

**ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY PANEL
MAINTENANCE OF HIGHWAY TREES AND NATURAL WOODLAND – ACTION PLAN**

11 September 2012

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	BY WHOM	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>1. That, in order to ensure against a permanent loss of mature trees for future generations, the TreeWise recording/information system is used as the basis of a more proactive approach to highway tree management through a regular, scheduled, inspection and maintenance programme.</p>	<p>The Treewise data system has been implemented and a 5 year survey is continuing, we are currently in the second year of the survey. The full survey will be complete by 2016. The information recorded and provided will ensure an efficient proactive maintenance of highway trees in the future.</p>	<p>Senior Area Care Manager - Arboriculture</p>	<p>Existing Revenue Budget</p>	<p>Ongoing. Year 1 Survey is complete. This is a rolling Programme.</p>
<p>2. That decisions to remove mature highway trees should be based on reasonable and realistic risk assessments, with the initial presumption being for protection of the tree, rather than removal.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Quantative Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) will be introduced to assist the retention of trees. Decay detection equipment will be required to enable recorded evidence of highway trees structural integrity.</p>	<p>Senior Area Care Manager - Arboriculture</p>	<p>Purchase of Tree Decay Detection Device System (Resistograph) and training = £10k from existing budgets</p>	<p>To be fully introduced by March 2013</p>
<p>3. That, in order to maintain its effectiveness, the Council's Tree Policy is reviewed and revised/updated at least every five years.</p>	<p>A 5-year review of the Councils tree policy has been implemented.</p>	<p>Streetscene Services Manager and Senior Area Care Manager - Arboriculture</p>	<p>NIL</p>	<p>Next revision due in 2015</p>

4. That every effort should be made to encourage increased tree cover in Middlesbrough. This should involve a judicious approach to planting by the Council and developers and - in order to facilitate more efficient future tree management - ensuring the use of appropriate species in appropriate areas.	Opportunities and funding for increased tree cover will be sought in open space development plans where trees can be planted in appropriate places and maintained in the future. The Councils Arboricultural and Landscape Officers will continue to advise on the appropriate species to be planted. Appropriate increased tree coverage will be a target in the new greenspaces strategy 2013–2018.	Landscape Development Manager	NIL	2013-2018
5. That the draft Supplementary Planning Document on Design is amended to include more prominence on trees and the need to better incorporate trees in new development and protect them as part of the development process.	The draft supplementary planning documents now include a section on urban tree design and protection written by the Council's landscape team.	Landscape Development Manager	NIL	Ongoing subject to consultation