



North Tyneside Council

Environment Sub Committee

Friday 27 August 2021

Tuesday, 7 September 2021 commencing at 6.00 pm.

Room 0.01, Ground Floor, Quadrant, The Silverlink North, Cobalt Business Park, North Tyneside, NE27 0BY

Agenda Item	Page
1. Apologies for Absence To receive any apologies for absence	
2. Declaration of Interests and Dispensations To receive any declarations of interests or dispensations	
3. Minutes To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 6 July 2021	3 - 4
4. Review of Tree Management Policy and proposed Tree Planting Strategy To give consideration to a presentation on the review of the Tree Management Policy and the Tree Planting Strategy.	5 - 44

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Members of the Environment Sub Committee

Councillor Brian Burdis (Chair)
Councillor Linda Bell (Deputy Chair)
Councillor Margaret Hall
Councillor Chris Johnston
Councillor Gary Madden
Councillor Janice Mole

Councillor Gary Bell
Councillor Muriel Green
Councillor John Harrison
Councillor Joe Kirwin
Councillor Pam McIntyre
Councillor Jane Shaw

Environment Sub Committee

Tuesday, 6 July 2021

Present: Councillor B Burdis (Chair)
Councillors G Bell, L Bell, M Green, M Hall, J Harrison,
C Johnston, J Kirwin, G Madden, J Mole and J Shaw

Apologies: Councillors P McIntyre

E1/21 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the Sub Committee held on 12 January 2021 be approved.

E2/21 Declaration of Interests and Dispensations

There were no Declarations of Interest or Dispensations reported.

E3/21 10 Year Plan for Waste

Consideration was given to a presentation which provided an update on the actions taken by the Authority in relation to its 10 Year Plan for Waste, which had been approved by Cabinet in 2013. The presentation also provided an update on the actions being taken by the Government which could impact on the delivery of the plan.

It was explained that a new Environment Bill was currently making its way through Parliament and which was anticipated would be passed into law in the Autumn. Once enacted the Bill would have implications for the Authority on a number of different levels including the collection of waste and recycling. Reference was made to one element of the Bill which would introduce a requirement for the Authority to collect food waste separately from the general waste. Officers were looking at the implications for the Authority and residents on this change and how it could be managed. Reference was also made to the proposals to introduce a deposit return scheme in relation to plastic bottles which could have implications for the Authority's recycling service and possibly lead to a reduction in the quality of plastics collected which could have a financial impact for the Authority. The Bill also contained provisions in relation to an increase in the plastics tax designed to encourage less use of plastics, a tax to encourage producer responsibility and the use of recyclable products.

It was explained that the Authority would need to procure a waste contract for recycling in 2023 and that the residual waste collection contract had recently been extended. Reference was made to the industry awaiting clarity from the Government on what they would be required to do once the Environment Bill had been passed.

Members sought clarification on where the Authority was in relation to its recycling targets. It was explained that the pandemic had caused a bump in the road but the Authority was making steady progress. It was suggested that details of the current levels of waste processing be provided to members.

Reference was also made to the steps being taken by the Authority to prevent food waste and it was explained that although clarity was awaited from Government on the actual requirements there was a significant amount of work being undertaken to identify how the Authority could assist residents and Authority services to minimise food waste. Reference was also made to the steps being taken to identify the best way for any food waste to be collected and whether the standardisation of bins would form part of this process.

Reference was also made to the recycling of small electric appliances and whether local collection points could be set up for residents who did not have access to a vehicle. It was explained that this was currently being explored. Reference was also made to recycling and the circular economy and how this could be encouraged and facilitated.

Resolved that (1) the presentation be noted; and
(2) a further update be provided on the proposals for the roll out of food waste collections and what steps can be taken to encourage the reduction in the production of food waste.

E4/21 Environment Sub Committee Work Programme 2021/22

Consideration was given to the Sub-committee's work programme for the 2021/22 municipal year.

In accordance with the usual practice members had been invited to submit suggested topics for consideration by the Sub-committee and a number of suggested topics were also outlined during the meeting.

Resolved that the following topics be included in the Sub-committee's work programme for 2021/22:

- Invite the Cabinet Member to advise the Sub-committee on the work being undertaken by the Authority in relation to those elements of the environment which fell within her remit;
- Invite the Young Mayor and the Youth Cabinet Member to attend a meeting to advise the sub committee on the environmental issues of concern to young people;
- An examination of the practical steps that each Directorate of the Authority has taken to address the Authority's climate emergency declaration;
- An examination of what steps the Authority has taken in relation to the reduction in food waste;
- An examination of the Authority's procurement processes to see how they contribute to the Authority's environmental aspirations and how the service can support each department to minimise its environmental impact through its purchasing processes;
- An examination of the steps that the Authority has taken to support businesses in relation to the aspiration for a Plastic Free North Tyneside;
- An examination of the aspirations, processes and constraints in relation to the provision of charging points for electric vehicles in North Tyneside;
- An update on the Biodiversity Action Plan;

Meeting: Environment Sub-Committee

Date: 7th September 2021

Title: Review of Tree Management Policy and proposed Tree Planting Strategy

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Local Environmental Services

Tel: 0191 6437294

Service: Environment, Housing and
Leisure

Wards affected: All

1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide the context for a presentation that will be given to the **Environment Sub-Committee** at its meeting on 7th September 2021, relating to the review of the Tree Management Policy and the development of a Tree Planting Strategy for the Authority.

2. Recommendations

The Sub-Committee is invited to note the changes made to the Tree Management Policy and provide comments on the proposed new Tree Planting Strategy.

3. Details

- In July 2019, North Tyneside Council declared a climate emergency, reflecting its commitment to tackling climate change and preserving the natural environment in North Tyneside. Since then, the Council has worked with a range of stakeholders to develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan. The plan recognises that trees have an important part to play in meeting agreed targets, through the removal of carbon emissions from the atmosphere.
- In consideration of the above, a refresh of the Council's existing Tree Management Policy has been carried out and a new Tree Planting Strategy has been developed.
- A presentation will be delivered at the Environment Sub-Committee on 7th September 2021, outlining the changes to the Tree Management Policy and providing an overview of the proposed Tree Planting Strategy.

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North Tyneside Tree Management Policy



Published Date: Reviewed August 2021



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This policy is a management plan for North Tyneside Council's trees of which there are circa 140,000 across the borough located in streets, parks, open spaces, housing estates, school grounds and cemeteries.

North Tyneside Council recognises the importance of trees in making the borough a great place to live, work and visit. The benefits will be enjoyed not only by today's residents, but future generations.

Trees make a valuable contribution to both wildlife conservation and the protection and development of a variety of habitats.

Trees absorb carbon dioxide, filter pollution and release oxygen into the air.

They contribute to the visual landscape by softening the shape of the built environment and can positively affect property values. Research shows houses with trees are more likely to sell.

Trees contribute to people's quality of life and sense of well-being and can reduce stress. People are increasingly aware of the benefits of trees and are placing a higher value on their role in the environment.

2.0 OUR TREE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- To protect and maintain our existing tree stock in a good and safe condition
- To annually increase the North Tyneside tree stock
- To maximise opportunities for new tree planting schemes where practically possible
- Ensure compliance with legislation British Standards 3998 (British Standard for Tree Work) and best practice when carrying out works on trees
- To engage the community in the planting, management and maintenance of our trees.



3.0 LEGISLATION

Local authorities must adhere to a considerable amount of legislation that in relation to tree management. This includes the following:

- Town and Country Planning Act (1990), Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012 North Tyneside Council, as the local planning authority, is able to create Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's), in respect of trees or woodland, considered to have a significant impact on the amenity of a local area
- In addition to those trees protected by Tree Preservation Order, the act also make special provision for trees in conservation areas
- The Forestry Act (1967) requires certain permissions and licenses to be granted where felling of trees is proposed
- The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), as amended and the Countryside & Rights of Way (CROW) Act 2000, state that it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly damage or destroy the nest of a wild bird, while its nest is in use or being built.
- Bats are a European Protected Species and are protected by the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations (2017) (as amended) and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). Causing damage to or destroying roost sites, preventing access to sites and killing bats are all criminal offences which can lead to imprisonment or a fine.
- Section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006, places a duty on public authorities in England to conserve biodiversity (Biodiversity Duty). This requires that every public body must, in exercising its functions, have regard to conserving biodiversity. This includes enhancing, restoring or protecting a population or a habitat.
- The Hedgerow Regulations (1997) introduced powers allowing important native hedgerows to be protected.
- Anti-Social Behaviour Act 2003: Part 8 High Hedges. Tall semi evergreen or evergreen hedges can be a nuisance, especially where neighbours can't amicably agree on a suitable height. This legislation gives people whose gardens are overshadowed the opportunity to resolve the problem with the help of the local council.



4.0 OUR POLICIES

4.1 Maintenance

The council's Arboricultural Officer is responsible for leading the two dedicated tree maintenance teams and we will ensure all maintenance of North Tyneside's tree stock will be in accordance with legislative requirements and with "British Standards for Tree Work" – BS 3998.

When undertaking highway works near to trees, we will adhere to the guidelines as set out in the Department for the Transport's 'Roots and Routes: Guidelines on Highways Works and Trees'.

4.2 Tree Pruning

Pruning of trees will be carried out when considered essential, as cutting can weaken the tree and allow decay organisms to enter exposed and vulnerable tissue. Examples of where pruning to council owned trees will be carried out are:

- Where branches or twigs cause obstruction to a public highway and public right-of-way or footpath
- Where unapproved rope swings are installed, the swing will be removed for reasons of safety, and pruning works may be carried out to prevent reinstallation of the swing
- If the Arboricultural Officer considers a tree to present a threat to the public or property
- Where trees are causing legally actionable nuisance to an adjoining property e.g. Trees that are physically in contact with buildings or roofs
- Where roots are causing disruption to pavements and kerbs. In such cases this would be referred to the Council's Highway Department for advice
- Parts of trees preventing repairs or maintenance of property
- Trees obstructing signage or obscuring essential sightlines on the highway
- Trees interfering with street lighting
- Where the loss of light is having a significant impact upon a resident, for example if they are house bound.



The following reasons will not constitute grounds for pruning healthy trees:

- Interference with satellite dish TV reception
- To enable installation or maintenance of solar panels.
- The tree is perceived to be too large
- The obstruction of non-strategic views. (Strategic views are identified in site specific management plans)
- Issues caused by insects or birds
- Problems associated with fruit/pollen/leaf fall.

For every referred tree, an assessment will be carried out by the Arboricultural Officer to determine whether any remedial works are required.

4.3 Tree Removal

Tree removal will only be considered when a tree is:

- Dead, dying or diseased (account of the individual species will be taken into consideration e.g. Oak, which has significant amounts of natural deadwood)
- The Arboricultural Officer considers the tree to be a danger to public safety
- A major contributor to serious structural damage to main buildings or infrastructure
- In an area designated for development or redevelopment.

Healthy trees will not be removed for the following reasons:

- Interference with satellite dish TV reception
- To enable installation or maintenance of solar panels
- The tree is perceived to be too large
- To allow the installation of a vehicle access crossing
- The obstruction of non-strategic views. (Strategic views are identified in site specific management plans)
- Issues caused by insects or birds
- Problems associated with fruit/pollen/leaf fall
- A perceived risk that a tree will cause subsidence in the future
- Causing disruption to pavements and kerbs. Prior to any other action being taken each case will be assessed in consultation with the Council's Highway Department.

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4.4 Damage to council owned trees

It is an offence for anyone to cut down, uproot, top, lop or wilfully destroy a tree within council ownership.

We will seek compensation from any external organisation or person/s responsible for significant damage to, or removal of any council owned tree/s.

If a tree is protected either by a tree preservation order or is located within a conservation area, it is important to note consent must be obtained prior to any works taking place on the tree(s).

4.5 Tree Planting

We will take every opportunity to maximise tree planting across the borough. When a tree is removed, we will replace with a minimum of two trees at the same location or at a suitable alternative location. We will ensure that the species selected are appropriate to the location (refer to Appendix i).

We will work closely with our planning team and developers at an early stage, to ensure appropriate tree species and varieties are introduced in our new developments. (See Appendix i)

A Tree Planting Strategy has also been developed to maximise tree planting across the Borough.

4.6 Conservation and Wildlife

Tree management will be carried out in line with the relevant objectives contained within the joint Newcastle and North Tyneside Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

- The ecological value of tree planted areas will be increased by utilizing wherever possible, decaying wood sources such as standing timber
- Felled timber, brash piles and wood chippings will be left in situ wherever practicable
- When we remove wood chippings, they will be recycled for use on paths and shrub borders to reduce maintenance operations



- Other methods of attracting wildlife will be encouraged such as installation of bat and bird boxes.
- Works will be undertaken in accordance with relevant wildlife legislation

4.7 Climate Change

In July 2019, North Tyneside Council declared a climate emergency, reflecting its commitment to tackling climate change and preserving the natural environment in North Tyneside. Subsequently the Authority is taking steps to make North Tyneside carbon net zero by 2030.

The Council has worked with a range of stakeholders to develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan. The plan identifies a number of ways to achieve the established targets and recognises that trees have an important part to play in meeting the targets through the removal of carbon emissions from the atmosphere.

4.8 Community Involvement

We will engage and work with residents, volunteers, 'friends of groups' and partners to enhance tree management across the borough.

Where possible, we will work with the community to address issues relating to historic plantings. Community led long term management plans will be developed to assist with this process.

4.9 Education

Where appropriate, trees will be utilised to provide learning material for the understanding of related subjects such as living processes and the carbon cycle.

We will provide assistance and a tree condition survey to schools serviced by the council's arboricultural team to improve tree habitat and education provision within school grounds on request.



4.10 Tree Protection

As a general rule, Tree Preservation Orders are not placed on council owned trees unless a conflict occurs between council development policies and the council's tree management practices.

All arboricultural work carried out by the council will follow current best practice and comply with current legislation.

Where a tree or group of trees make significant visual impact on their local surroundings, the council can declare a Tree Preservation Order. This is not only intended to prevent their unauthorized removal, but also to allow control of their maintenance and replacement.

4.11 Subsidence

It is recognised that damage may result from the presence of trees, and that remedial tree management does not always prevent subsidence and removal may be necessary in some cases.

Removal will be programmed where the tree is shown to be a major contributor to soil shrinkage coupled with serious structural damage to buildings and where pruning alone would not provide a solution. Damage to walls and paved areas is usually considered to be minor and would not normally warrant removal of a tree.

Structural problems must always be carefully investigated. Property owners are required to provide documented proof to the council's Claims and Insurance Team where they believe that a specific tree is causing damage to their property. The council does not accept presumption of damage or unsubstantiated claims as being a case for removal of trees.

4.12 Issues relating to drains

Root ingress from street trees into private gardens cannot be prevented; and we will not remove tree roots where this occurs.



We cannot accept responsibility for tree roots that have gained access to drains or services which are deemed to be in a poor condition.

5.0 TREE SAFETY

- We will comply with tree maintenance British Standards 3998 when carrying out tree works.
- Tree surveys will be undertaken across the borough.

DRAFT



Enquiries and further information

- For tree enquiries contact the Arboricultural Officer on Tel: 0191 643 7304. Envirolink@northtyneside.gov.uk
- For highways related enquiries contact the Highways Department: highways@northtyneside.gov.uk
- For insurance and claims enquiries contact the Claims and Insurance team on Tel: 0191 643 5870/ 5866
- If you are unhappy with the response you have received then you can report your complaint to the Customer Liaison Service for investigation through the council's corporate complaints procedure. Details of which are on North Tyneside Council's website www.northtyneside.gov.uk

Customer & Member Liaison Office
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APPENDIX 1

THE MANAGEMENT OF SPECIES SELECTION AND PLANTING IS AS FOLLOWS:-

- The selection of native species where appropriate.
- Consideration of the eventual mature size and suitability for setting.
- Water demand relating to soil type and construction types of surrounding structures.
- The visual appearance.
- Wildlife diversity.
- To increase the number of trees planted.
- Ensure that trees are only planted in locations that do not conflict with other nature conservation interests e.g. on species-rich grasslands.

This species list is not exhaustive but provides a guide to the trees we will consider planting and the locations we will plant them.

KEY to Appendix

W = Woodland, V = Verges, S = Street, P = Parks, H = Hedges

Photographs kindly provided by Barcham Trees.

Maple (*Acer campestre*)



WVSPH

- *Acer campestre* is a useful native small to medium sized tree.
- It has gnarly bark which develops as it matures and in the autumn, the leaves turn yellow, orange and golden brown.
- It is tolerant of most soil types, although it does do best in rich, well drained soils. It will tolerate drought, air pollution and soil compaction.
- The Field Maple, *Acer campestre*, is widely used as a specimen tree and a hedgerow plant. It will tolerate regular pruning during the winter period to keep it in shape. It has good ecological qualities making it useful to wildlife.

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Japanese Maple (*Acer palmatum*)



- The Japanese maple was introduced into Britain in the 1820s. This magnificent tree can outstrip size expectation if left alone in an area large enough to accommodate
- A delightful small tree, for a shady position. It has rounded habits and its deeply lobed leaves turn shades of yellow, red and orange in the autumn. They do best in rich, moist, but free draining loamy soils.



Round



Small (6-10m)

VP

Norway Maple (*Acer platanoides*)



- An imposing and fast-growing tree of great size and the parent of many cultivars.
- Distinctive yellow flowers appear in spring ahead of the leaves which turn yellow and sometimes red in autumn. A native tree of Norway and Europe, but not in Britain.
- It does well on most soil types, tolerate air pollution and resists drought
- Many of its varieties are suitable for urban and street planting. It is widely used in parks and streets.



Oval



Large (18m+)

WVSP

Sycamore (*Acer pseudoplatanus*)



- Native to central and southern Europe, the Sycamore has long been naturalised in Britain. It is a very large tree, and very fast-growing for the first 20 years. It is also one of the very toughest. Many of its cultivars are smaller but equally as durable.
- It tolerates pollution and thrives in most soils, and is particularly useful for coastal sites where it can make an effective defence against strong winds and salt laden air predating historical measures.



Round



Small (6-10m)

WVSP



Italian Alder (*Alnus cordata*)



Broadly
Conical



Medium
(10-18m)

VSP

- Originating in southern Italy and introduced in 1820, this fast-growing, medium tree has a conical habit. Its shiny, green, pear-like leaves last well into winter, particularly under street lighting. It produces notably larger fruits than other alders. Good for coastal plantings.
- It thrives on all grounds including dry, high pH soils but is most at home nearest water. Being highly tolerant of urban pollution it is a particularly adaptable urban tree but must be given enough room or it can outstay its welcome. The bark is a glistening brown when young but matures to be rougher, it can cause the lifting of hard areas over time.

Common Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*)



Irregular



Medium
(10-18m)

WVSP

- This medium-size native tree has a conical growth habit and produces yellow catkins in March. Its natural habitat is boggy land and river banks. However it is also very good for urban plantings as it thrives in all soils and tolerates air pollution.
- Being a native tree, it is a wonderful host to a wide range of wildlife. It is a very useful variety to plant where the ground is liable to flood and survives many weeks with its roots underwater. *Alnus glutinosa* remains a vital inclusion to any native planting mix.



Grey Alder (*Alnus incana*)



- A really hardy and tough medium tree, capable of coping with cold, wet soils and exposed situations. Grey Alder is a fast grower, well suited to industrial areas and street plantings. Its pointed leaves readily distinguish it from *Alnus glutinosa*.
- Introduced from Europe in the 1780s it does best on calcareous soils and tolerates air pollution. In the recent past the North American tree bearing the same generic name has been changed to *Alnus Rugosa* to avoid confusion amongst well travelled tree enthusiasts. Profuse pink/yellow catkins are produced just prior to spring.



Broadly Conical



Medium (10-18m)

WVSP

Serviceberry (*Amelanchier Ballerina*)



- This small tree, with its finely toothed leaves, was selected by the Experimental Station at Boskoop in the Netherlands in the 1970s and named in 1980. It forms a broader crown than Robin Hill and is less tall making it a better choice for verges and gardens than for streets
- It has abundant white flowers in spring and excellent red autumn colour. It does best in moist, well drained, lime free soils and is remarkably resistant to fire blight.
- Used extensively in parks and areas where a low crown is acceptable such as grass verges.



Round



Small (6-10m)

VP

Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)



- Silver Birch is also known as the “Lady of the Woods” – so-called because of its slender and graceful appearance. It is a pioneer species and particularly admired in the UK. Even though it seemingly grows anywhere it is remarkably difficult to successfully transplant bare rooted.
- A medium tree with a conical, but semi-weeping habit, the bark is white with horizontal lines and large, diamond-shaped cracks as the trees mature. Very good for parks and woodland, but not suitable for areas where soil becomes compacted. It grows well on most soils and it is grown as both a single stem tree and multi-stemmed tree.



Broadly Columnar



Large (18m+)

WVP



Common ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*)



WVSP

- A very tough native tree. It is easily recognised when dormant as its buds are black. Late to leaf and early to fall, this is probably our toughest native tree.
- Variable in habit and often overlooked for avenue planting where uniformity is required. Ash is fast-growing and produces vast quantities of fertile seed.
- Best suited for parklands and highway verges. It thrives on moist soils, including calcareous, and will tolerate windswept, exposed sites, coastal locations and air pollution.

Common Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*)



WVPH

- One of the most majestic of our native trees, the Common Beech can become very large with a slow branched habit.
- It has a wide variety of uses in woodland, parkland and in broad verge plantings and few trees can surpass its rich, copper autumn foliage. Beech thrives just about anywhere other than exposed and coastal locations. As it is shallow rooted, under planting is not recommended. It does well in most reasonably fertile, well drained soils, except heavy clay or light sand.
- Favours more temperate climates and is difficult to establish faced with extreme heat and drought. Avoid planting on paved or tarmac areas where reflected heat and light makes Beech suffer.



Bird Cherry (*Prunus padus*)



Broadly
Conical



Medium
(10-18m)

WVSP

- The Bird Cherry, a native of Britain as well as the rest of Europe, it is a relatively late flowerer. It is a tough tree, withstanding the rigours of the urban environment but like other cherries does not thrive on waterlogged ground.
- The white flowers of the bird cherry produced in May in hanging racemes. The black fruits in late summer are edible but rather bitter. Luscious and large green leaves turn yellow to bronze in autumn. This is around a tree of medium height, and is good in parks, gardens and woodlands

Broad-Leaved Lime (*Tilia platyphyllos*)



Irregular



Large (18m+)

WVSP

- The Broad-Leaved Lime is a native of Britain. Flowers in June/July and is very tolerant of pruning. It is a compact and stocky tree, the luscious foliage always gives it a healthy demeanour.
- The colonial selection 'Delft' is a European clone the forms are more pyramidal crown at maturity and could be used where uniformity is required.

Common Lime (*Tilia x europaea*)



Broadly
Round



Large (18m+)

WVSP

- Once the most frequently planted Lime, this is a very long-lived tree and commonly planted in central Europe as an urban tree. It is a hybrid between *Tilia Cordata* and *Tilia Platyphyllos* has been known to reach over 50 m tall.
- A large and impressive, broadly oval-shaped tree which is widely used for avenue plantings. It is recognisable by its dense suckering, which forms burrs on the trunk. Its large lush leaves can attract aphids which can result in honey dew and associated sooty mould problems



Dawn Redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*)



Broadly
Conical



Large (18m+)

VSP

- This Redwood is of great botanical interest. It was discovered in China in the 1940s, before which the genus consisted only of fossilised forms. A deciduous conifer, it has rapidly established itself as a huge urban and rural favourite. Often confused with *Taxodium*, it is quite different if they are seen together at close quarters.
- Very large and statuesque pyramidal, it makes a grand park or specimen tree, but is also good for streets and avenues with a clear stem.

Common Oak, English Oak (*Quercus robur*)



Broadly
Round



Large (18m+)

WVP

- Perhaps the most majestic of our native trees, the English or Common Oak was once the predominant species in English lowland forests, and has become virtually a national emblem. Very long-lived, its hard timber has been used to produce the finest furniture, from ships through to coffins.
- A large, imposing, broadly oval tree, heavy limbed and long-lived. Its deeply grained bark gives year-round appeal, and its expansive root system does best on deep, heavy soils.

Common Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)



Broadly
Round



Small (6-10m)

WVHSP

- Also known as Quickthorn or May, this small native hawthorn has many ancient associations and is most seen as hedgerow plants along the span of the UK. It is without doubt one of our prettiest native trees.
- The small white, fragrant flowers which appear in May and June are followed by small red fruits in abundance during autumn, providing much-needed food for wild birds. A good choice for urban and coastal planting it is also tolerant of air pollution. It does well in most soils, including very dry and wet soils.



Common Hazel, Cobnut, Filbert (*Corylus avellana*)



- *Corylus avellana*, also known as Common Hazel, is native to the UK and has long been cultivated for not only its Hazelnut production but also grown and regularly coppiced to produce poles for naturalised fencing for wattle and daub building.
- The Common Hazel has bright green, fairly rounded foliage which appears in spring after the striking display of long yellow catkins or “lamb’s tails” in January/February time. The hazelnuts are produced in abundance throughout the summer, finally ready for harvesting in the autumn.



Broadly
Vase shaped



Very Small
(up to 6m)

WVHP

Common Holly, European Holly, English Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*)



- The English Holly is a classic evergreen tree, producing leaves which are thick and waxy and have lobed, spiked margins. The small flowers are white and borne in late spring, at which point they are pollinated by bees. The bright red berries then follow on from this, developing throughout the summer time to mature in October and November, *Ilex aquifolium* is native to Britain; it is a small tree at maturity which forms an attractive, pyramidal shape. Like many evergreens the European Holly prefers well drained soils and will not thrive in soils which have a propensity for water holding.



Very Small
(up to 6m)



Conical

WVHP

Hornbeam (*Carpinus betulus*)

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Broadly Oval



Medium (10-18m)

WVSHP

- The timber of the Hornbeam has traditionally been used to produce mallets, skittles and even the moving parts of pianos his wonderful native tree is closely related to the hop Hornbeam, *Ostrya carpinifolia*.
- Wonderful in a parkland setting, growing in groups and ideal for pleaching, the Hornbeam is a large tree with a characteristically fluted trunk and ovate, ribbed and serrated leaves which turn a lovely clear yellow in autumn. This British native produces hard, finely grained timber with many uses. It grows well on most soils, including clay and chalk. Most useful tree for poor planting conditions.

London Plane (*Platanus x Hispanica*)



Round



Large (18m+)

VSP

- First recorded in the early 1660s, the London Plane was extensively planted as a street tree in the capital due to its tolerance of air pollution and of pruning. It is believed that it was significantly responsible for the clearing up of the smog laden air resulting from the industrial revolution.
- Large, fast-growing tree with a broadly oval crown. One of its main features is the trunk, which flakes to reveal a patchwork of green, white and cream. The leaves are large, deeply lobed and palmate. The rounded fruit clusters, produced in strings, resemble little baubles, which hang from the branches for much of the year. Still a good choice for urban plantings, it is also great for parkland.

Mountain Ash, Rowan (*Sorbus Aucuparia*)





WVSP

- Sorbus aucuparia, known as Mountain Ash, is one of our prettiest native trees and the parent of numerous clonal sections.
- White flower in the spring produces orange/red berries by September which birds feast on ahead of winter. The finely toothed green foliage can turn yellow through to orange in the autumn before leaf fall. Sorbus aucuparia thrives on most free draining soils but is not a lover of hard areas where reflected heat and light can create too hot an environment for it to thrive.
- Often grown as a multi stem tree, this round headed tree is a great all-rounder.

Purple Leaved Plum, Cherry Plum (*Prunus cerasifera Nigra*)



VSPH

- Introduced in the early nineteen hundreds this form of the Cherry Plum (or Myrabolan) provides only a few red fruits. A popular tree, often planted on city streets or verges, it is easy to maintain in a garden as it reacts well to very severe pruning.
- Small tree with a rounded form, it is most notable for its purple flowers and stems. Early pink spring flowers fade to white before the leaves take full effect. This is a robust performer, thriving on most free draining soils.

Scarlet Willow (*Salix alba Chermesina*)

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- This clone is also known by the cultivar name of Britzensis. Has been known to extend over 3 metres of growth in a single growing season from a coppice.
- A medium to large tree with a rather pyramidal crown, its young branches are brilliant orange red in winter, especially if severely pruned every other year to produce a multi-stemmed tree. It makes a very good park tree and thrives on most soils including those prone to flooding.



Swedish Whitebeam (*Sorbus Intermedia Brouwers*)



- This Swedish Whitebeam has a more pyramidal crown than the species and is more commonly grown by nurseries as the catchall for *Sorbus intermedia*. Clonal variations can be very similar to their parents but crucially offer a far greater degree of uniformity.
- A medium-sized tree with a conical crown, single, dark green leaves have silver grey and decidues. White flowers may produce orange red fruits. It is wind resistant and tolerant of calcareous soils and air pollution, making this a really tough tree. It will thrive in even the harshest conditions including near the coast.



Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria Lutescens*)

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- Sorbus aria Lutescens is one of the best Whitebeam trees available.
- The whitebeam tree has foliage which emerges from purple shoots in the spring, soft and silvery-white. As the seasons progress the leaves harden to become a more distinct grey on the underside and green on the surface. The clusters of creamy white flowers appear in April and May, followed by bright orange-red fruit in the autumn time, when the leaves turn a golden brown before falling.
- At maturity this small tree retains a rounded and compact shape, requires little maintenance and will thrive on all soils, including chalky ones.



Broadly
Round



Small (6-10m)

WVPS

White Willow (*Salix alba*)



- *Salix alba*, known as White Willow, is a lovely native tree that thrives on wetland sites all over the UK.
- Fast growing, its silver green leaves that emerge in the spring turn to yellow as they are ready to fall in the autumn.
- Part of a willow's survival plan is to drop twigs and limbs as they mature as these can root where they land and so start again. With this in mind *Salix alba* isn't a great choice for a garden but can be routinely coppiced to keep juvenile on soils that are prone to flooding.
- If left to its own devices it can reach over 20 metres tall by pretty much the same width Great for riverbank and lakeside planting.



Broadly
Conical



Large (18m+)

VP

Wild Cherry (*Prunus avium*)

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- Prunus avium, known as Wild Cherry, is one of our prettiest native trees.
- Single white flowers are produced in the spring and its green leaves turn gold through to red in the autumn before leaf fall. All flowering cherries prefer free draining soils and this cherry is the parent of many cultivated varieties.
- Being native, it is a great tree to support our range of wildlife.



Broadly Round



Large (18m+)

WVSP

English Yew, Common Yew, Yew (*Taxus baccata*)



- *Taxus baccata*, known as English Yew, is a versatile evergreen native tree that is often grown as a hedge.
- Incredibly long lived, it is often associated with churchyard planting and rejuvenates itself remarkably well if pruned hard in the early spring.
- It is worth noting that every part of Yew is poisonous, apart from the red flesh of the berry.
- Like most evergreens it is not tolerant of waterlogged soils and thrives best on free draining lighter land.
- Great for parks and gardens, frequently used for topiary or formal columns and cones.
- *Taxus baccata* can grow on either acidic or chalky soils so long as they are well drained.



Irregular



Large (18m+)

WVPH



APPENDIX

NORTH TYNESIDE TREE PLANTING POLICY: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Aims and objectives:

1	Plant trees for the future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop opportunities to increase canopy cover across the Borough • Plant the right tree in the right place • Increase species diversity (pest and disease) • Identifying current tree stock population within the Borough • Look to plant 2 to 3no replacement trees for every one that is removed • Plan for the care, management and enhancement of the Borough Tree population • Species for planting will be carefully selected, planted in suitable planting pits, and appropriate to their location, giving particular consideration to the landscape character guidance and enhancement of biodiversity. • Plant more street trees along major transport routes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree planting programme • North Tyneside Tree Management Policy • NECF and I-Tree • Local Plan Policy • National Planning Policy Framework
2.	Protect irreplaceable trees, woodlands and hedgerows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor the Councils Tree Preservation Orders and continue to protect trees with additional Orders • Seek to identify, protect and retain veteran trees within the borough because of the cultural, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tree Preservation Orders (Council website) • Record and monitor veteran trees



		<p>historical and biodiversity value.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage replacement planting for TPO's 	<p>on Council website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual review of replacement planting
3.	Managing existing tree stock	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspections • Managing Risk • Maintaining safety to public and highways • Seek appropriate grant funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Tyneside Tree Management Policy • NJUG • NECF
4.	Local Plan policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan greener local landscapes • Protect, maintain and enhance trees on development sites • Provide a monetary value on important trees if required to be removed as an exemption • Maximise the role of trees in flood prevention • Plant trees to support carbon reduction in the Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Plan Policy • NPPF • CAVAT • Climate Emergency Action Plan • NECF
5.	Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness in schools • Involve communities in planting and managing trees • Improve management to promote access woods and trees • Support the creation of community woodland groups • Plant trees to improve health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation and Engagement



6.	Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plant trees to support wildlife • Plant trees to strengthen important habitats • Plant trees to create networks for wildlife • Plant trees to sustain precious and vulnerable woodland habitats 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newcastle and North Tyneside's BAP • Local Plan Policy • NECF
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North Tyneside Council

TREE PLANTING STRATEGY 2021/2024



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

In July 2019, North Tyneside Council declared a climate emergency, reflecting its commitment to tackling climate change and preserving the natural environment in North Tyneside. The Authority is taking steps to become carbon neutral by 2030.

The Council has worked with a range of stakeholders to develop a Climate Emergency Action Plan that includes a number of ways to achieve the established targets. The Action Plan recognises that trees have an important part to play in meeting the agreed targets through the removal of carbon emissions from the atmosphere.

2.0 NATIONAL POLICY CONTEXT

The Government has committed to increasing tree planting in the UK. In 2020, the Government set a target of planting 30,000 hectares of trees per year, across the UK, by 2025. This ambition is similarly reflected in the Government's 25 Year Environment Plan, which includes a target to plant 180,000 hectares by the end of 2042. In May 2021, the Government also produced the 'England Trees Action Plan 2021 to 2024' which sets out policy priorities to deliver an ambitious tree planting programme across England. The action plan focuses on '*expanding, protecting and improving our woodlands*'. The updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) July 2021, in response to this, also sought to further emphasise the government commitment to increase tree planting with the national guidance for planning recommending that all new streets should be tree-lined.

Also, in January 2020, the UK's Committee on Climate Change released a report on land use which asserted that Britain must double its tree planting efforts in order to contribute towards a carbon neutral UK by 2050. A recommendation, from the Committee on Climate Change, specified that the area of woodland cover in the UK increase from the current 13% to at least 17% by 2050, this is based upon annual tree planting levels reaching at least 30,000 hectares from 2024, possibly up to 50,000 hectares, with one-fifth of agricultural land turned to tree planting and growing plants for fuel. These targets surpass the Government's current aspirations. Although this target has not been formally adopted by Government, it shows the rapidly developing thinking that is happening at a national level which is turning increasing focus to the role of trees in tackling climate change.

3.0 LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

The North Tyneside Local Plan (2017) contains a policy to protect and manage existing woodland and trees and to promote and encourage new woodland, tree, and hedgerow planting schemes. This links to other policies to protect and enhance wildlife corridors, maximise opportunities for biodiversity, and to achieve the objectives set out within the Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), which includes objectives for woodland creation. The Council's Greenspace Strategy and Green Infrastructure Strategy also support these objectives as they aim to achieve a well-used, managed, connected and expanding network of green infrastructure within the Borough.

The Council's Tree Management Policy commits the Council to maximising tree planting and requires that when a tree is removed, it will be replaced with a minimum of two trees at the same location or at a suitable alternative location. This policy has guaranteed a steady surplus of tree planting by the Council across North Tyneside each year.

4.0 TREE PLANTING STRATEGY FOR NORTH TYNESIDE

The Tree Planting Strategy sets out how the Council will increase tree planting beyond its current commitments. The intention of the strategy is that additional tree planting will contribute towards reducing carbon emissions in accordance with the Council's commitments to tackling climate change. Secondary objectives include preserving and increasing the natural environment and biodiversity, as well as capitalising the health, social wellbeing, and aesthetical benefits of tree planting. The strategy also recognises the increasingly important role tree planting can play in mitigating the effects of flooding and pollution.

The strategy sets out the Council's ambition for the planting of new trees over the next four years and the principles to be considered when making decisions about tree planting. The main focus of this strategy will be on the planting of new trees and woodlands, within a wider context of improving the high quality management and maintenance of new and existing trees and woodland.

Sourcing the right trees, and the right mix of trees, is important to ensure they can withstand the extreme weather associated with our changing climate, as well as pests and disease, which can result in significant tree loss. Proficient tree planting also reduces the need for maintenance, thus reducing future costs to the Council. The right mix of trees is also important for maximising the biodiversity of a location. Careful consideration must always be given to suitable planting locations, in order to give trees and woodland the best chance of survival. There will be different factors and considerations for each location based on local circumstances and conditions.

Any ownership agreements as well as existing and current land use will be thoroughly assessed to ensure that the locations identified for tree planting results in sustainable woodland. It is likely that the majority of tree planting sites will be located on existing open space owned by the Council. The Tree Planting Strategy will relate to the Council's Greenspace and Green Infrastructure Strategies which sets out the Council's approach to the management and maintenance of all open space and green infrastructure assets.

All new tree planting will utilise high quality, disease free planting stock from reputable suppliers grown to British Standard 3936 (1992) Specification for Trees and Shrubs (sections 1-5). Planting will be undertaken following the principles set out in the British Standard 8545 (2014) Trees: From Nursery to Independence in the Landscape – Recommendations.

Types of areas identified for suitable tree planting include:

- Urban settings including residential areas
- School grounds maintained by the Council
- Community sites including parks and cemeteries
- Highways and other transport corridors

In order to maximise the benefits of tree planting, the Council will:

- Avoid tree planting in sensitive areas, such as locations that already have a high biodiversity or carbon sequestration value, in order to protect ecologically rich landscapes
- Ensure that a diverse range of trees are planted to avoid mono-cultures, an area with a single type or species of tree, which are less resilient and offer less biodiversity benefit
- Ensure that tree species that are planted are appropriate to the particular conditions of a location
- Seek opportunities to prioritise better connectivity of woodland, through woodland expansion and the creation of new hedgerows and copses, in order to create wildlife corridors and reverse impacts of habitat fragmentation
- Ensure tree planting does not affect the integrity of buildings, road, and pavement surfaces

5.0 OVERVIEW OF TREE AND WOODLAND BENEFITS

- **Economic** - People prefer to live, work, and visit areas with an abundance of nature. This can, in turn, lead to economic benefits with increased visitor spending, increased spending, and employment opportunities. People and companies are attracted to well-designed, well-managed public places which can increase levels of investment in these areas and well-planned improvements to public green spaces in town centres can boost commercial trading. The presence of trees can reduce fuel costs for heating and cooling our homes, providing shade in the summer and protecting buildings from cooling winds in the winter.
- **Extreme Weather** - Trees also play an important role in adapting to the increasing extreme weather events caused by climate change. As well as sequestering carbon emissions to mitigate climate change, the planting of broadleaf trees located in urban areas can reduce the rate in which rainwater reaches ground level and soaking up excess ground water, reducing the impact of flooding. Tree canopies can provide natural cooling during periods of extreme heat as well as reducing soil erosion and excessive sediment entering watercourses, capture pollutants and thereby reduce the level of pollution entering groundwater.
- **Health** - The Covid-19 Pandemic has shown that trees and green spaces can improve our general health and wellbeing. They provide space for physical activity, which has a multitude of physiological and psychological benefits which could in turn result in a reduction in the cost of health care provision. Trees have been specifically linked to improvements in stress, anxiety and mental health issues. Street trees can have a beneficial impact on traffic, also working to buffer noise, dust and light pollution of busy roads.
- **Environmental** - Trees host complex microhabitats. They provide essential habitat to a wide range of species and can act as a major feature of 'green corridors', particularly in urban areas, providing essential links and transport routes for a range of wildlife. Trees give feeding, nesting and roosting sites for many species. Trees, as part of a wider green infrastructure, can influence biodiversity by increasing habitat area, increasing populations of some protected species and increasing species movement. There are also the positive impacts that urban green infrastructure can have on air, soil and water quality which in turn, provide benefits for biodiversity. Trees can also provide increased environmental and aesthetic quality, the regeneration of previously developed land and improved quality of place.

- **Social** - Trees and woodlands are an important part of our society. Green spaces offer increased opportunity for positive social activity, improving community cohesion and engagement as well as developing local attachment and ownership. Tree planting opportunities provide opportunities for all. Trees also increase the aesthetic value of an area and provides a boost to civic pride for local residents.
- **Educational** - Tree planting can increase people's knowledge and understanding of trees, the natural environment, and climate change. Not only do outdoor learning spaces help improve educational outcomes and attainment, but both children and adults can learn while making a real difference. It is important that both children and adults learn to appreciate and protect the natural environment around them.

6.0 COUNCIL OWNED TREES

The North Tyneside Tree Management Plan concerns itself with trees owned or managed by the Council. It includes guidance on common enquiries about trees, tree management, tree pruning and removal, damage to trees, conservation and wildlife, education, community involvement, and subsidence. There is also a suggested species list included. The Tree Management Plan will assist the implementation of the Tree Planting Strategy.

The Tree Planting Strategy allows for opportunities within the design of Council schemes to increase tree planting. Highway renewal, new highway schemes major development and redevelopment offer the best opportunity for new tree planting. Locations for new street trees will be considered with great care and will concentrate predominantly on streets that have verges and new road schemes where tree planting can be planned at the outset.

7.0 ENSURING SUCCESSFUL ESTABLISHMENT

In line with best practice, the planting of trees will usually be undertaken during winter (mid November to mid March), whilst it is dormant, allowing the tree to establish in its new environment. Planting outside of this time can increase the stress on a tree when it is in leaf and the tree may struggle to become successfully established.

Street trees live a tough life and they need to be able to cope with drought, compacted soils, road salt and traffic pollution and the choice of street tree species needs to be appropriate for them to thrive in their environment. In order to ensure successful tree establishment in urban areas we will look to install, where practicable, tree pits with sufficient soil volumes to avoid untimely death or costly repairs.

8.0 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Council will engage with local residents, and other stakeholders such as schools, businesses and community groups, as well as local ward councillors in order to mitigate any risks at a location. The Council will also support independent requests for tree planting by individuals or groups to ensure we meet the expectation of the local community. The Council will work with schools in North Tyneside to help support any of their own tree planting initiatives including providing practical assistance and materials.

9.0 FUNDING

There are significant funding opportunities for tree planting due to the planned creation of a North East Community Forest. North Tyneside Council will work with five local authorities (Durham, Gateshead, Newcastle, South Tyneside, Sunderland) to increase tree planting with £480,000 available from the Nature for Climate Fund. The scheme intends to plant five million square metres of trees by 2025 and is an opportunity to significantly increase tree planting in North Tyneside and the North East.

Locally, the Council will also continue to explore funding opportunities to support tree planting across the borough, including from Section 106 funding, from within existing tree management budgets, and externally funded grants such as the 'Trees for Climate' bid.

APPENDIX (i)

4 YEAR PLAN FOR TREE PLANTING ACROSS NORTH TYNESIDE 2021

There are several key sites across North Tyneside that have been identified for new tree planting over the next 4 years. These sites are detailed in the table below.

Tree planting location	Reason	Location	2021/22 No. of trees	2022/23 No. of trees	2023/24 No. of trees	2024/25 No. of trees
URBAN SETTINGS INCLUDING RESIDENTIAL AREAS, HOUSING ESTATES, CAR PARKS, TOWN CENTRES, INDUSTRIAL ESTATES	Appropriate tree planting can enhance the local environment, bringing benefits in relation to air quality, biodiversity, climate change adaptation (shading, cooling, flood mitigation), mental health and wellbeing and sense of place. The Council's Tree Planting Management plan includes information on choosing the right tree for the site	Coast Road/Beach Road	50			
		Earsdon Road	20			
		Rake Lane/New York Road verges	20			
		Ridley Avenue up to Silverdale School	50			
		Billy Mill/Lynn Road/Netherton Avenue	25			
		Westminster Avenue	25			
		West Bailey/Northgate	10			
		B1321 Wideopen	30			
		Park Drive/Elsdon Drive	20			
	Council's Tree Planting Management plan	Boroughwide		250	250	250
PUBLIC SPACES & WILDLIFE SITES INCLUDING CEMETERIES, SCHOOLS, AND WAGONWAYS	The Council's Tree Planting Management plan includes information on choosing the right tree for the site	Holy Cross Cemetery	25			
		Dudley Cemetery			300	
		Benton Cemetery		5		10
		Wagonways	100	100	100	100

	Request from school	Forest Hall Primary School		150		
PARKS	Refer to 'Tree Planting' document for Parks 2021/2026	Rising Sun Country Park	5			
		Northumberland Park	80			
		Wallsend Parks	15			
		Marden Quarry	6			
		Whitley Park		5		
		Hilltop Park		5		
		Lockey Park	5			
		Benton Quarry Park	5			
		Killingworth Lake Park	130			
		Churchill Playing fields		140		
		Souter Park North	4			
		Souter Park South	2			
		Springfield Park		5		
		Royal Quays Parks		5		
		Alexander Scott Park		5		
Tynemouth Park	7					
REGENERATION PROJECTS		North Shields Masterplan		25		25
		Wallsend Town Centre		25		25
			634	720	650	410

*Note - specific sites for tree planting are subject to appropriate surveys and consultations to ensure they are suitable for planting and these will be reviewed on an annual basis. In addition, tree numbers for each site are approximate and will be subject to funding and the appropriate surveys and consultations. The tree numbers and locations are not fixed, they can decrease and increase depending on the implementation of the strategy. Similarly, the year in which a location is planted can be moved forward or back.