

# **DRAFT DOCUMENT**

## **The aim of a tree policy (Council Tree Stock)**

The aim of a tree policy is to ensure the safety, maintenance, care, protection and longevity of the authority's tree stock.

- The policy will describe how the authority proactively surveys and inspects its trees and will provide detail on the cycles and timings of surveys and inspections.
- The policy will describe all aspects of how the authority will manage trees on its land and detail its response to tree related enquiries including timescales wherever possible. The aim is for effectively communicating, educating and engaging with the general public with regard to trees and tree issues.
- The policy will provide detail on what types of tree work the authority will carry out and what types of tree work the authority will not carry out and provide detail and reasons for these decisions. This will both inform the public and help to manage the public's expectations
- The policy will help maintain and encourage biodiversity by recognising the importance of trees as valued habitat for wildlife. It will recognise the value of the tree stock and encourage the conservation, positive management and appropriate planting of new trees and woodlands including donated and memorial trees. This will help maintain and improve upon the percentage of tree cover within the authority creating the social benefits that accompany these improvements such as well-being and quality of life.
- The policy will help mitigate the effects of climate change. It can do this by being a catalyst for future tree and woodland planting programmes and tree replacement programmes. It can also recognise the importance of trees in relation to filtering air of harmful particulates, providing shelter from the elements, producing oxygen, lessening flood risks and locking up carbon.
- The policy can help maintain and improve the landscape across the county and improve the quality of life for both residents and visitors to the city by promoting the importance, selection, planting and good maintenance of trees, softening the hard landscape and promoting a pleasant, green setting in which to live and work. Links can also be made with other council initiatives and policies such as well-being, green initiatives and i-tree eco.

## **Departments with trees on their land**

**Parks** = 12'691 plus 243 groups or woodlands. Initial surveys are still ongoing we expect approximately 20'000 trees and 400 groups or woodlands

**Highways** = 2521 plus 10 groups or woodlands. Initial surveys are still ongoing we expect approximately 4500 and 30 groups or woodlands

**Education** = 3842 plus 252 groups or woodlands Total.

**Housing** = 4797 plus 163 groups or woodlands Total (this does not include council house gardens)

**Cemeteries** = 2299 plus 14 groups or woodlands Total

**Libraries and museums** = unknown

**Social services** = unknown

**Estates** = unknown

Total at the time of writing 26'396 individual trees and 688 groups and woodlands

## **Other Departments that deal with trees and woodland issues**

**Planning Dept.** Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas and development sites.

**Environment Dept.** High Hedge enforcement. (Also previously dealt with dangerous trees on private land)

**Planning Country Side Team;** Conservation, woodland management, environmental and habitat management.

**Highways;** dangerous trees on private land threatening the highway