

COUNCIL MEETING – 23rd March 2022

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

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| 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

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| 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)
