

Item No. 15.	Classification: Open	Date: 17 December 2019	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Southwark Tree Management Policy	
Wards or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Rebecca Lury, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY, DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES

The management of trees forms a key part of our broader approach to tackling the climate emergency agenda.

Trees form a significant part of Southwark’s landscape and in addition to their environmental benefit they also impact on the quality of life of local residents.

Managing and protecting these valuable assets for both current and future generations is a key outcome and links with many cross cutting corporate themes. This suite of policy and risk documentation provides the core principals on which the future service will be based. The detail outlines how we intend to manage our existing population and plant new trees, together with our approaches to protecting trees.

Public safety is very important so robust processes and ways of working have been introduced to ensure we maintain council owned trees in accordance with our duty of care and limit our exposure to property damage claims.

We are proud of Southwark’s commitment to the “green agenda” and aspire to delivering innovative and ongoing service improvements in this area.

The policy sets out a clear approach and provides guidance for the public and stakeholders alike. Working with the community will form a key part of our approach moving forward and build further on the interest generated through the consultation exercise undertaken to inform our approach.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation for Cabinet

1. That cabinet approve the Southwark Tree Management Policy following consultation held between 6 August 2019 and 27 September 2019.

Recommendation for the Leader of the Council

2. That the leader of the council delegates the responsibility for the monitoring of progress of delivering the Tree Management Policy to the deputy leader and cabinet member for culture, leisure, equalities and communities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Trees have long been valued for their beauty, marking the seasons and providing sanctuary for wildlife. The environmental benefits of urban trees within ecosystem services including reducing pollution, cooling air, providing shade and protection from ultraviolet light, intercepting and absorbing rainfall and storing carbon are also now increasingly well understood. Trees are also considered as an integral and historic component of the urban landscape and its architecture, where they contribute to local character and can define a sense of place, frame views and vistas and strengthen our heritage and culture. The sum of all these benefits is often defined as the amenity value of trees.
4. Southwark's bold and exciting regeneration ambitions are changing the borough's built environment and it is ever more important that trees, and all of the benefits that they provide, are protected and enhanced.
5. There are approximately 120,000 trees in Southwark excluding areas designated as woodland. Southwark Council is responsible for the direct management, maintenance and care of over two thirds (80,000) of the borough's tree population as follows:
 - Housing Estates: 17,000
 - Parks & Open Spaces: 44,000
 - Highways: 16,000
 - Schools: 3,000
6. In terms of geographical distribution, the northern part of Southwark is densely urbanised with less open space and fewer trees, however the many parks in these parts of the borough make a significant contribution to existing canopy cover levels. In this area, the trees for which Southwark Council is responsible are concentrated along roadsides and on housing estates.
7. The southern part of Southwark is more suburban and includes large open spaces, large private gardens and some large areas of woodland. The largest being Dulwich & Sydenham Hill Woods (Dulwich Wood being owned by the Dulwich Estate). The much smaller Dulwich Upper Wood also makes a significant ecological contribution to the area (Sydenham Hill Woods and Dulwich Upper Wood are managed by two of Southwark's third sector partners).
8. Trees not managed by Southwark include those managed by Transport for London, trees located within residential gardens and those on other private land.
9. The last Tree Management Strategy was adopted in January 2013. The strategy set out the Council's vision, described the current tree stock and how it is managed, identified the organisations and individuals who have an interest in trees and specified the actions the Council would take to realise its vision. Although the policy detailed the Council's vision for the maintenance and management of Southwark's trees it was not explicit around the risks around managing and extensive tree stock and how these could be mitigated. It was also felt that the policies could have been made more accessible to residents and other interested parties.
10. To address these concerns a new Tree Management Policy (TMP) was drafted in

March 2019 which clearly details the Council's policies around ensuring the protection and enhancement of the borough's trees. The policy also includes a Tree Risk Management Strategy. The Tree Risk Management Strategy makes clear all legal responsibilities, assesses how Southwark operates to mitigate the risk which trees present, and sets out detailed associated procedures and methodologies for the minimisation of any risk that trees in the borough may present.

11. A public consultation ran from 6 August 2019 and 27 September 2019 to gather the public's view on the new policy along with feedback from local partners. The findings of the consultation and feedback from local organisations are detailed in this report.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Aims and objectives of the Tree Management Policy

12. The aims of the Tree Management Policy are to:

Recognise the positive impact that urban trees have on the environment and the lives of people in Southwark and aim to protect its current trees and woodlands. The Council aims to maintain a healthy, protected and sustainably managed treescape that contributes significantly to the health safety and well being of Southwark residents.

13. In order to realise these aims the following Strategic Objectives (SO) are set out within the policy:

- To manage the existing tree stock in accordance with good arboricultural and silvicultural practice.
- To maintain a general presumption against the removal of trees, allowing felling only in accordance with good arboricultural and silvicultural practice, and to ensure that adequate and appropriate replacement planting takes place where planting is desirable, aesthetically necessary and sustainable. Natural regeneration will also be allowed if the site circumstances are appropriate.
- To recognise the relationship between trees and the built environment and their role in helping to combat air pollution and climate change. Also, promoting the 'Right tree, right place' philosophy for new and replacement planting.
- To continue to ensure protection of trees and woodlands subject to Tree Preservation Orders, in Conservation Areas and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation, with trees to be retained on development sites and to require high standards of replacement tree planting. Southwark will also initiate prosecution where unauthorised tree work has taken place, or to take enforcement action where breach of planning permission has occurred where it is expedient to do so.
- To promote the value of trees to residents, businesses and developers through good management and education, and explore ways for greater involvement, consultation and protection of trees and woodlands.

Environmental benefits of trees

14. The environmental benefits of trees are increasingly now well understood. The

policy document sets these out in order to convey their importance and the necessity to protect and enhance them accordingly:

Climate change mitigation

15. Trees play a crucial role in mitigating climate change. Over a year a mature tree can remove approximately 22kg of carbon dioxide from the atmosphere whilst soil around a tree can provide durable carbon stores.
16. As summer temperatures increase through climate change the importance of trees and other vegetation in reducing the 'heat island effect' through shading and evapotranspiration during the day and cooling the built environment at night time has become ever more apparent. In the winter trees lower wind speeds reducing heat loss from buildings.

Improving air quality

17. Trees are effective agents in enhancing air quality by producing oxygen (via the process of photosynthesis), and also through the capture of urban pollutants e.g. sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone, particulate matter, carbon monoxide and lead and heavy metals. Some air pollutants such as dust, ash, pollen and smoke are absorbed by leaves and bark or are temporarily intercepted from the air and washed in to the ground or collected by drainage systems.

Reducing noise and calming traffic

18. Trees can help reduce noise pollution through the absorption of sound waves muting noises from building facades and canyonised street configurations.
19. The presence of roadside trees significantly increases driver perception of spatial edge. The evidence that the presence of trees by the roadside has a positive impact on driver behaviour is apparently sufficiently compelling that, at the operational level, the Department for Transport has reported a number of schemes aimed at using tree planting to reduce speeds and hence accidents.

Sustainable urban drainage and bioremediation

20. Trees play a vital role in reducing the runoff associated with flash flooding by slowing down the rate of flow through interception and also through the active process of evapotranspiration. Some tree species also help to ameliorate soil and water conditions through bioremediation by absorbing, processing or neutralising a wide range of pollutants.

Biodiversity

21. Urban trees and woodlands are intrinsic to biodiversity through their contribution to creating green corridors, enhancing the ecological permeability of the built environment. Trees provide habitat and a food source for a diverse variety of flora and fauna species both in densely built up areas as well as urban woodlands. Woodlands in the borough provide some of the most important habitats in Southwark and the ancient woodland components of these assets are irreplaceable and subject to stronger protection.

Tree policies

22. Southwark proposes to adopt the following tree policies implemented in order to deliver its vision and strategic objectives as set out in the following sections:
- Tree maintenance, removal and planting
 - Managing Tree Risk
 - Trees and built environment
 - Planning and development
 - Tree Management
 - Trees in Private Ownership
 - Biodiversity.

Tree maintenance, removal and planting

23. The criteria for pruning and removing trees are clearly set out in order to define Southwark's approach to tree management.
24. Tree planting will be a key focus for Southwark in the coming years therefore provisions for replacement planting and the importance of providing new planting in the context of the climate change emergency are set out.

Managing Tree Risk

25. The new Tree Risk Management Strategy (Appendix 2 and paragraph 31) sets out Southwark's responsibilities and how it manages risk within its own tree stock in a technical document and also describes how the risk associated with trees in private ownership is managed.

Trees and the built environment

26. On-going maintenance of the highway, service routes and street furniture is essential to ensuring that the Borough's transport and infrastructure network continues to operate effectively. This brings considerable potential disturbance to the Borough's trees as work often requires excavation and construction within the root zone of trees. Therefore it is essential that when undertaking excavation works near to street trees all Council operatives and private contractors will be required to adhere to the guidelines as set out in the revised National Joint Utility Guidelines as set out in the Excavations and utilities policy.
27. The Managing trees and subsidence policy sets out how Southwark will continue to manage its tree stock to minimise the risk of tree-related subsidence, whilst maintaining a healthy and sustainable tree stock. Location and species for new tree planting will be selected to minimise the risk of future tree-related subsidence.
28. Southwark will seek to continue to retain trees on shrinkable clay subsoil, where sustainable, in order to maintain the value of the amenity. The Council will continue to manage a robust programme of pruning in order to mitigate subsidence damage to buildings: regrowth on all risk trees will be removed on a 2 yearly cycle in order to manage water demand.

Planning and development

29. Policies reflecting Southwark's statutory duties in terms of tree protection in the form of Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas are set out as well as the determination to ensure replacement tree planting is promoted and undertaken (as with Council built homes), whilst unauthorised works prosecutions are pursued.

Biodiversity

30. The Biodiversity policy section sets out policies to aid the management of encouraging biodiversity (with links to the new Southwark Nature Action Plan), pests and diseases, woodlands, veteran and ancient trees.
31. The importance of supporting partnerships is also a key development policy that reflects the important contribution stakeholders make to Southwark's environment. Trees have become increasingly important as a learning resource for children. This is reflected in the growing numbers of schools that have signed up to the Forest Schools programme. Southwark will provide arboricultural advice for schools hoping to utilise their outdoor space as a learning resource.

Tree risk management strategy

32. As a local authority the London Borough of Southwark has a duty to ensure public safety whilst maintaining an environmentally diverse and valuable landscape. Residents and visitors to the borough have a reasonable expectation that they can enjoy the benefits of the environment assured that associated risks presented by trees are managed to acceptable and balanced levels.
33. The tree risk management strategy (TRMS) identifies key management issues and sets out a system in mitigation which is intended to manage risk at a level as low as reasonably practicable whilst retaining the benefits of Southwark's valuable and diverse tree stock. Initially the document sets out the purpose of the Strategy, its context within Southwark's policy framework and the legal background within which it has been developed. Southwark's corporate responsibilities are also set out at this stage in order to clearly define the hierarchy of support required to ensure the success of the Strategy.

Proactive tree management system

34. In order to operate a robust tree management system it is necessary that adequate resources are allocated to appropriate inspection regimes and resulting programmes of remedial works. Proactive management of the tree stock enables resources to be focused where needed and reduces risks to acceptable levels.
35. The Council currently manages the tree stock through the Client Team consisting of six officers which sits within the Parks and Leisure Division (Leisure Directorate). The Tree Works Team sits within the Waste and Cleansing Division (Environment Directorate) and consists of 15 operatives plus a manager, and provides a tree surgery and tree felling service, programmed and ad hoc, plus both in hours and out of hours emergency cover.
36. The in house works team are supported by external contractors as they currently do not have the capacity to deliver all the tree works that are generated and this work is currently procured under backlog recovery arrangements.

37. Due to concerns around the need to clear an ongoing backlog of works during 2018/19 financial year it was identified that the tree service was significantly under resourced to carry out the required maintenance for the many ageing and growing tree population across the borough. At this time significant progress had been made on addressing priority tree backlog maintenance works through the procurement of services from external contractors, however, in order to move to a safer tree inspection and maintenance programme, additional ongoing revenue funding will be required from 2019/20. From 1 April 2019 the budget was uplifted by £300k.
38. Since this year's budgetary uplift the team have cleared a large backlog of tree inspections which has identified a large number of tree works (creating a new backlog) plus a significant number of trees that were not previously mapped – increasing the tree stock from 57,000 trees to 80,000 trees in Southwark's management since the last Tree Management Strategy. Since April 2019 officers have been working on a strategic review of the service to identify the best way of managing the tree stock in the borough. The strategic review covered:
- Productivity review of in house team
 - Benchmarking (In house and commercial providers)
 - Works requirement of tree stock and future affordability.
39. The review has identified that, despite the recent budgetary uplift, the current works resources are not sufficient to meet the requirement of the stock and meet risk management obligations. In order to avoid the ongoing creation of a backlog of works it is vital that sufficient works provision is put in place. The exact cost of the works requirement will depend on how the works are delivered (what proportion, if any, is delivered by external contractors) and officers are working on a full options appraisal to determine the preferred option and this will be taken to Cabinet as a Gateway 0 in early 2020.
40. All additional remedial works generated from the backlog of tree inspections have been incorporated in to an Emergency Tree Recovery Plan (ETRP) deliverable by in house and external supplier provision by the end of May 2020.

Climate Emergency

41. The Council declared a climate emergency in March 2019 and vowed to “*do all it can to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030.*” A draft report has been written which sets out the plan for the emerging Southwark Climate Strategy 2020-2030 which suggests approaches to support the Council and communities to achieve carbon neutrality by 2030.
42. The targets set out in the Climate Emergency Declaration are challenging. To deliver these will require a significant change to the way the Council operates and will affect every business and resident in Southwark. This is also in the context of delivering borough wide carbon neutrality 20 years in advance of the current London wide target of 2050.
43. Tree management is part of the emerging Southwark climate strategy and as such an effective tree management policy is vital.
44. Tree planting is one of the most effective ways of reducing the impacts of climate

change. In 2015 capital funding of £600k was agreed for a 5 year term to service annual tree planting programmes. During this period 450 trees were planted on average per annum (2,247 overall) as well as additional trees associated with community planting and developments, however over this time and for several years previously more trees were removed than planted resulting in a net loss of approximately 1200 trees since 2010. The capital funding allocation is now coming to an end with the 2019/20 tree planting programme therefore proposals will be brought forward to Cabinet in the new year that seek to address the net loss of trees and increase canopy cover across the borough.

45. The proposed new Tree Management Policy recognises the positive impact that urban trees have on the environment and the lives of people in Southwark. The Council aims to protect and maintain a healthy, protected and sustainably managed treescape that contributes significantly to the health safety and well being of Southwark's residents in the following ways:
- Promote awareness of the value of trees in our environment. The document identifies the benefits of the treescape and its impact on the environment, biodiversity, health and wellbeing and their heritage value along with the impact of trees on future urban landscapes.
 - Interpret the policy framework on trees at a European, national, regional and local level. Southwark's 17 Tree Policies are also set out. These are themed around; tree maintenance, removal and planting, managing tree risk, trees and built environment, planning and development and biodiversity.
 - Set out our policies to enable us to protect and enhance Southwark's treescape. Further technical information is included in the appendices which cover the Tree Risk Management Strategy, Southwark's treescape, policy framework, tree planting, managing trees and subsidence, biosecurity and the new Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP).

Policy consultation process

46. The first stages of the consultation plan were undertaken by contacting internal departments seeking comments on the draft documents. Useful feedback was received from officers in:
- Planning
 - Environment
 - Parks and Leisure
 - Housing
 - Legal
 - Insurance.
47. Amendments were worked in to the documents prior to seeking comments from third sector partners and members of the public.
48. The following third sector partners were contacted seeking their technical comments and asking them to encourage participation of their visitors in the forthcoming online public consultation:
- Quadron Idverde – The council's grounds maintenance contractor

- London Wildlife Trust
 - Bankside Open Spaces Trust (BOST)
 - The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)
 - Friends of Groups and residents associations.
49. During the public consultation period four drop in sessions were attended by officers at Dulwich Park, Southwark Park, Burgess Park and Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park (GMH). The key areas of feedback and discussion during the sessions were:
- ambitious tree planting programs to tackle air pollution and climate change
 - community groups set up to help officers care for trees in streets and parks
 - greater protection for trees in proposed developments
 - enhanced scrutiny of young tree maintenance
 - greater consultation with stakeholder groups for tree maintenance programs.
50. In addition to the drop in sessions, officers attended Peckham Rye Park Fete in order to encourage participation in the online consultation. Also a presentation of the proposed policy document was given to the Dulwich Village and Dulwich Wood Forum meeting as part of engagement with Empowering Communities (previously Community Councils) network.
51. An online consultation was undertaken using the Southwark Consultation hub website which provided an opportunity for residents and the wider community to have their say on the draft Tree Management Policy. The online consultation ran between 6 August 2019 and 27 September 2019 and 242 residents responded.

Consultation results

52. The majority of respondents strongly agree with Southwark Council's vision and long term objectives, our assessment of the benefits of trees, the assertion that trees have an important role to play in tackling climate change and that it is necessary to protect Southwark's treescape.
- **88%** of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Southwark's vision and long term objectives in the Tree Management Policy.
 - **96%** of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed with Southwark's assessment of the benefits of trees.
 - **95%** of respondents either agreed or strongly agreed that trees have an important role to play in tackling climate change.
 - **94%** of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that it is necessary to protect Southwark's treescape.
53. Respondents supported a wide range of methods to communicate the benefits of trees; the most popular methods were social media messaging and community events.
54. The most popular areas respondents wanted Southwark to focus on in terms of managing its urban treescape were tree planting, tree protection and climate change.
55. Many respondents provided additional comments on the policy; the key findings have been summarised below:

- Increase the number of trees planted.
- Engage with community groups e.g. involve communities in tree planting programmes to encourage a sense of ownership.
- Engage effectively with partner organisations e.g. London Wildlife Trust, Bankside Open Spaces Trust, 'Friends of' groups etc.
- Work with schools to ensure children understand the importance of trees.
- Ensure all new developments are designed and built around current trees. The greening of the environment must be an essential part of any new development (rather than something desirable).
- Pollarding should not take place during the spring/summer as this is when the urban canopy is most needed.
- Additional checks should be undertaken on trees in residential areas to ensure the health and safety of residents.
- Trees that are felled should be replaced in the same area.
- The policy should reference woodlands e.g. the Great North Wood, and it should set out how the Council intends to support and enhance such areas.
- The document should expand on how the tree management policies could improve biodiversity.
- Educational signs could be added to new trees that are planted.

Demographic of respondents

56. The majority of respondents were aged between 45 – 64 years olds. Most respondents are above the average age in Southwark, which is 32.9 years.¹
57. The majority of respondents (56.61%) were White British, with respondents identifying as English, Welsh, Irish and Scottish making up another 11%. Respondents from other ethnic groups included other European (7.4%), black British (0.4%), Asian British (0.4%), Indian (1.2%) and 2.5% from other ethnicities. 10.74% did not answer this question. Just over half (54%) of Southwark's population is of White ethnicity, a quarter (25%) are Black and a third (11%) are Asian or other (10%) ethnicities.
58. The majority of respondents were from the north of the borough.

Feedback from partner organisations

59. Friends of Burgess Park, London Wildlife Trust, Friends of Sunray Gardens and Woodland Trust all provided feedback on the new Tree Management Policy. They are in general agreement with the policy and welcome its development. A summary of their key suggestions are listed below:
- A distinction should be made between the management of street trees and trees in parks.
 - Trees should be given the same status as existing buildings.
 - Statements such as 'desirable', 'right tree, right place', 'in accordance with good arboricultural practice' should be defined as they are open to different interpretations.

¹ <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/assets/attach/5718/JSNA-Factsheet-2017-Protected-Characteristics-20171130.pdf>

- The impact and value of partnerships should be referenced in the document.
- A commitment should be made to prevent the loss of woodland habitat and to increase woodland cover in the borough. The Great North Wood should also be mentioned.
- Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) should be referenced.
- 'Adopt a Tree' and 'Memorial Tree' initiatives should be implemented.
- Additional tree planting should be added as a further objective.
- Local stakeholders should be informed of any proposed tree removals.

Changes to the draft Tree Management Policy as a result of consultation

60. The following key amendments have been made to the draft policy documents as an outcome of the consultation. Please see Appendix 1 for the updated draft policy document.
- a) A greater emphasis made to the contribution and potential of woodlands and Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC's) throughout the document.
 - b) Policy 2 Tree removal – (page 10), Extending the notice period for removing trees from 10 to 15 days.
 - c) Policy 1 - Tree pruning - (page 8), Reference the importance of retaining the natural form of trees when undertaking pruning operations.
 - d) Policy 3 – Tree Planting – (page 10), has been divided in to 2 sections in order to distinguish between replacement and new tree planting, reflecting Southwark's aim to support an ambitious tree planting programme which contributes to the organization's climate change mitigation plan.
 - e) Policy 3 - Tree planting – (page 10), reference the use of eco-system service reports analysis.
 - f) Policy 3 - Tree planting – (page 10), reference woodland and orchard creation.
 - g) Policy 3 - Tree planting – (page 10), utilisation of a wide range of species in order to build in future resilience to specific tree related pests and diseases.
 - h) Policy 10 - Tree protection – (page 13) distinction made between legal protection for privately owned trees and Council protection of Southwark owned trees.
61. Following the adoption of the TMP, further work will be undertaken in association with the proposed tree planting programme in terms of engaging and managing a network of tree community groups and working with schools in order to communicate the benefits of trees to children across the borough.
62. In the context of climate change it is becoming increasingly important that our young residents become engaged with their environment. This will be addressed by creating classroom materials to be used by schools in association with the benefits of trees and making nature accessible for all following through on action associated with the Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP).

Governance, reporting and key performance indicators

63. An annual report in association with the Tree Management Policy will be generated to assess key areas of activity. The tree team will govern the plan with the resulting report presented to the cabinet member in the form of a briefing

paper. A version of the report will also be made available to stakeholders.

64. KPIs for the annual report will be developed to measure effectiveness of the TMP in the following key areas:

- Tree planting
- Tree removal
- Statutory protection
- Community engagement
- Education
- Communications.

65. The following Key Performance Indicators have been designed to test the on going effectiveness of the Tree Management Risk Strategy following the implementation period (January – March 2020):

Tree Risk Management Strategy (TRMS)		
KPI Number	Key Performance Indicator	Target Completion Date
1	Annual reports following review (to include details from the failure log as well as near miss incidents, cyclical inspection frameworks etc.) to be generated by the Arboricultural Services Manager	Annually (first report March 2021)
2	Full internal audit to test the effectiveness of the Plan to be made with adjustments implemented and recorded	Annually (first report April 2021)
3	Continual review of legal judgments relating to tree risk management to ensure Tree Risk Management Plan adjusts to emerging case law	Annually
4	External audit is to be carried out after 5 years either by the Tree Section of a Borough with a comparable level of tree risk management in a reciprocal arrangement, or by an external Arboricultural Consultant registered by the Arboricultural Association	March 2025

Promotion of Tree Management Policy

66. The new Tree Management Policy will be promoted in the following ways:

Education and engagement plan – Tree Management Policy

What	How	When	Who
Launch: Information on relevant Southwark Council webpages	Specific Council Webpage providing relevant information on the new Tree	February 2020	Parks & Leisure / Communications Team

What	How	When	Who
	Management Policy		
Launch: Information on social media	Links to information on the new Tree Management Policy via Southwark's Facebook and Twitter pages	February 2020	Parks & Leisure / Communications Team
Launch: Residents e-bulletin (about 6,000 residents) including link to relevant webpages	Educational piece highlighting the new Tree Management Policy	February 2020	Parks & Leisure / Communications Team
Launch: Email to friends of parks groups	Educational piece highlighting the new Tree Management Policy	February 2020	Parks & Leisure / Communications Team
Launch: Internal communications with officers and ward councillors	Educational piece highlighting the new Tree Management Policy	February 2020	Parks & Leisure / Communications Team
Create classroom materials to be used by schools	Posters / documents created to explain the benefits of trees in the borough for young people	March/ April 2020	Tree Team

Policy implications

67. Whilst the policy is a document intended for use by all it is also important to note that it directly links to the Council's commitment to a 'Fairer future for all' particularly in the areas of:

- The best start in life: clean air, great schools and opportunities to thrive;
- A great place to live with clean, green and safe communities;
- A healthy borough where your background doesn't determine your life chances.

68. The Council Plan 2018-19 – 2021-22 sets out a series of commitments across eight themes:

- A place to call home
- A place to belong
- A greener borough
- A full employment borough
- A healthier life
- A great start in life
- A safer community
- A vibrant Southwark.

69. An effective Tree Management Policy is linked to a number of themes in the Council Plan through specific commitments set out below.

- Make Southwark carbon neutral by 2050

- Protect Southwark's biodiversity and make nature accessible for all
 - Give residents the tools to garden and improve their estate
 - Make walking fun, safe and accessible by developing a green walking network.
70. As noted, The Tree Management Policy also supports the recent declaration on 27 March 2019 in which the Council said it would do 'all it can' to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. A Climate Emergency Strategy is currently being drafted.
71. The Southwark Nature Action Plan 2020 (SNAP) directly links to the Tree Management Policy. The SNAP is a tool kit which provides guidance on the protection, enhancement and promotion of the natural environment. The SNAP shares similar aims to the Tree Management Policy such as: improving access to high quality green spaces, improving environmental management, increasing access and engagement with nature, increasing educational opportunities through events and training and increasing natural habitats and populations of species.
72. The Tree Management Policy also supports a number of other key Council plans, statutory documents and strategies:
- Air Quality Strategy and Action Plan 2017 - 2022
 - The Movement Plan.

Community impact statement

73. As set out under the Equality Act 2010 and the Public Sector Equality duty (PSED) an equalities impact assessment was carried out during the development of the policy. The policy has no clear, detrimental impact to any group or protected characteristic as outlined in the Equalities Act or the PSED.
74. Trees benefit our communities and the environment in a number of ways: improving air quality, reducing urban temperatures through shading and evapotranspiration, mitigating climate change, reducing noise and calming traffic, managing flood risks, supporting biodiversity and improving health and wellbeing.
75. As such, the policy is likely to have a positive impact on communities. The policy supports the increased use of open spaces which have clear positive impacts on physical and mental health. By maintaining a healthy, protected and sustainably managed tree stock the Tree Management Policy will contribute significantly to the health, safety and wellbeing of Southwark residents and visitors.
76. It is recognised that trees must be well maintained to ensure they do not have a detrimental impact on the community. Risks and concerns include: falling trees, obstructed pavements and obstructing light from windows.
77. To ensure the above risks and issues are mitigated all trees planted must adhere to the Southwark Streetscape Design Manual (SSDM). This manual details the requirements for street trees, such as, the above and below ground design of planting spaces, spacing and locating of trees, the levels of canopy cover that need to be provided in streets and spaces, and general maintenance requirements.

Resource implications

78. Staffing and any other costs connected with the delivery of the policy will be contained within existing departmental revenue budgets.

Legal implications

79. Please see the concurrent report of the director of law and democracy below.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

80. Cabinet is requested to approve the Tree Management Policy which forms Appendix 1 to this report.
81. The preparation of this new Policy is consistent with the council's statutory obligations and with relevant European, national and corporate strategy and policy, the details of which are listed at Appendix 2 of the document.
82. The report provides a full account of the consultation process which has been undertaken in relation to the new Policy and, in particular how the Policy has been informed and developed in response to the feedback from that exercise.
83. The report also confirms that an equality analysis has been carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the Policy, in order to assess the likely effect and impact of the Policy upon any individuals and groups having a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. It is recommended that the equality analysis should be reviewed periodically in order to demonstrate the council's compliance with the Public Sector Equality Duty under the Act.
84. The decision to approve the report recommendation in paragraph 1 is expressly reserved to Cabinet under the council Constitution.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FC19/022)

85. This report is requesting cabinet to agree The Tree Management Policy and associated technical appendices and also for the Leader to delegate the responsibility for the monitoring of progress of delivering the Tree Management Policy to the Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities. Full details are contained within the main body of the report.
86. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the financial implications and understands that any additional on going cost implications will be considered as part of the council's policy and resourcing strategy.
87. Staffing and any other costs connected with this report to be contained within existing departmental revenue resources.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Consultation report	Southwark Council 160 Tooley St SE1 2QH	Julian Fowgies 0207 525 3438
Link: http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&MId=6571&Ver=4		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Tree Management Policy (circulated separately)
Appendix 2	Tree Risk Management Strategy (circulated separately)

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Councillor Rebecca Lury, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Culture, Leisure, Equalities and Communities	
Lead Officer	Rebecca Towers, Director of Leisure	
Report Author	Julian Fowgies, Tree Service Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	5 December 2019	
Key decision?	Yes	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments Included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	5 December 2019	