

COUNCIL MEETING – 23RD MARCH 2022

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP2	14/3/2022	15/3/2022

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

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 options for a review of policy and resources in this area, to include input from scrutiny, and to be guided by the following key principles:

1. “Quality of life” of residents, including loss of light complaints, to be given greater emphasis in deciding how tree work is planned and prioritised;
2. Sufficient resources to be allocated to Forestry such that a greater range and higher volume of work can be carried out more quickly;
3. Consultation to take place with local ward councillors and communities over the nature and location of tree planting initiatives to ensure future problems are avoided.

Councillor Matthew Robinson

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)
