

Public Document Pack

WHITE PAPER AMENDMENTS – TREES

This page is intentionally left blank



COUNCIL MEETING – 23rd March 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A1 TO WP2	22/3/22	22/3/22

Submitted by:	Councillor Stewart Golton
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Environment and Housing)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment.

In paragraph 5, delete all after “...setting out” and replace with:

“...proposals for the creation of a Leeds Tree Strategy to build a stronger partnership between the Council and communities that will guarantee a minimum standard of maintenance residents can expect from the Council, and a commitment to enabling residents to take control of their local environment.

This will also include a commitment to fund a team of arboriculturalists to proactively focus on getting our street trees back to a manageable condition, skilling up our current parks staff to do more tree works within our parks themselves, and work with WYCA and local colleges to ensure that forestry management is promoted as a growth area for the new green economy.”

The amended White Paper will then read:

“This Council recognises the enormous environmental benefit of a large tree-planting programme. As well as providing a vital contribution to carbon capture and storage, tree planting plays an important role in improving biodiversity and making Leeds a cleaner, greener city to live in.

Council supports the aim to plant 50 hectares of woodland on council land every year until 2045, adding 5.6 million trees to the 1,400 hectares of woodland that it already manages.

In light of the scale of this tree planting ambition, however, Council believes it is time for the administration to rethink its approach to tree maintenance in the city. Too often, the concerns of local people living near woodland or residential trees are overlooked, whilst unmaintained and overgrown trees are allowed to continue to have an adverse effect, due to a combination of inflexible policy, lack of staff, and insufficient resources.

Council believes it would be irresponsible to make this situation worse by failing to adequately resource the Forestry Service so that it can meet the tree maintenance demands of existing trees and the millions of new trees due to be planted over the coming years.

Council calls for a report to Executive Board setting out proposals for the creation of a Leeds Tree Strategy to build a stronger partnership between the Council and communities that will guarantee a minimum standard of maintenance residents can expect from the Council, and a commitment to enabling residents to take control of their local environment.

This will also include a commitment to fund a team of arboriculturalists to proactively focus on getting our street trees back to a manageable condition, skilling up our current parks staff to do more tree works within our parks themselves, and work with WYCA and local colleges to ensure that forestry management is promoted as a growth area for the new green economy.”

Proposed by:



Cllr Stewart Golton

Seconded by:



Cllr Colin Campbell

Deadlines for submission

White Papers	- 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions	- 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments (including references back)	- 10.00 am on the day before the meeting

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

COUNCIL MEETING – 23rd March 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A2 to WP2	22/3/22	22/3/22

Submitted by:	Councillor Ann Forsaith
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member for Environment and Housing
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Delete all after the second paragraph and insert:

“Council recognises, however, that the climate and ecological benefits of trees planted today will not return those benefits for several decades and cannot therefore be considered as an alternative response to the drastic cuts in carbon emissions needed if Leeds is to achieve its 2030 zero carbon target.

Furthermore, Council recognises that mature established trees provide for the most carbon capture and storage, greatest biodiversity and greatest environmental and emotional benefits, and therefore no tree should be removed simply for ‘quality of life’ considerations unless there is an established risk to life and property in which circumstance tree surgery or removal should be considered.

Council endorses the key role of the Forestry Service in meeting the tree maintenance demands of existing trees and the millions of new trees due to be planted over the coming years, which will require additional funding.

Council calls for a report to go to the Executive Board setting out options to make sure sufficient resources are allocated to Forestry so the volume of maintenance work can be carried out.”

So that the motion reads:

“This Council recognises the enormous environmental benefit of a large tree-planting programme. As well as providing a vital contribution to carbon capture and storage, tree planting plays an important role in improving biodiversity and making Leeds a cleaner, greener city to live in.

Council supports the aim to plant 50 hectares of woodland on council land every year until 2045, adding 5.6 million trees to the 1,400 hectares of woodland that it already manages.

Council recognises, however, that the climate and ecological benefits of trees planted today will not return those benefits for several decades and cannot therefore be considered as an alternative response to the drastic cuts in carbon emissions needed if Leeds is to achieve its 2030 zero carbon target.

Furthermore, Council recognises that mature established trees provide for the most carbon capture and storage, greatest biodiversity, Page 5

and therefore no tree should be removed simply for 'quality of life' considerations unless there is an established risk to life and property in which circumstance tree surgery or removal should be considered.

Council endorses the key role of the Forestry Service in meeting the tree maintenance demands of existing trees and the millions of new trees due to be planted over the coming years, which will require additional funding.

Council calls for a report to go to the Executive Board setting out options to make sure sufficient resources are allocated to Forestry so the volume of maintenance work can be carried out."

Ann Forsyth

Deadlines for submission

White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

COUNCIL MEETING – 23rd March 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper Amendment	A3 to WP2	22/3/22	22/3/22

Submitted by:	Councillor Salma Arif
Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel:	Executive Board
Executive Member/Chair:	Executive Member (Public Health and Active Lifestyles)
Relevant Director	Director of Communities, Housing and Environment

Delete All after the second paragraph and replace with: “Council supports further work with the forestry service to enable the effective management of the increased number of trees in communities in Leeds. Council welcomes the input of all members on the approach to tree management, and notes that Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) considered the Council’s tree management policy at its November 2021, as well as a Remote Working Group meeting in January 2022.

Council notes Government cuts to council funding have reduced the budget for Parks and Countryside by over 50% in the last 10 years and calls on Government to allocate greater financial support to councils so that Parks and Countryside departments and tree management services can be adequately funded.”

Amended motion will read:

“This Council recognises the enormous environmental benefit of a large tree-planting programme. As well as providing a vital contribution to carbon capture and storage, tree planting plays an important role in improving biodiversity and making Leeds a cleaner, greener city to live in.

Council supports the aim to plant 50 hectares of woodland on council land every year until 2045, adding 5.6 million trees to the 1,400 hectares of woodland that it already manages.

Council supports further work with the forestry service to enable the effective management of the increased number of trees in communities in Leeds. Council welcomes the input of all members on the approach to tree management, and notes that Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) considered the Council’s tree management policy at its November 2021, as well as a Remote Working Group meeting in January 2022.

Council notes Government cuts to council funding have reduced the budget for Parks and Countryside by over 50% in the last 10 years and calls on Government to allocate greater financial support to councils so that Parks and Countryside departments and tree management services can be adequately funded.”

Salmer

Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)
