

# **London Borough of Haringey**

## **Tree Strategy 2008-2011**

# **Tree Strategy 2008-2011**

## **Contents**

1. Introduction
2. Policies and Strategies
  - 2.1 Local
  - 2.2 Regional
  - 2.3 National
3. The benefits that trees provide.
  - 3.1 Tree problems
4. Existing Planning Policies and trees.
5. Trees under Council ownership.
  - 5.1 Street trees
  - 5.2 Highways maintenance works
  - 5.3 Tree renewal
  - 5.4 Vehicle crossovers
  - 5.5 Trees on Housing land
  - 5.6 Trees in Parks and Open spaces
  - 5.7 Trees in Woodlands and Conservation Areas
  - 5.8 Trees on Educational land.
6. Trees and the environment.
  - 6.1 A sustainable tree resource
  - 6.2 Climate Change and its effects on trees
  - 6.3 Recycling of green waste
7. Trees and subsidence.
  - 7.1 Subsidence in Haringey
  - 7.2 LTOA - Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims
  - 7.3 Gallagher Bassett - Review of Tree Risk Management
8. Tree maintenance and planting programme
  - 8.1 Tree maintenance programme.
  - 8.2 Tree planting programme.
9. Community involvement.
10. Key objectives and Action plan.
11. Council Departments responsible for trees.
12. Appendices.

## **1.0 Introduction**

Trees play an essential role in towns and cities providing a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. Some benefits are measurable, such as improvements in air quality, many are not, but they can have a positive impact on the lives of those living and working in the urban environment.

Haringey Council is committed to creating a greener, more sustainable environment for its residents and visitors to the Borough. The Council has recently produced 'The Greenest Borough Strategy' to support this commitment. This tree strategy is aimed at providing a framework document which will detail the Council's approach to the management and enhancement of its tree stock, it will complement and link with other relevant strategies.

The need for a tree strategy was identified in the Haringey's Open Space Strategy, 'A space for everyone' 2006 and the Unitary Development Plan (UDP) 2006. A tree strategy will ensure trees within Haringey are managed in a pro-active and systematic manner. This approach will lead to improvements in tree health and provide a more sustainable tree population. Application of policies set out in the tree strategy will increase the quantifiable and non-quantifiable benefits that trees provide.

## **2. Wider policy context**

A range of Local, Regional and National Policies and Strategies are relevant to the preparation of the Haringey Tree Strategy. The responsible management and enhancement of trees, woodlands and natural spaces will enable the aims and objectives of all those policies detailed below to be met.

### **2.1 Local Strategies**

Haringey's Sustainable Community Strategy adopted in June 2007, outlines the aspirations, challenges and opportunities facing us over the next ten years. It sets out the Council's vision;

- 'A place for diverse communities that people are proud to belong to'
- and the desired outcomes which include;
- An environmentally sustainable future.
  - Healthier people with a better quality of life.

Haringey's Greenest Borough strategy provides a framework for a coordinated approach to tackling environmental issues in the Borough. It will play a key role in achieving a number of the priorities identified in the Community Strategy, specifically:

- To protect the natural environment.
- To tackle climate change and reduce carbon emissions.
- To continue to improve our excellent parks and open spaces.

Haringey's Open Space Strategy, 'A space for everyone' was adopted in 2006. Its strategic vision is;

- To enrich the quality of life for everyone in Haringey by working in partnership to provide safe, attractively designed, well used, well maintained open spaces for the benefit and enjoyment of the whole community.

One of its key strategic aims was the development of a tree strategy to ensure the protection, enhancement and promotion of the Boroughs tree stock.

Haringey's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) was adopted in 2004 and is currently being reviewed and updated. It identified the Council's priorities in terms of key species and habitats to protect. One of the aims of the Action Plan was to support the implementation of a Tree Strategy.

In towns and cities, trees provide a broad range of environmental, social and economic benefits that contribute to people's health and well being. Trees can make it a healthier, attractive and more comfortable place to live and work.

## **2.2 Regional Strategies**

In 2005, the Mayor of London produced 'A Tree and Woodland Framework for London'. It emphasized the important part trees play in the character and identity of the city, making it one of the world's greenest. The overall goal of the framework was to ensure that;

- The existing stock of trees and woodlands is managed and maintained to safeguard its value to London both now and in the future.
- There is an increased awareness of the value of trees and woodlands to the health and well being of all Londoners.
- The contribution of trees and woodlands to London's sustainability and quality of life is maximised.

- Natural regeneration and new planting in appropriate locations is encouraged to further enhance the contribution of trees and woodlands to London life.

In 2006, the Mayor of London produced 'London's Urban Heat Island, A Summary for Decision Makers'. This report noted that temperatures are often warmer in the city than surrounding rural areas, this phenomenon is known as the 'Urban Heat Island'. It also noted that overnight temperatures in London can be up to 9C higher, than areas outside of the city. The extremity and frequency of such events is likely to increase as a result of the predicted impacts of climate change over coming decades.

The report recommended a number of measures to mitigate the heat island effect, which included the planting of trees and other vegetation. Trees are identified as 'good modifiers of climate' not only providing shade but acting as natural cooling systems when the water they have absorbed is evaporated from its leaves during the process of transpiration.

The Woodland Trust in conjunction with Trees for Cities have recently produced 'A Manifesto for London's trees and woodlands'. It has identified eight key points to ensure the cities valuable tree resource is protected and enhanced. The Council will support the manifesto, whose key points include:

- Ensure trees and woodlands feature in all significant development proposals, including new transport links.
- Help to direct more funding to a major tree planting programme for London, especially in areas currently lacking in tree and woodland cover.
- Make certain that trees and woodlands are an integral part of London's strategy for mitigating climate change.

### **2.3 National Strategies**

In 2007, Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) published 'A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests', which highlighted the essential role trees and woodlands play in enhancing people's quality of life. Two of its guiding principles are;

- The long term sustainable management of trees and woodlands.
- Planting the right tree in the right place.

Trees in Towns 2, a study of Local Authorities' tree services by Dr Mark Johnson for the Department of Communities and Local Government was published in 2008. It highlights the importance of having a 'working' tree strategy and offers guidance on preparation and ensuring its implementation. The key recommendations are:

- The tree strategy should be based on a good knowledge of the existing tree population and the conditions in which it grows.
- The process of strategy preparation should have political and community support.
- It should be linked to other aspects of the urban environment and other relevant strategies.
- It should cover all aspects of the LA's tree programme and the urban forest, including both public and privately owned trees and woodlands.
- Ensure widespread and effective consultation on the draft strategy document.
- It should not just include policies towards trees but also an action plan to ensure implementation.
- It should be adopted as LA policy.
- Ensure regular monitoring and review of the strategy.

### **3. The benefits that trees provide**

Trees are the oldest and largest living organisms on the planet. In towns and cities, they play a significant role in improving environmental conditions and people's quality of life. Trees can make it a healthier, attractive and more comfortable place to live and work. The wide range of benefits that trees provide is set out below.

#### Environmental benefits

- Absorbing carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas).
- Filtering, absorbing and reducing pollutants (ozone, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, dust, particulates and noise).
- Producing oxygen.
- Reducing localised extremes in temperatures, cooling in the summer and warming in the winter (countering urban heat island effects).
- Reducing the effects of flash floods (tree canopies intercept rainfall slowing down its path to the ground beneath).
- Acting as carbon sinks (although in terms of trees in towns this role is limited and is more symbolic than actual).
- Increasing biodiversity, street trees provide natural links with parks and open spaces allowing for the movement of wildlife to other areas.
- Reducing noise levels by acting as a sound barrier.
- Can be a source of local food, reducing food transport / miles and increase food security.

#### Social benefits

- Providing amenity, aesthetic value and historical continuity.
- Providing habitats for a broad range of wildlife.

- Marking the changing seasons with leaf changes and floral displays
- Symbolizing community focal points.

#### Economic benefits

- Increasing property values (the presence of trees can increase the value of residential and commercial property by 5% -18%.
- The value of undeveloped land with mature trees can be increased by 27%.
- Providing a sustainable source of graded timber, mulch and charcoal.
- Providing a sustainable source of woodchip biofuel.
- Providing a sustainable source of compost (leaf litter).
- Providing employment through all aspects of the industry.
- When planted strategically they can reduce fossil fuel emissions by reducing fuel costs for heating and cooling buildings.

#### Health and Well Being

- Providing shade, making outdoor leisure activities more pleasurable during hot weather and also reducing risk of skin cancers by from harmful ultra-violet radiation.
- Reducing stress and illness by providing psychological refreshment and a sense of well being through softening the built environment, creating character and a sense of place and permanence.
- Releasing scents and aromas that elicit a positive emotional response contributing to health and well being.

### **3.1 Tree problems**

The close proximity of trees, people and built structures will occasionally result in inconvenience to residents. Nuisance issues may also arise by maintaining a tree population which is diverse in age and species. Problems may include the obstruction of light into homes, leaf and fruit fall and direct or indirect damage to structures. The majority of problems can be mitigated by appropriate tree maintenance.

Future nuisance issues can be minimized by following the principle of planting the 'right tree in the right place'. Careful consideration is given to the location of new trees and species selection.

### **4. Existing Planning policies and trees**

Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 places a specific duty on Local Planning Authorities to ensure adequate provision is made for the preservation and planting of trees.

The Council's planning policies are made up of a portfolio of policy documents, under the umbrella of the Local Development Framework (LDF). The Local Development Scheme (LDS) is the project plan which sets out the work programme for developing the LDF. This includes the Unitary Development Plan (adopted in 2006) which sets out the planning policy with regards to trees. It states:

The Council will seek to protect and improve the contribution of trees, tree masses and spines (green corridors) to local landscape character by;

- a) making Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) as appropriate;
- b) encouraging tree planting wherever possible and appropriate;
- c) ensuring that road proposals and traffic management schemes are adequately landscaped where appropriate with new trees;
- d) ensuring that when unprotected trees are affected by development, a programme of tree replanting and replacement of at least equal amenity and ecological value and extent is approved by the council; and
- e) giving stronger protection to and recognising the value of ancient woodland areas in terms of their historical, cultural and biodiversity contribution to the borough; and
- f) ensuring that tree planting schemes do not damage underground utilities infrastructure with encroaching root systems

The Council acknowledges that the planning process is one of the most effective means of ensuring the Borough's tree stock is maintained and enhanced. Trees are given statutory protection in one of two ways, either;

- Through a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) made under the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990; or
- Being within a designated Conservation Area under the same Act.

Current records indicate there are approximately 1700 TPOs in the borough including group and area orders. It is a statutory requirement to maintain an up to date register containing accurate information on TPOs. Government guidance advises Local Authorities to keep their TPOs under review using the powers available to them under the legislation.

Owners of trees subject to a TPO are required to make a formal planning application to the Council requesting permission to undertake works. There are 28 Conservation Areas (CA) within the Borough. Tree owners within a CA must give the Council six weeks notice of their intention to undertake works. The notice allows the Council the opportunity to consider whether a TPO should be made in respect of the tree(s).



The Council will seek to ensure that new development takes into consideration the protection of existing trees and the planting of new trees. Where there are existing trees on site or on adjacent land, all new planning applications must contain an arboricultural implication assessment, tree protection plan and arboricultural method statement.

These documents must be prepared by a qualified and experienced arboriculturalist in accordance with the recommendations in BS 5837: 2005 Trees in relation to construction. Planning conditions including tree protection measures must be properly monitored and enforced.

New developments will be encouraged to include new tree planting within their plans and have in place an aftercare programme to ensure their successful establishment. Section 106 agreements will be explored for the funding for tree planting on Council owned land in close proximity to new development sites.

## **5.0 Trees under Council Ownership**

The Council is responsible for approximately 40,000 trees, these are located on streets and housing sites, in parks and open spaces, in woodlands and conservation sites, in schools and in the grounds of other public buildings. The Tree Section are part of the Parks Services. It has a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Frontline Services (Highways) and Homes for Haringey for managing trees under their ownership. Trees under the ownership of the Parks service and others are maintained on a reactive basis. Tree works are undertaken to fulfill the Council's 'duty of care' and in accordance with the management priorities of the particular service.

### **5.1 Street trees**

Street trees are an integral and often historical component of the urban landscape and as such are valued by local residents. Haringey has a street tree population of approximately 10,000 trees and is increasing the total year on year.

Many of the oldest and largest street trees are London Plane and Lime. Planted during the Victorian era, they are predominantly managed by regular pollarding. The remaining street trees can be classified as ornamental species which have a shorter lifespan and include Cherry, Plum, Rowan and Birch. There are also some trees which can reach a medium size at maturity and have a longer lifespan and include Maple and Hornbeam. In more recent years, trees with a small – medium mature size

have been planted and include Snowy mespil, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Pear and Apple.

Street trees are often subject to a poor rooting environment and stress from air borne pollution. Constant disturbance and physical damage is also caused by the works of utility companies. Some species, such as London Plane and Lime will tolerate minor damage, but only to a point. For many other species, it will reduce their safe life expectancy as injuries to their roots, trunks and crowns increase the likelihood of colonisation by decay-causing fungi.

Greenspace Information for Greater London (GIGL) is the capital's open space and biodiversity records centre. GIGL are collating street tree data from all the London boroughs to create an online database of the capital's street tree population. Haringey Council has permitted access to their street tree data for this project.

## 5.2 Highways maintenance works

The renewal and repair of service routes by utility companies is an ongoing process. Such works are essential for both economic and social needs. Where these works are planned, the Council will provide advice and recommendations, referring to published guidance, on the most efficient methods to avoid damage to trees. The Council will endeavour to make all utility companies and their contractors aware of the revised version of National Joint Utilities Group: Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees (NJUG 4) and expect compliance with the guidelines. Recompense will be sought where trees are damaged through negligence. Highways maintenance works are managed and monitored through the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) service.

## 5.3 Tree renewal

Some species of tree become unsuitable to their location as they mature because of their size, rooting habit and close proximity to structures. They may cause physical damage to the public highway or to adjacent structures. This damage results in increased Highway maintenance and Insurance costs.

Where the problems and likely future maintenance costs are so great that appropriate pruning cannot remedy the situation, trees will be removed and replaced with a more suitable species. Trees may also be removed which are over mature and require annual or bi-annual pruning or have a reduced life expectancy.

The phased removal and replacement of unsuitable trees will produce a more sustainable tree population that is diverse in age and species. This will provide short and long term benefits for residents as nuisance issues and maintenance costs will be reduced, allowing resources to be used for other improvements to the local environment.

Tree renewal works will be undertaken during programmed maintenance works or where the damage caused has been identified as an immediate hazard to the public or a structure.

#### 5.4 Vehicle crossovers

Public requests for vehicle crossovers have become increasingly common in recent years as the number of cars per household has increased. However, the increase in hard surfaces and reduction in green space has led to an increased risk of flash flooding and loss of biodiversity. As such permission for new crossovers is strictly controlled and applications are considered in accordance with the current Council policy.

Permission to remove trees to allow for new crossovers will not be granted except in extenuating circumstances or there a good arboricultural reason to do so.

Where permission is granted, all costs for tree removal works and the planting of replacement trees will be borne by the applicant. The number of replacement trees will depend on the size of the tree to be removed (i.e. 0-5m in height = one replacement tree, 5-10m = two replacement trees, 10-15m = three replacement trees).

#### 5.5 Trees on Housing land

The Tree Section has a service level agreement with Homes for Haringey (HFH) to maintain trees on its estates. Trees on housing estates are inspected within a four yearly cyclical programme. A recent inspection by the Audit Commission found housing estate management an area of strength and highlighted the well maintained open spaces. Trees in individual properties are inspected upon request by Housing officers.

Many estates contain significant tree populations with large specimens that have a long life expectancy. However, on some sites there is a distinct lack of trees in both variety and in their age and species. The current tree planting programme is addressing these issues.

Housing land provides one of the most suitable locations for tree planting and allows for a greater choice of tree species to be used. Trees with a large size at maturity can be planted without the need for regular pruning.

## 5.6 Trees in Parks and Open Spaces

Haringey has more than 600 hectares of parks, recreation grounds and open spaces. They make an important contribution to people's overall quality of life. Recent surveys have indicated that public usage of and satisfaction with parks and open spaces is increasing. Trees are an essential feature of parks and open spaces, providing screening, shade and structure, making them a more attractive environment to visit and in which to enjoy a broad range of recreational activities.

The Open Space Strategy 2006 identified key priorities and sets out the Council's vision for the future management of these sites. All the major parks now have management plans in place. Parks and open spaces have been awarded a total of 12 Green Flags in recognition of the investment and improvements that have been implemented in recent years.

Parks and open spaces are of significant arboricultural importance as they contain some of the largest and oldest trees in the Borough. Proactive management is essential to ensure a healthy tree population and one that is diverse in age and species.

## 5.7 Trees in Woodlands and Conservation sites

Haringey contains a wide variety of habitats and dependent wildlife and their protection is of the utmost importance in order to retain and enhance biodiversity. The range of different flora and fauna found within an urban environment can affect our quality of life by providing contact with the natural world. Biodiversity increases the value of a site for educational and recreational activities.

Haringey's biodiversity is a fragment of the ecosystem which stretches far beyond political boundaries. Many species are visitors in addition to the native populations. The Council's Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) reflects the importance of maintaining habitats as vital links in London's Green Corridor.

The Borough contains four ancient woodlands:

- Coldfall Wood
- Queens Wood
- Bluebell Wood
- Highgate wood (which is managed by the City of London).

There are three designated Local Nature Reserves (LNR), including:

- Parkland Walk
- Queens Wood

- Railway Fields

All of these sites and others of ecological interest are protected and managed in accordance with the BAP. The BAP was adopted in 2004 and details the Borough's approach to managing sites of importance for the conservation of wildlife. It is proposed to review and update the BAP in 2008/09.

The revised BAP will detail how the Council intends to comply with the new National Indicator (NI 197) which has been designed to measure the performance of Councils for biodiversity by assessing the implementation of active management of its sites.

Woodlands and large native trees support a greater number and variety of species than most other habitats. Of particular importance are old trees, including stumps, which contain cavities, rot holes and dead, decaying wood. This habitat supports large numbers of insects not found anywhere else. Haringey BAP priority species such as Bats, Spotted flycatcher, Song thrush and Stag beetles all use trees and woodlands as a habitat.

Tree works in woodlands and conservation sites are only undertaken to mitigate actionable nuisances and potential risks to site users. Works are also undertaken in accordance with the priorities in the BAP. Maintenance works such as coppicing and the clearance of invasive species are coordinated through 'Friends' groups and volunteers under the guidance of BTCV.

#### 5.8 Trees on Education land

Trees within the grounds of the Borough's schools are the responsibility of those schools. The Tree Section will inspect trees and recommend maintenance works when requested to do so. It is proposed to prepare a guidance note for schools on appropriate tree management and how to request maintenance works

### **6. Trees and the Environment**

#### 6.1 A sustainable tree resource

The Council has introduced a cyclical inspection programme for the majority of its tree stock. This proactive approach ensures appropriate maintenance works are undertaken where necessary and that any problems regarding tree health are identified at an early stage and dealt with in a systematic manner. Those trees which are dead, dying or appear dangerous are removed after assessing the risk to public safety. In some

cases, however, they may be retained in appropriate locations (i.e woodlands) for their value as a wildlife habitat.

The Council is committed to enhancing the overall tree population by ensuring that replacement trees are planted when one is removed and the the total number of Council owned trees is increased each year by at least 250.

Since 2004, there has been a gradual increase in the number of new trees planted, particularly street trees, where 738 more trees have been planted than were removed. Since 2005, significant tree planting has been undertaken on sites under the ownership of Homes for Haringey (i.e. Tiverton estate, Broadwater Farm estate, and the Frederick Messer estate). Hundreds of new trees have also been planted in our award winning parks and along principal transport corridors.

## 6.2 Climate Change and its Effect on Trees

The climate of the UK is changing. We have experienced three of the hottest summers on record within the last decade. The most recent predictions for the UK suggest an overall increase in temperature and changes to rainfall patterns and wind speed.

Climate change has a direct and indirect effect on trees in a number of ways. A rise in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere causes an increase in tree growth and extends the growing season. Some tree species will experience earlier flushing of leaves and flowers.

Lower summer rainfall and an increased evaporation are likely to lead to longer periods of drought-induced stress on trees. An increase in the occurrence of storms will make trees more vulnerable to wind damage. Warmer summers and a rise in temperatures in general are likely to extend the life cycle and geographical range of certain pests and diseases. Trees under stress are much more susceptible to colonisation by insect pests and decay-causing fungi.

The role of trees and woodlands in urban areas will become much more important as climate change makes towns and cities increasingly unpleasant during heat waves. Trees produce oxygen and provide shade. They limit the urban heat island effect and intercept rainfall reducing the impact of storms. The Council will ensure appropriate provision is made by planting suitable trees that will withstand the predicted changes to climate and weather patterns.

A study published in 2007 by the University of Manchester noted that a 10% increase in tree cover could contribute to reducing urban temperatures by 4C for relatively little cost.

### 6.3 Recycling of green waste

Large quantities of green waste are generated by contractors undertaking tree works on behalf of the Council. Volumes produced are approx 80m<sup>3</sup>/per week, however, volumes do vary from month to month. Wherever possible, we will recycle wood chips for use as mulch within our parks, open spaces and allotments. Green waste generated from tree works in woodlands and conservation sites is usually left in situ to create wildlife habitats. Green waste is also recycled at registered waste sites, where it is turned into composting material.

## 7. Trees and subsidence

### 7.1 Subsidence in Haringey

Subsidence is a subject of concern in Haringey because of the type of soil and the large numbers of old buildings. It is one of the principal reasons for the systematic approach the Council has implemented to tree management.

The underlying soil in Haringey is predominantly London Clay, which shrinks when moisture is lost and swells when moisture is absorbed. The drying out and re-wetting of the soil occurs throughout the year as reflected in changes in temperature and the amount of rainfall. Structures built on shrinkable clay can sometimes be subject to movement during this process. Often the amounts are so small they go unnoticed. However, the location of trees and other significant vegetation can exacerbate the drying of the soil by extracting moisture through their roots. This can have an impact on the part of a structure closest to it, causing it to move in contrast to the rest of the building. This differential movement causes visible cracks to appear. The cracks open in late summer and close again in winter as reflected by the moisture content of the soil.

During the summer months, water uptake by trees and other vegetation is at its highest, whereas usually rainfall is fairly low. This can result in the soil becoming desiccated. During the winter months, plants become dormant and levels of rainfall usually increase and allow the soil to become re-hydrated. However, in some instances the amount of water extracted is more than is absorbed from annual rainfall, therefore, the soil never has the opportunity to become totally re-hydrated and it develops a permanent desiccation. At this point, the cracks will not completely close and repair works to the building may be necessary.

The Council acknowledges that trees under its ownership may be implicated in causing subsidence damage to adjacent structures. To mitigate this, we have in place a systematic maintenance programme for all street trees and those that have been identified as a potential risk. Occasionally, proactive tree management does not prevent subsidence damage occurring and it may be necessary to remove a tree.

The onus is on the owner of a property to prove a tree is an effective cause of subsidence damage. Currently, the Council will usually require the following evidence as a minimum to investigate a claim against one of its trees;

- An engineer's report detailing damage to building (location, nature, BRE category, crack monitoring, drainage survey)
- Plan and profile of foundations.
- Site plan indicating location of structure in relation to trees and other vegetation in the vicinity.
- Arboricultural report.
- Results of soil investigation tests confirming profile, moisture content, plasticity index, desiccation and tree root identification.

## 7.2 LTOA - Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims

The London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) has recently published the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of their Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims. This is widely recognised as current best practice for managing tree related subsidence claims. The LTOA recommends that councils adopt the following strategy into its own Boroughs tree strategy. The LTOA Risk Limitation Strategy recommends that:

Publicly owned trees;

- Local Authorities instigate a regime of cyclical pruning of council owned trees in areas predisposed to building movement, where this is appropriate.
- Local Authorities provide dedicated resources for dealing with subsidence generated claims directed at council owned trees.
- Local Authorities instigate a regime of selective removal and replacement of street tree stock in areas predisposed to building movement, where this is appropriate.

Privately owned trees;



- Local Authorities provide dedicated resources for dealing with subsidence generated Conservation Area notifications and Tree Preservation Order applications.
- Local Authorities review all unsettled claims providing dedicated resources to challenge all unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated and inaccurate evidence or where in the case of preserved trees, The Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 can provide relief from the claim.

All trees;

- Local Authorities challenge unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated and inaccurate evidence.

The LTOA also recommends placing a monetary value on trees using CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees), primarily as a way of valuing street trees in relation to a third party insurance claim. Once a tree is valued it will allow the Council to specify the level of evidence required to investigate an Insurance claim.

This forms the basis of the Joint Mitigation Protocol, which seeks to establish best practice in the processing and investigation of tree root related Insurance claims, benchmarking time scales for responses and levels of evidence.

It has been developed with the input of insurers, local authority tree and risk managers, loss adjusters, engineers and arboricultural consultants. Its principal aims are to standardise the process of managing claims, while also recognising the value of trees in the built environment and providing local authorities with all the investigative evidence required at the beginning of the process. Trees that should be retained will be and claims will be processed quickly so resident's properties are repaired without unnecessary delay.

The Council currently follows the recommendations in the Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims. However, consideration must be given to adopting the Joint Mitigation Protocol for managing tree root related Insurance claims.

### 7.3 Gallagher Bassett - Review of Tree Risk Management

Gallagher Bassett completed a review of Tree Risk Management in the Borough in 2007. Their recommendations included:

- A Tree Risk Management Strategy is drafted, formally adopted and implemented as soon as is practicable.

- Full use of the computerised tree management system (Confirm Arboriculture) to develop the management of all Council trees.

## **8. Tree maintenance and planting programme.**

The following paragraphs set out what we will do with regards to maintaining the Council's trees and how we intend to enhance the total tree population within the borough.

### **8.1 Tree maintenance programme**

The Council has introduced a proactive approach to tree maintenance and management in recent years. The majority of street trees are maintained on a three yearly cycle, a small number are maintained on a two yearly cycle. Trees on housing estates are maintained on a four yearly cycle.

The type of pruning works undertaken depends on the tree's location and the species of tree. Minimal works will be undertaken in order to sufficiently manage the tree. This may often only involve removing the lower branches to increase clearance for pedestrians and vehicle traffic and/or cutting back the branches from adjacent buildings. A reduction of the height of the tree is usually undertaken for managing the potential risk of subsidence damage or where the tree has been managed by crown reduction historically.

The Council will not remove a tree or undertake unnecessary pruning works where there is no good arboricultural reason. The Council will undertake works to fulfil its legal obligations to ensure the safety of the public and properties.

Tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken to;

- Improve reception for satellite TV reception.
- Increase amount of sunlight reaching properties or gardens.
- Alleviate seasonal or naturally occurring problems, e.g. falling leaves, fruit, seeds or berries, bird droppings, pollen.
- Allow for vehicle crossovers, except in extenuating circumstances.

Tree works will be undertaken;

- Where an inspection has identified visible decay, fungal brackets indicating possible root and trunk decay or any other defect that would lead to the tree failing.
- To abate an actionable nuisance, where branches are touching buildings, e.g. physical contact with walls, windows and gutters.

- Where Highways infrastructure (road signs, street lights, etc) and sightlines for vehicles and pedestrians are obscured.
- When previous maintenance regimes have determined that future works are of the same specification for that specimen, e.g. pollarding, crown reduction.

The installation of new CCTV cameras must take into consideration existing trees to prevent requests for unnecessary pruning works or the removal of trees to improve desired sightlines.

All trees are inspected by qualified arboricultural officers, who also determine the tree work specification. Tree works are carried out by approved tree work contractors or the current in house provision.

## 8.2 Tree planting programme

Since 2004, there has been a gradual increase in the number of new trees planted, particularly street trees, where 738 more trees have been planted than were removed. Our records indicate that more than 90% of new street trees planted survive. The Council is committed to enhancing wherever possible, the total number of trees under its ownership. We will ensure replacement trees are planted for all those removed in streets, parks, open spaces and housing sites and plant an additional 200 new trees each year to increase the total number of trees under Council ownership.

In the last five years, the tree planting programme has been supported by a variety of funding streams including the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF), Social Regeneration Budget (SRB), New Deal for Communities (NDC), Transport for London (TFL) and the Area Assemblies (Making the Difference projects). New tree planting has also been funded by private sponsorship from residents and local businesses. All avenues for external funding for tree planting will be explored.

The Council has matched this level of investment by agreeing a capital provision for 2007-2009. This will allow for the increases in the overall tree population to continue.

Planting the 'right tree in the right place' is one of the principal objectives of the Mayor of London's Tree and Woodland Framework for London and the Government's Strategy for Trees, Woods and Forests. The careful selection of appropriate tree species and planting location is essential to minimise future nuisance issues and unnecessary maintenance costs.

The risk of subsidence damage to built structures has resulted in a reduction in the planting of larger forest type species which have a high

water demand. The Council does however, recognise that large trees make a greater contribution in terms of environmental benefits and will be considered for planting in appropriate locations such as in parks and open spaces, along transport corridors and in areas where the risk of subsidence is low.

The choice of tree species is dependent on location and local landscape character. A greater variety of trees can be planted in parks, open spaces and housing sites, species will be selected on suitability to setting, biodiversity value and visual appearance. The selection of street trees is guided by their mature size, water demand, crown shape and future management requirements. Appendix 4 contains a list of tree species suitable for street tree planting. The list is not definitive and additional species will be considered to mitigate predicted increased temperatures and where they have shown to be appropriate for street tree planting.

Areas targeted for new tree planting are those where trees have been removed or where there is an identified need to increase the overall tree cover. Requests from local residents for new trees in their road or area will be taken into consideration within the planting programme.

The following table shows the Council wards identified for new tree planting between 2008 and 2010 and the proposed numbers of trees. These wards and targets take into consideration the existing vacant tree pits and where trees have been removed from other sites, such as housing estates. Replacement trees will also be planted in other wards during this period.

<b>2008/09</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>Target</b>
Alexandra	75	Highgate	75
Fortis Green	50	Noel Park	50
Seven Sisters	75	White Hart Lane	75
Northumberland Park	50	Tottenham Hale	50

A proposal to plant new trees for use as a food source in managed and secure sites, such as schools, allotments and some housing sites, will be investigated. Planting trees that produce edible fruits and nuts will help to enhance food security and expand local food production reducing CO2 emissions.

## **9. Community involvement**

It is essential that local people play a part and feel engaged in the process of protecting and improving their local environment. For a number of years

there has been an extensive network of 'Friends' groups who participate in the management of parks, open spaces and woodlands.

In December 2007, the Council launched a new Tree Warden scheme to develop community participation and encourage greater community involvement in tree related matters. Tree Wardens can play an important role in caring for trees and promoting the wide range of benefits they provide. A total of 65 residents are registered as tree wardens and 40 have attended 3 or more training sessions to date. The aim is to have 50 trained Tree Wardens across the borough, playing an active role in their local community.

A programme of training and seminars will be held during 2008-2009 for new Tree Wardens. This will increase their knowledge and skills so they feel confident to get involved in protecting trees and undertaking projects in their community. It is proposed to set up a programme of schools visits by Tree Wardens to educate children on the multiple benefits trees provide which will help towards the reduction of vandalism to newly planted and existing trees.

The Tree Section will ensure consultation is undertaken with residents regarding new tree planting projects and inform them in advance of programmed tree works and all tree removals. Consultation will consist of a variety of methods, including, notifying residents associations and friends groups, notices being erected on trees and letter drops. Councillors will also be notified of programmed tree works and tree removals within their ward.

## **10. Key objectives and action plan**

The Council has identified key objectives in the Community strategy and Greenest Borough Strategy that relate to the management of its tree stock and those on private land. The strategic aim of The Council is to create an environmentally sustainable future for healthier people with a better quality of life.

The Tree Strategy will support the Council's strategic objectives by ensuring that trees within the Borough are protected, managed in a proactive and systematic manner and their overall number is increased.

### Key objectives

The Council has five key objectives in implementing this strategy.

- To protect and enhance the Borough's natural environment.
- To increase the pro-active management of Council owned trees.

- To increase public involvement in the management of Council trees.
- To improve tree management and create a safer, healthier tree population.
- To encourage other agencies to adopt the Tree Strategy.

### Action Plan

An Action Plan has been prepared to support the tree strategy. It sets out what we hope to achieve between now and 2011. It identifies the key actions necessary to meet the key objectives and build on the recent improvements in the management and enhancement of the Borough's tree population. Successful implementation of the Tree Strategy will involve co-operation across Council services.

### Performance Indicators

To measure the success of the Tree Strategy, a series of performance indicators will be used, including:

- No of new trees successfully established each year.
- No of vacant tree pits planted with replacement trees.
- No of trained Tree Wardens actively taking part in community events.
- No of street trees maintained on a three year cycle.
- No of parks and open space sites inspected and database updated.
- No of Insurance claims successfully defended.
- Public satisfaction with parks and open spaces

## Tree Strategy Action Plan

### 1. To protect and enhance the Borough's natural environment.

Action no	Implementation	Measurement	Time frame
1.1	Plant at least 250 new trees each year to continue the increase in Council owned tree stock	No of vacant tree pits planted with replacement trees	Ongoing
		No of new trees successfully established each year	Ongoing
1.2	To encourage the active management of Woodlands and Conservation sites to protect and increase biodiversity (NI 197)	No of new native trees successfully established each year	Spring 2009
		No of work days organised each year	Ongoing
1.3	Place a monetary value on street trees using CAVAT	No of street trees valued	Spring 2009-2011
1.4	Support production of new Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on trees on development sites	Adoption of new SPG by the Council	Autumn 2010
1.5	Investigate and develop plan for planting trees with edible fruit / nuts on secure Council sites	No of new trees successfully established each year	Autumn 2009

### 2. To increase the pro-active management regime of Council trees.

Action no	Implementation	Measurement	Time frame
2.1	Develop the use of the computerised tree management system (Confirm Arboriculture) for all council trees	Full use of system for all programmed and reactive works.	Autumn 2009
		No of Parks and Open Space sites inspected and database updated.	Ongoing

### 3. To increase public involvement in the management of Council trees.

Action no	Implementation	Measurement	Time frame
3.1	To develop the Tree Warden Scheme	No of trained Tree Wardens actively taking part in community events	Ongoing
		No of training sessions / events held each year	Ongoing
3.2	To maintain an up to date register of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's)	Completion of updated list of TPO's by Tree Wardens	Autumn 2010
3.3	Review and update information on tree management procedures on Council website	Publish Tree Strategy on website	Autumn 2008
3.4	To establish a programme of schools visits / talks addressing the benefits that trees provide.	No of visits held each year	Autumn 2009
3.5	To establish a community tree nursery producing trees of local provenance	No of new trees established each year	Autumn 2009
3.6	Actively promote National Tree Week	No of events organised each year	Ongoing

### 4. To improve tree management and create a safer, healthier tree population.

Action no	Implementation	Measurement	Time frame
4.1	Fulfil Council's duty of care and reducing risk to public and property to an acceptable level	Inspection and maintenance of all street trees on a three year cycle	Ongoing
		Introduction of a proactive inspection regime for trees in Parks and Open Spaces.	2009-2010
		Introduction of a proactive inspection regime for trees in Woodlands and Conservation sites.	2011-2012
4.2	To introduce a new contract for Arboricultural operations	New contract approved for commencement	Spring 2009



## 11. Council Departments responsible for trees

- 11.1 The Tree section has service level agreements with Frontline Services (Highways) and Homes for Haringey (HFH) to manage trees on land under their ownership. Trees under the ownership of the Parks service and others are maintained on a reactive basis. Qualified Arboricultural Officers respond to public and client enquiries and make recommendations on tree works. However, there are other Council services who have overall responsibility for trees on land they maintain. The Tree section provides professional advice to these services and will act on their behalf.

Listed below are the different council services that currently (2008) share responsibility for trees within the Borough.

### Council trees

Street trees

Council Housing trees

Parks and Open space trees

Woodlands and

Conservation site trees

Educational site trees

### Council service

Frontline Services (Highways)

Homes for Haringey

Parks service

Parks service

Schools and Children's & Young Peoples services

### Privately owned trees

Trees subject to a Tree Preservation Order or in a Conservation Area

Planning Policy and Development

Trees on development sites or covered by planning conditions

Planning Policy and Development

- 11.2 Other agencies with responsibility for trees within the borough.

Alexandra Palace Charitable Trust (Alexandra Park)

City of London Corporation (Highgate wood)

Lee Valley Park Authority (Lee Valley Park)

Network Rail (Railway embankments and other operational land)

Thames Water (Reservoirs and New River)

Transport for London (A1 and A10 roads)

## **12. Appendices (Contents)**

Appendix 1 Bibliography.

Appendix 2 Tree planting data.

Appendix 3 Data collated for review of London's street trees for Greater London Authority.

Appendix 4 List of species suitable for street tree planting.

### **Appendix 1 Bibliography**

The following documents have been produced by the Council and are relevant to the preparation of the Tree Strategy and contain policies on tree related matters.

- Sustainable Community Strategy 2007
- Greenest Borough Strategy 2008
- Open Space Strategy 'A space for everyone' 2006
- Tree Risk Management review report 2007
- Biodiversity Action Plan 2004
- Unitary Development Plan 2006

The following documents were reviewed during the preparation of this strategy.

- A Tree and Woodland Framework for London (Mayor of London) 2005
- Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests (DEFRA) 2007
- Trees in Towns 2 (Dept of Communities and Local Government) 2007
- Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Roots Claims (LTOA) 2007
- London's Urban Heat Island: A Summary for Decision Makers (Mayor of London) 2006
- A Manifesto for London's trees and woodlands (Woodland Trust & Trees for Cities) 2008

## Appendix 2. Tree planting data.

### Total no of new trees planted on all sites 2004-2008.

Council ward	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	Total per ward
Alexandra	13	17	38	26	94
Bounds Green	15	6	29	136	186
Bruce Grove	23	22	0	50	95
Crouch End	20	42	15	30	107
Fortis Green	8	22	25	22	77
Harringay	25	36	35	51	147
Highgate	24	14	4	10	52
Hornsey	15	25	41	40	121
Muswell Hill	25	15	37	36	113
Noel Park	11	16	30	12	69
Northumberland Park	8	101	15	42	166
Seven Sisters	0	27	30	26	83
St Anns	43	53	67	20	183
Stroud Green	75	29	3	10	117
Tottenham Green	5	25	20	54	104
Tottenham Hale	12	26	24	26	88
West Green	6	41	43	31	121
White Hart Lane	97	30	1	10	138
Woodside	9	77	24	35	145
Total per year	434	624	481	667	2206

### No of street trees removed and new street trees planted 2002-2008

Financial Year	No of street trees removed	No of new street trees planted
2002/2003	228	155
2003/2004	201	426
2004/2005	299	273
2005/2006	304	431
2006/2007	197	332
2007/2008	140	490
Total	1,369	2,107

**Appendix 3 Data collated for a review of London's street trees for Greater London Authority (2007).**

**Street tree removals and planting in North London Boroughs**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Total no of street trees</b>	<b>Trees removed 2002-2007</b>	<b>Trees planted 2002-2007</b>	<b>Net loss / gain</b>
Barnet	36,000	2,425	3,723	1,298
Brent*	18,000	1,500	1,000	-500
Camden**	10,000	600	1,000	400
Ealing**	26,500	3,600	3,500	-100
Enfield	20,000	1,950	661	-1289
Hackney	7,000	325	1,350	1025
Hammersmith & Fulham**	8,695	612	1,100	488
Haringey	10,000	1,229	1,617	388
Harrow	18,000	5,000	2,000	-3,000
Islington	10,790	1,519	2,750	1,231
Newham	30,000	1,200	1,600	400
Redbridge	20,872	2,884	4,871	1,987
Tower Hamlets	4,253	284	345	61
Waltham Forest	22,000	N/A	3,265	N/A

\* Estimated figure. \*\* Figures from 2003.

**Street trees removed due to subsidence claims**

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Trees removed 2002-2007</b>	<b>Trees removed because of subsidence claims</b>	<b>Trees removed because of health and safety</b>	<b>% of trees removed due to subsidence claims</b>
Barnet	2,425	110	2,415	4.54
Brent*	1,500	250	250	16.67
Camden*	600	60	540	10.00
Ealing	3,600	400	2,800	11.11
Enfield	1,950	50	1,900	2.56
Hackney	325	130	195	40.00
Hammersmith & Fulham	612	21	51	3.43
Haringey**	1,229	112	688	9.11
Harrow	5,000	50	4,500	1.00
Islington	1,519	N/A	N/A	N/A
Newham	1,200	5	1,200	0.42
Redbridge	2,884	38	2,826	1.32
Tower Hamlets	284	N/A	284	N/A
Waltham Forest	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Estimated figure. \*\* Figures from 2004

## **Appendix 4 List of species suitable for street tree planting**

The choice of tree species is dependent on location and local landscape character. The selection of street trees is guided by their mature size, water demand, crown shape and future management requirements.

The following criteria are considered essential for species selected for street tree planting in close proximity to built structures.

- low water demand
- non-aggressive root system
- small or compound leaves
- upright form
- tolerant to urban stress and pollution
- small fruits

Examples of species selected for street tree planting:

Broad-leaved Cockspur Thorn (*Crataegus X prunifolia*)  
Cockspur Thorn (*Crataegus x lavalleei*)  
Crab Apple (*Malus trilobata*)  
Field maple (*Acer campestre 'Elsrijk'*)  
Flowering Cherries (*Prunus Accolade*, *P. incisa 'Louisa Leo'*, *P. umineko*)  
Himalayan Birch (*Betula utilis Jacquemontii*)  
Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*, *C. monogyna 'Stricta'*)  
Japanese Privet (*Ligustrum japonicum*)  
Maidenhair tree (*Ginkgo biloba*)  
Midland Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigata 'Pauls Scarlet'*)  
Ornamental Pear (*Pyrus calleryana 'Chanticleer'*)  
Rowan (*Sorbus aucuparia*, *S. 'Sheerwater Seedling'*, *S. x thuringiaca 'fastigiata'*)  
Silver Birch (*Betula pendula*)  
Small leaved Lime (*Tilia cordata 'Greenspire'*)  
Snowy mespil (*Amelanchier arborea 'Robin Hill'*)  
Stone Birch (*Betula ermanii*)  
Swedish Whitebeam (*Sorbus intermedia 'Brouwers'*)  
Whitebeam (*Sorbus aria 'Lutescens'*)

**Trees with a larger mature size will also be planted as street trees when appropriate to the location.**

### **Planting stock**

The vast majority of new trees planted will be of advanced nursery stock; that is trees with a stem circumference of between 12-16cm and a height of 3-5m. New tree stock will be predominantly container grown which usually establish in a shorter time period.