

**COUNCIL MEETING – 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 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."

*Ann Forsyth*

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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)

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