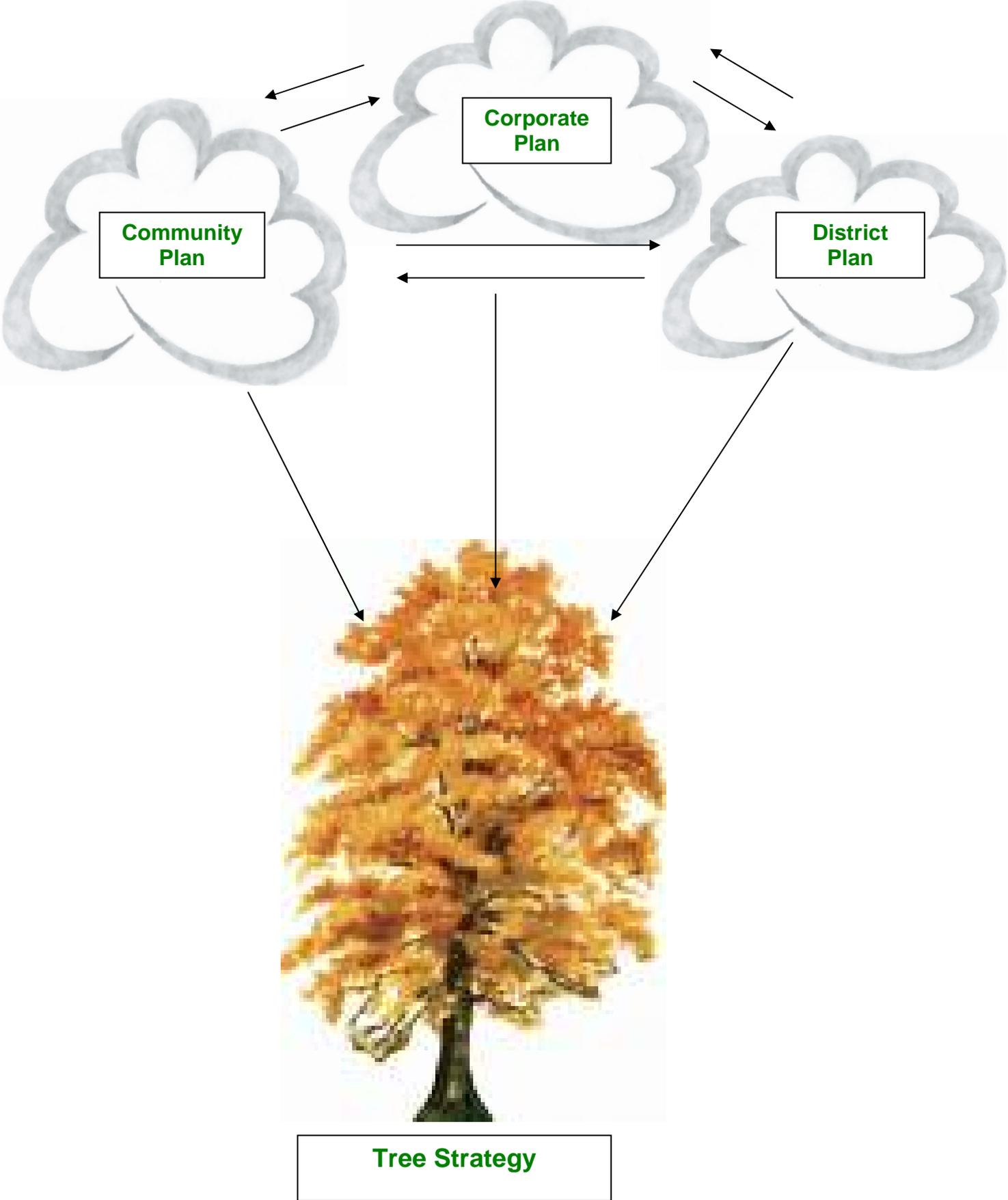
    The Strategy contributes towards and complements a range of objectives and priorities, which have been published in the Community Plan for Welwyn Hatfield and the Council's Corporate Plan. The Community Plan describes a ten year vision for Welwyn Hatfield. It has been developed by key agencies, businesses, community and voluntary groups working in partnership as the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance. The Community Plan provides the context for the Council's Corporate Plan. The Tree Strategy will also support the policy objectives of the Council's adopted District Plan.

2.3   The inter-relationships with other key strategies and plans are vital to ensuring that we are working towards common goals. The key relationships are summarised in the table below and depicted diagrammatically on page 10:

Strategy / Plan	Key Issue /Promise/ Policy	Aims / objectives	Goals / Focus
Corporate Plan	Promise 2 We will make the Borough cleaner and greener	Improve the street scene Protect natural resources for future generations	Improve resident satisfaction
District Plan	Policy R17 Policy D8	Seek to protect and retain existing trees through planning system	New developments required to incorporate new planting Use native species where possible
Community Plan	Key Issue 2 Improving the	Welwyn Hatfield remains a pleasant place to live and	Engage and educate the community on environmental

| | Environment | work.

Involve the community in the sustainable development of the borough through the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the natural environment | issues.

Foster civic pride locally.

Better management and protection of open spaces.

A cleaner, less polluted environment.

Protect wildlife and natural habitats. |
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Relationship between Tree Strategy and the Councils key plans

Corporate Plan

Community Plan

District Plan

Tree Strategy

2.4   The strategy has a timescale of 20 years starting in 2007 with 5 year review periods. The length of the strategy is sufficient to see a pattern of change and improvement emerging; most particularly the success of young tree planting as those planted at the beginning of the strategy will be well established and contributing to the street-scene. Trees also decline over a long period and recording change over 20 years may well reveal patterns that we can respond to.

3.0   Who is responsible for this Strategy?

3.1   The Council has prepared this strategy in its role as a statutory and non-statutory service provider. However, there are a number of functions that are carried out on behalf of the Council by others. Together, we strive to deliver a range of quality services across the Borough.

3.2   The Council has a Landscape and Ecology team who report directly to the Chief Planning and Environmental Health Officer. The team is based at the main Council offices at The Campus in Welwyn Garden City as is supported in its role by arboricultural consultants and tree maintenance contractors. The Executive Member for the Environment holds the portfolio for this work and all related business is reported to the Environment Overview and Strategy Committee.

3.3   The Council is responsible for:

- Trees on Borough owned amenity open spaces;
- Trees on verges, including those on County highway verges which the Borough maintains through a maintenance agreement; and
- Trees in Borough owned woodlands and rural open spaces
- The maintenance of a Borough audit of the street trees

3.4   The Council is not directly responsible for:

- Trees on highway land outside the maintenance agreement with the County Council;
- Trees in private gardens;
- Trees in private woodlands; and
- Trees on Borough open spaces managed by Finesse, a company that manages Stanborough Lakes, King George V playing fields, leisure centres, Panshanger Gold Club and Moneyhole open space on behalf of the Borough
- Trees on land owned by Town and Parish Councils

3.5   The Council will encourage private owners to retain existing trees in good condition;

- Section 23 of the Local Government (Misc Provisions) Act 1976 empowers Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council under certain conditions to serve notice on the owner of a tree which endangers people or property and to make safe and recover the costs from the owner if the owner does not have the work carried out within the specified timescale. This power will only be exercised as a last resort and after notice has been served on the Council, either by the owner or the complainant, under the Act.

- Except in accordance with the above Act, the Council has no powers to, and will not get involved in disputes between neighbours involving trees.

3.6   This document draws upon the Council's knowledge and experience of the past to provide a foundation for the future management of the Borough's trees. It will set our aims for the planting and maintenance of trees, the promotion and protection of trees in other ownership and provide continuity in service provision. It will be used by Council officers as a document of agreed policies and practices and as a reference for local groups, individuals, agencies and any other interested parties.

4.0   Our Strategic Objectives

4.1   The Council has identified three strategic objectives. The following table shows how these objectives relate to other key strategies and plans.

Strategic Objective One	Contributes to / compliments:
To effectively manage the lifecycle of trees	• The Corporate Plan • The District Plan
Strategic Objective Two	Contributes to / compliments:
To conserve the Borough's distinctive high quality environment	• The Corporate Plan • The District Plan • The Community Plan
Strategic Objective Three	Contributes to / compliments:
To enhance the environment by improving and developing the Borough's treescape	• The Community Plan • The Corporate Plan

5.0 How will the Council achieve these objectives?

5.1 Objective 1: To effectively manage the life cycle of trees by:

Developing and Implementing Good Operational Practices through:

- A proactive risk assessment programme;
- A re-active assessment programme for amenity management;
- Monitoring the tree planting and young tree maintenance contracts to check performance against established key performance indicators;
- Following a set of procedures for dealing with subsidence related matters.
- Monitoring the Council's amenity tree contractors.
- Working with Hertfordshire County Council so that the objectives and priorities set out in this Strategy are taken into account when delivering services within their remit.
- Acknowledging the impact of climate change on the treed environment and adapting our working methods so that trees have the best opportunity to thrive.
- Developing a source of grey water to irrigate young tree planting schemes .

Developing community awareness and participation by:

- Publicising this strategy on the Council's web-site;
- Maintaining and developing the Tree Wardens Scheme following the launch in March 2006;
- Consulting on new tree planting schemes;
- Notifying Ward Councillors and the public on tree removal proposals;
- Continuing our partnership with the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance.
- Developing our relationships with other key stakeholders

Informing the community about the Council's approach to the management of trees in the urban environment by:

- Producing and publishing a set of information and guidance leaflets setting out the Council's policy for:
    - Street tree planting and maintenance
    - Street tree pruning
    - Tree belts
    - Veteran tree management

(policies on the above matters are set out in Appendix B of this Strategy)

5.2   Objective 2: To conserve the Borough's distinctive, high quality environment by:

Protecting privately owned trees and woodlands of high amenity value through the use, where appropriate, of:

- Tree Preservation Orders;
- Conservation Area status;
- Estate management control;
- Conditions attached to planning permissions.

Assessing, over the life of this Strategy, the importance of the Borough's historic landscape, on publicly owned and managed land, through:

- A survey of veteran and landmark trees;
- A survey of other trees of high amenity value; and
- Identifying the need for maintaining and enhancing historic landscape patterns with appropriate species.
- A survey of old hedges and hedgerow trees in urban areas

The Council will explore opportunities to work with the community in the pursuit of the above objective.

5.3   Objective 3: To enhance the environment in order to improve and develop the Borough's treescape by:

Seeking the highest standard of tree planting in new developments implemented by the Council.

Seeking the highest standard of tree planting in new developments implemented by others through the planning system by:

- responding to consultations on planning applications;

- advocating for the inclusion of trees wherever the opportunity arises

Developing a set of criteria to assess the priority areas for street tree planting for those situations set out below:

- Entrances to towns, villages and the Borough;
- Areas with low visual amenity;

Older streets in the Borough that are now in a state of decline:

6.0 Performance Management

6.1   Appendix C contains the Council's proposals for managing performance against the Strategic Objectives and actions set out in this Strategy.

6.2   The tables set out in Appendix C describe what our proposed actions are, how and who will undertake the actions and identifies how we will monitor progress.

Audit of the Borough's Tree Assets

Street Trees (recorded specimens) — 22,095

Conservation Tree Belt — 16 sites (55,466m2)

Tree Belt — 163 sites (283,081m2)

Woodland TPO's — 85 sites

Group TPO's — 300 sites

Area TPO's — 28 sites

Individual TPO's — 1831 specimen's

Veteran Trees — No accurate statistics available

The Council's policies for:

- **Tree pruning**

- **Street tree planting**

- **Tree belts**

- **Veteran tree management**

<mark>**Street Tree Pruning**</mark>

<mark>**Policy STPR 1**</mark>

The Council will seek to maintain the highest possible standards of tree care and management.

Tree work will be carried out:

    a)   to standards set within BS 3998 (1991) along with any subsequent revisions;

    b)   by adopting best industry best practice according to all relevant legislation and research.

<mark>**Policy STPR 2**</mark>

The Council will undertake risk assessments to pro-actively manage its trees for the safety of people and property.

Assessments will be carried out:

    a)   to all street trees in the Borough over a 3 year period by suitably qualified consultants and staff;

    b)   where trees are showing symptoms which are likely to pose a threat of failure or are identified as possible hazards at an earlier inspection;

c) to susceptible species where a known pathogen has been found in the Borough

d) to investigate mature trees in decline with the use of specialist tree technology where the extent of decay cannot be visually ascertained.

Policy STPR 3

The Council will inspect all trees which are the subject of an enquiry from the public

Inspections will be carried out:

a) to highlight and prioritise those that need pruning on a regular basis;

b) to assess the general condition of those trees and programme any appropriate maintenance;

c) to provide feedback to the public regarding the tree issue raised and notify them of any course of action

d) to monitor standards of maintenance and timeliness of the work carried out by the tree contractors which will be reported to Cabinet

We will ensure that Ward Councillors are fully informed in advance of all street tree felling planned and notices are attached to the trees to advise the public of the reason for their removal

Policy STPR 4

There will be a presumption against the removal of any trees, which are healthy, but subject to complaint, unless the basis of the complaint has an overriding justification and no alternative reasonable management regime can be implemented

Tree work will be carried out where:

a) a risk assessment has identified decay, structural damage or any symptom of imminent failure;

b) branches are touching buildings and structures e.g. physical contact with windows, roofs, gutters;

c) vehicular and pedestrian safety and sightlines are required to be maintained e.g. road signs, street lights, power lines;

d) abatement is required of encroachment of Council trees over private gardens where actionable nuisance can be proved

e) previous pruning regimes have dictated that a continuance of such measures remains appropriate for that specimen e.g. periodic reductions, pollarding.

Policy STPR 5

The Council will not fell, undertake potentially disfiguring forms of tree work or carry out tree reduction work where it is not in the best interest of the trees' future health. An exception is or unless required to fulfil the Council's obligations to ensure the safety of people and property.

Tree work or removal will not be carried out to:

a) increase the amount of sunlight reaching a property or where views are obstructed;

b) improve reception for mobile phones, satellite and television reception or improved CCTV coverage;

c) alleviate problems caused by natural or seasonal phenomena e.g. sap, pollen, leaves, seeds, bird droppings, flowers, nuts and/or berries;

d) alleviate build up of algae, moss or prevent dampness on paths, structures and gardens;

e) alleviate potential insurance and subsidence issues unless supported by evidence such as a relevant engineering report;

f) resolve footpath heave or trip hazards unless no viable alternative can be found to alleviate the problems. Such problems on the highway are referred through to Herts. Highways for rectification;

g) for vehicle crossovers unless the tree has a very limited life expectancy or is at an age where it can be re-located elsewhere. (Any associated costs will be borne by the crossover applicant).

Street Tree Planting

Policy STPL 1

The Council will seek to plant no less than 200 trees annually and prioritise new street tree planting where key locations have been identified.

When setting priorities for tree planting consideration will be given where:

a) they will enhance the visual amenity of the entranceways and other major arterial routes within the Borough;

b) they will replace trees that have been removed from existing tree lined streets;

c) they will significantly contribute to raising areas of low visual amenity value particularly within Council housing estates and around areas of industrial development;

d) they replace ageing street tree populations that are in a state of decline and a phased re-planting programme is required to maintain the original street character;

e) community consultation strongly supports the introduction of new street planting;

f) they are requested by residents and these can be accommodated within budget.

Policy STPL 2

The Council will provide the right tree for the location.

When selecting species of tree for street planting the Council will take account of:

a) its likely size at maturity with larger areas of open space warranting larger tree species;

b) its potential to effect neighbouring landowners;

c) its suitability and spacing within the given environment e.g. size of verge in relation to spacing, type of existing planting, level of amenity value;

d) its tolerance to pests, diseases, wind throw, drought and climate change;

e) the preferences of the local community where discretion is available and

f) any historic tree planting patterns with the use of original species wherever possible

Policy STPL 3

The Council will plant trees where the roadside environment does not limit the tree from reaching its maximum potential. Intense pressure for roadside space from parking and utility providers will result in some locations not being suitable for establishing trees.

When selecting locations for street tree planting the Council will take account of:

      a)   any underground and overhead services and structures;

      b)   existing crossovers and potential crossover sites;

      c)   traffic and pedestrian sight lines;

      d)   areas which have been identified for increased off-street parking

Tree Belts

Policy TB 1

The Council acknowledge the value of tree belts as a prominent natural landscape feature and recognise that they add character to the Borough and play an important role in screening roads and industrial developments as well as reducing sound along residential interfaces.

The management of trees within these belts will primarily focus on improving and maintaining their purpose and visual appearance by:

      a) gradual thinning and allowing the more desirable species to develop where overcrowding is evident;

b) abatement of overhang from pathways and residences where it's creating a nuisance;

c) selective removal of suckers and saplings and selective removal of trees where they inhibit the natural regeneration of native tree and shrub species

d) selective removal of trees where safety issues have been identified and alternative courses of treatment are not viable

e) continuing with non-reduction of trees with in the belts unless they have been historically pruned;

f) replanting with appropriate species where the purpose of the tree belt has been compromised;

g) the retention of vegetation islands to retain wildlife habitats.

Policy TB 2

The Council acknowledge that some specific tree belts are derived from ancient semi-natural woodland relics and these are classified and managed as Conservation Tree Belts.

The management of the vegetation within these belts will primarily focus on improving and maintaining its ecological value:

   a)   by removing dead, dying, diseased or dangerous trees only when they pose a threat to public safety or property;

   b)   by allowing the natural regeneration of these areas by a policy of non-intervention;

   c)   by increasing public awareness and understanding of the importance of the value of these areas to the local environment.

Veteran Tree Management

Policy VTM 1

The Council recognises the special qualities of Veteran Trees in the Borough and their importance as part of our cultural and historic landscape.

In order to prolong the lives of these veteran trees appropriate conservation management is essential and this will be achieved by:

      a)   undertaking a survey of veteran pollards;

      b)   a continuation of pollarding for those Council owned trees that are actively within a pollarding cycle;

      c)   re-introducing phased reduction of lapsed pollards.

      d)   pruning only when essential and targeting only vulnerable trees.

Performance Management Arrangements for the Strategic Objectives

Objective 1: To effectively manage and monitor the life cycle of trees.

What we will do	How we will do this	When we will do this	Who will do this	How we will monitor
a) Develop and implement good operational practices	Pro-active risk assessment programme	Six reports per annum on an area by area basis over the current three year programme (2004-2007) and over future three year periods.	Landscape & Ecology Team, specialist consultant	The Council's consultant will submit (electronically) to the L&ET reports scheduling and assessing risk and priorities.
	Re-active risk assessment programme for amenity management	Monthly schedule of tree inspections and works	Landscape & Ecology Team (inspect), tree contractor (to undertake works).	Through the use of the tree data base to create inspection lists and through the completion of inspections.
	Monitoring the tree planting and young tree maintenance contracts to check performance against established key performance indicators	In accordance with an annual schedule of planting	Landscape & Ecology Team & the Council's contractors.	Against the target of planting no less than 200 new trees per annum. By enforcing the Council's specification for tree planting (Nov. to March) and young tree maintenance (Aug. to Sept.). By inspecting sites.

Objective 1 continued: To effectively manage and monitor the life cycle of trees.

What we will do	How we will do this	When we will do this	Who will do this	How we will monitor
a) Develop and Implement good operational practices (continued)	Following a set of procedures for dealing with subsidence related matters	On demand	Landscape & Ecology Team in consultation with the risk and insurance manager.	On a case by case basis and by reviewing such procedures in light of relevant recent case law.
	Monitoring the work of the Council's amenity tree contractors	Quarterly	Landscape & Ecology Team, the Council's contractors	A new monitoring framework specific to this task will be in place from July 2006.
b) Develop Community Awareness and participation	By publicising this Strategy on the Council's web-site	Spring 2007.	Landscape & Ecology Team, Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.	annual checks to bring document up to date, if necessary..
	By maintaining and developing the tree wardens scheme	Scheme launched in March 2006. Annual programme of 6 events and meetings to maintain interest and develop skills. From March 2007, through the launch of an annual newsletter.	Landscape & Ecology Team, Executive member, Tree Council, Community, Councillors, Welwyn Garden City Society, Welwyn Hatfield Alliance, Environmental Groups, Allotment holders	Maintain a record of events and meetings with a record of attendance. The publication of annual newsletter from April 2007.

Objective 1 continued: To effectively manage and monitor the life cycle of trees.

What we will do	How we will do this	When we will do this	Who will do this	How we will monitor
b) Develop Community Awareness and participation (continued)	By consulting on new tree planting schemes	Annually in August and September	Landscape & Ecology Team	By maintaining a record of all groups and individuals consulted on tree planting schemes.
	By notifying the public on tree removal proposals	Monthly to ward councillors (the month in advance of proposed works), by notifying local residents on a case by case basis and by placing a notice on all street trees to be removed.	Landscape & Ecology Team	By maintaining a record of all notices issued for proposed felling works.
	By continuing our partnership with the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance	At meetings of the Welwyn Hatfield Alliance Environment Forum.	Landscape & Ecology Team in association with other WHA partners	Minutes of meetings.
c) Inform the community about the Council's approach to the management of trees in the urban environment	By producing and publishing a set of information and advisory leaflets setting out the Council's policy for: 1 Street Tree Pruning 2 Street Tree Planting 3 Tree Belts, and 4 Veteran Tree Management.	Over the period 2007 - 2008	Landscape & Ecology Team, Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Reports to and minutes of the EOSC.

Objective 2: To conserve the Borough's distinctive high quality environment.

What we will do	How we will do this	When we will do this	Who will do this	How we will monitor
a) Protect privately owned trees and woodlands of high amenity value	Through the use, where appropriate, of: Tree Preservation Orders; Conservation Area status; Estate management control; and Conditions attached to planning permissions	As and when trees worthy of preservation are considered to be at threat. When trees of high amenity value are brought to our attention. Through consultations on planning applications and other applications for proposed works to trees with statutory protection.	Landscape & Ecology Team	Through the maintenance of an annual electronic record of all formal responses to the Planning Unit in relation to planning applications or other applications for works to trees with statutory protection.
b) Assessing, over the life of this Strategy, the importance of the Borough's historic landscape, on publicly owned and managed land	Through: A survey of veteran and landmark trees; A survey of planting of high amenity value; and By identifying the need for maintaining and enhancing historic patterns with appropriate species.	In 2007 identify a programme, within available resources and maximising opportunities for partnership working to undertake this programme of surveys and work.	Landscape & Ecology Team and by exploring opportunities to work with the community	Agree programme by end of 2007, through report to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Objective 3: To enhance the environment by improving and developing the Borough's treescape.

What we will do	How we will do this	When we will do this	Who will do this	How we will monitor
a) Seek the highest standard of tree planting in new developments implemented by the Council	Ensuring participation on relevant corporate working group(s) to seek an integrated approach to the design and implementation of new development, which is sensitive to the need to include appropriate levels and types of tree planting.	As required	Landscape and Ecology Team	Through the approval of landscaping proposals
b) Seek the highest standard of landscaping in new developments implemented by others through the planning system	By responding to consultations on planning applications	Within 21 days of receiving a request from Planning	Landscape & Ecology Team	By maintaining an electronic record of all responses provided.
c) Develop a set of criteria to assess the priority areas for street tree planting	We will develop a set of criteria to inform our assessment of priority areas	In 2007.	Landscape & Ecology Team in consultation with the tree wardens, the Welwyn Hatfield Environment Network, the WHA Environment Forum.	Report to Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee in autumn 2007..