Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

A meeting of the **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS)** will be held as a **REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM** on **THURSDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2020** at **6:00 PM** and you are requested to attend for the transaction of the following business:-

AGENDA

APOLOGIES

1. **MINUTES** (Pages 3 - 6)

   To approve as a correct record the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) meeting held on 8th October 2020.

   Contact Officer: A Green 01223 752549

2. **MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

   To receive from Members declarations as to disclosable pecuniary and other interests in relation to any Agenda item.

3. **NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS** (Pages 7 - 14)

   A copy of the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions is attached. Members are invited to note the Plan and to comment as appropriate on any items contained therein.

   Contact Officer: H Peacey 01223 752548

4. **HUNTINGDONSHIRE TREE STRATEGY REVIEW** (Pages 15 - 114)

   The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy Review is to be presented to the Panel.

   Contact Officer: T Miles 07864 604208

5. **LITTER MINIMISATION UPDATE** (Pages 115 - 138)

   The Panel are to receive a Litter Minimisation update.

   Contact Officer: K Wilson 07593 130095

6. **STRATEGIC REVIEW OF MARKET SERVICES - PROJECT OVERVIEW** (Pages 139 - 146)

The Strategic Review of Market Services – Project Overview is to be presented to the Panel.

Contact Officer: G McDowell 01480 388386

7. **OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME** (Pages 147 - 150)

The Panel are to receive the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme.

Contact Officer: A Green 01223 752549

Dated this 28th day of October 2020

Head of Paid Service

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non-Statutory Disclosable Interests

Further information on [Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and Non - Statutory Disclosable Interests is available in the Council's Constitution](#)

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Please contact Mr Adam Green, Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny), Tel No. 01223 752549/e-mail Adam.Green@huntingdonshire.gov.uk if you have a general query on any Agenda Item, wish to tender your apologies for absence from the meeting, or would like information on any decision taken by the Committee/Panel.

Specific enquiries with regard to items on the Agenda should be directed towards the Contact Officer.

Agenda and enclosures can be viewed on the [District Council's website](#).

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

MINUTES of the meeting of the OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY PANEL (CUSTOMERS AND PARTNERSHIPS) held as a Remote Meeting via Zoom on Thursday, 8th October 2020

PRESENT: Councillor D M Tysoe – Chairman.

                  Councillors   T D Alban,   B S Banks,   J W Davies, Mrs A Dickinson,   D A Giles,   Mrs S Smith   and Mrs S R Wilson.

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence from the meeting were submitted on behalf of Councillors S J Criswell and Mrs J Tavener.

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillors M L Beuttell and T D Sanderson.

13   MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 10th September 2020 was approved as a correct record by the Panel.

14   MEMBERS' INTERESTS

No declarations of interest were received.

15   NOTICE OF KEY EXECUTIVE DECISIONS

The Panel received and noted the current Notice of Key Executive Decisions (a copy of which has been appended in the Minute Book) which had been prepared by the Executive Leader for the period 1st October 2020 to 31st January 2021.

16   HEALTHY OPEN SPACES STRATEGY

Consideration was given to a report by the Development Manager (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) to which was appended the Healthy Open Spaces Strategy.

The Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment introduced the report and explained to the Panel that the Strategy set out the Council's plan for open spaces for the next 10 years. The Development Manager added that the Strategy was needed in order to protect the District's open spaces in the future, manage the environment and local ecosystems and fully utilise the open spaces within the District. Members' attention was drawn to how important open spaces were to residents, as a survey conducted during the development of the Strategy highlighted that 68% of respondents visited greenspaces on a regular basis (at least once a fortnight) and that 90% of respondents thought that greenspaces improved mental health and wellbeing. Also, respondents highlighted nature and wildlife as the most important aspect of greenspaces.

Overview and Scrutiny Members were recognised for their involvement in the development of the Strategy and Councillors Mrs A Dickinson, K P Gulson, Mrs S Smith, Mrs J Tavener and Mrs S R Wilson were thanked for their contributions.

When questions and comments were invited from the Panel, Councillor Wilson commented that she thought the enthusiasm of the team was infectious and that the community engagement undertaken was highly effective. Councillor Alban added that he regularly visits Hinchingbrooke Country Park and was very impressed with the commitment of the staff and volunteers.

Following a question of clarification from Councillor Giles, the Panel was informed that Huntingdonshire has 87 square metres of green space per person, compared to 35 square metres per person in Great Britain and 42 square metres per person in the East of England.

Councillor Davies asked how the Strategy would help in balancing the accommodation of wildlife in green spaces within the District with their use by the public. He added that the Council should be mindful of looking after the various habitats that existed throughout the green spaces. In response, the Panel was reassured that wildlife habitats would be protected and actively managed. Councillor Alban stated that the wildflower meadows were an excellent addition to the open spaces.

Councillor Alban then questioned why Officers had not visited children from rural schools in the same way that they had visited children in larger more urban primary schools. The Development Manager explained that the schools visited had taken up the offer of a visit from the team. It was suggested that many Members were school governors or had links to schools in other ways and these avenues could be used to achieve greater coverage of communication between Council Officers and pupils.

Clarification was sought from Councillor Wilson that the Strategy would be well used and that it had buy-in from the Executive Councillors and Senior Officers. Members were reassured that there was buy-in and there was a recognition that the green open spaces were important to residents and that they needed to be well managed. The Strategy would ensure the latter occurred because it would facilitate monitoring. Councillor Dickinson asked a question about the monitoring process. In response, it was explained that the Strategy was to run for a duration of 10 years but that there would be a review on an annual basis and then a refresh in five years.

A discussion ensued about other benefits of green open spaces. Members welcomed the concept that open spaces could be used for social prescribing and could help residents with their mental health. The Strategy was welcomed by Councillor Banks and he stated that it could help community groups with their open space aims as well.

The comment was made by Councillor Alban that the open spaces could be more well used if the Council could attract visitors to the least well-known areas as well as the more high-profile ones. Members were reassured that the Strategy aimed to grow the profile of open spaces within Huntingdonshire. Following a further comment by Councillor Giles, Members noted the intention to explain clearly how

indirect charging contributed towards the upkeep of open spaces. Whereupon, it was

RESOLVED

> that the Cabinet be recommended to approved the Healthy Open Spaces Strategy and the 10-year Action Plan.

17   DIGITAL STRATEGY DISCUSSION

Having noted that the Digital Strategy would not be ready to discuss at the meeting, the Panel

RESOLVED

> that the item be deferred to the meeting in November 2020.

18   OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME

A report by the Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) (a copy of which is appended in the Minute Book) containing the Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme was received and noted.

Chairman

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NOTICE OF EXECUTIVE KEY DECISIONS INCLUDING THOSE TO BE CONSIDERED IN PRIVATE

Prepared by:	Councillor R Fuller, Executive Leader of the Council	
Date of Publication:	21 October 2020	
For Period:	1 November 2020 to 28 February 2021	

Membership of the Cabinet is as follows:-

Councillor Details		Councillor Contact Details
Councillor Mrs M L Beuttell	Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment	Care of Huntingdonshire District Council Pathfinder House St Mary's Street Huntingdon PE29 3TN Tel: 01480 388388 E-mail: Marge.Beuttell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor S Bywater	Executive Councillor for Community Resilience and Well-Being	9 Crabapple Close Sawtry Huntingdon PE28 5QG Tel: 07984 637553 E-mail: Simon.Bywater@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor R Fuller	Executive Leader of the Council and Executive Councillor for Housing and Economic Development	8 Sarah Grace Court New Road St Ives Huntingdon PE27 5DS Tel: 01480 388311 E-mail: Ryan.Fuller@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Councillor J A Gray	Executive Councillor for Finance and Resources	Vine Cottage 2 Station Road Catworth Huntingdon PE28 OPE Tel: 01832 710799 E-mail: Jonathan.Gray@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor D Keane	Executive Councillor for Corporate Services	1 Bells Villas Mill Street Houghton Cambridgeshire PE28 2BA Tel: 01480 467147 E-mail: David.Keane@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor J Neish	Deputy Executive Leader and Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning	7 Willow Green Needingworth St Ives Cambridgeshire PE27 4SW Tel: 01480 466110 E-mail: Jon.Neish@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
Councillor K Prentice	Executive Councillor for Leisure and Regulatory Services	2 Ushers Court 89 Great North Road Eaton Socon St Neots PE19 8EL Tel: 01480 214838 E-mail: Keith.Prentice@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Notice is hereby given of:

- Key decisions that will be taken by the Cabinet (or other decision maker)
- Confidential or exempt executive decisions that will be taken in a meeting from which the public will be excluded (for whole or part).

A notice/agenda together with reports and supporting documents for each meeting will be published at least five working days before the date of the meeting. In order to enquire about the availability of documents and subject to any restrictions on their disclosure, copies may be requested by contacting the Democratic Services Team on 01480 388169 or E-mail Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.

Agendas may be accessed electronically at the District Council's website.

Formal notice is hereby given under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that, where indicated part of the meetings listed in this notice will be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting will contain confidential or exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it. See the relevant paragraphs below.

Any person who wishes to make representations to the decision maker about a decision which is to be made or wishes to object to an item being considered in private may do so by emailing Democratic.Services@huntingdonshire.gov.uk.or by contacting the Democratic Services Team. If representations are received at least eight working days before the date of the meeting, they will be published with the agenda together with a statement of the District Council's response. Any representations received after this time will be verbally reported and considered at the meeting.

Paragraphs of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 (as amended) (Reason for the report to be considered in private)

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the Financial and Business Affairs of any particular person (including the Authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations that are arising between the Authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of or office holders under the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the Authority proposes:-
   (a)To give under any announcement a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or
   (b)To make an Order or Direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime.

Huntingdonshire District Council
Pathfinder House
St Mary's Street
Huntingdon PE29 3TN.

Notes:-   (i)   Additions changes from the previous Forward Plan are annotated ***
            (ii)   Part II confidential items which will be considered in private are annotated ## and shown in italic.

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Community Chest Grant Aid Awards 2020/21	Grants Panel	11 & 25 Nov 2020 9 & 23 Dec 2020 6 & 20 Jan 2021 3 & 17 Feb 2021		Claudia Deeth, Community Resilience Manager Tel No: 01480 388233 or email: Claudia.Deeth@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller & S Bywater	Customers and Partnerships
Digital Strategy***	Cabinet	19 Nov 2020		Tony Evans, Assistant Director (Transformation) Tel No: 07729 479446 or email: Tony.Evans@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		D Keane	Customer and Partnerships
Tree Strategy	Cabinet	19 Nov 2020		Tamsin Miles, Arboricultural Officer Tel No: 01480 388679 or email: Tamsin.Miles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Neish	Customer and Partnerships

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Approval of Council Tax Base 2021/22	Chairman of Corporate Governance and Section 151 Officer	8 Dec 2020		Amanda Burns, Revenues and Benefits Manager Tel No: 01480 388122 or email: Anmanda.Burns@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J A Gray	Performance and Growth
Waste Minimisation Strategy	Cabinet	10 Dec 2020		Neil Sloper, Head of Operations Tel No: 01480 388635 or email: Neil.Sloper@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		Mrs M L Beuttell	Customer and Partnerships
Buckden Neighbourhood Plan	Cabinet	10 Dec 2020		Clare Bond, Planning Policy Team Leader Tel No: 01480 388435 or email: Clare.Bond@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Neish	Performance and Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
Lettings Policy Review	Cabinet	10 Dec 2020		Jon Collen, Housing Needs and Resource Manager Tel No: 01480 388220 or email Jon.Collen@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		R Fuller	Customers and Partnerships
Final 2020/21 Revenue Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy (2022/23 to 2025/26) Including the Capital Programme***	Cabinet	11 Feb 2021		Claire Edwards, Chief Financial Manager Tel No: 01480 388822 or email: Claire.Edwards@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Gray	Performance and Growth

Subject/Matter for Decision	Decision/ recommendation to be made by	Date decision to be taken	Documents Available	How relevant Officer can be contacted	Reasons for the report to be considered in private (paragraph no.)	Relevant Executive Councillor	Relevant Overview & Scrutiny Panel
2021/22 Treasury Management, Capital and Investment Strategies***	Cabinet	11 Feb 2021		Claire Edwards, Chief Financial Manager Tel No: 01480 388822 or email: Claire.Edwards@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Gray	Performance and Growth
Community Infrastructure Levy Governance***	Cabinet	11 Feb 2021		Clara Kerr, Service Manager - Growth Tel No: 01480 388430 or email: Clara.Kerr@huntingdonshire.gov.uk		J Neish	Performance and Growth

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Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy Review

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) – 5th November 2020

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning

Report by: Arboricultural Officer, Tamsin Miles

Ward(s) affected: All

RECOMMENDATION

The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is invited to review and comment on the Cabinet report attached at Appendix A.

Public
Key Decision - Yes

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy Review

Meeting/Date: Cabinet – 19th November 2020

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Strategic Planning

Report by: Arboricultural Officer, Tamsin Miles

Wards affected: All

Executive Summary:

This report sets out the steps taken in the review of the Council's existing 2015 Tree Strategy and documents the development of the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030 and its Action Plan.

The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 – 2030 is a collaborative document (written by Officers alongside a Councillor Working Group) which builds on the Council's existing 5-year tree strategy.

The 2020 Tree Strategy is an evidence-based document which sets out a clear direction for arboricultural management across all Council services which interact with trees. At the heart of the strategy is a robust vision which focuses on sustainability and creating a legacy of tree establishment and management.

The revised strategy contains updated policies relating to all aspects of Local Authority tree management and incorporates national issues such as biosecurity, canopy cover management and subsidence.

Alongside the revised strategy, a 10-year Action Plan has been developed which sets out key projects and tasks to be completed over the life of the strategy. These set out how we can meet the key aims of document and works towards its vision. The report concludes with resource implications, implementation proposals and wider considerations of the document's endorsement.

RECOMMENDED

To endorse the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 – 2030 and the proposed 10-year Action Plan

1.   **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1   To seek endorsement of the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 – 2030, its vision ('*managing our districts trees in a sustainable way to ensure that their benefits are experienced by current and future generations*') and the 7 key aims which underpin the strategy.

1.2   The report also seeks the endorsement of the proposed Action Plan.

2.   **BACKGROUND**

2.1   The current Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy (2015 Strategy) was developed and adopted by the Council in 2015 and covered a 5-year period to 2020.

2.2   The 2015 Strategy focussed on gaining a better understanding of our own tree stock (trees owned managed by the Council) and developing standards for others to work to in relation to protected trees and development. The strategy included a broad action plan covering tasks to be completed over the strategy period and set policies in relation to the management of Council owned trees and woodlands.

2.3   While the 2015 Strategy provided a sound grounding for the arboricultural functions of the Council, it not only reflected a different organisation to that which we have today, but also an arboricultural industry which has changed significantly in the 5 years since its adoption. These organisational and industry-based changes resulted in a recommendation by Officers that a wholescale review of the 2015 Strategy was required.

2.4   To facilitate this review, a Councillor lead Tree Strategy Working Group (under the scope of the Overview and Scrutiny – Customers and Partnerships) was created 2017. The working group, alongside Arboricultural Officers from Development and Operations set about reviewing the content and 2015 Strategy, developing a new vision for the 2020 Strategy, and setting the scope for any new topic areas to be included.

2.5   Final proposals for the vision and scope of the 2020 Strategy were presented to Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) in October 2019 with a view to have a revised Tree Strategy ready adoption in mid-2020.

3.   **THE KEY CHANGES TO THE TREE STRATEGY**

3.1   The tree strategy review process has looked at all elements of the 2015 Strategy and considered their relevance in light of modern aboricultural management. It responds to current national issues that affect trees, considers how our residents interact with them and incorporates these into the core of the document. While many of the central themes and policy areas contained in the 2015 Strategy have been retained as part of the this review, the 2020 document takes a more strategic approach to tree population management and looks to what may be required of local

authorities over the next 10 years. The principal changes proposed in the 2020 Strategy include:

3.2 **A move to managing trees at a strategic level:** During the tree strategy review process a number of different Government consultations have been issued which propose changes to how local authorities will need to manage their own tree stock. These also propose the introduction of statutory monitoring against key indicators such tree planting and canopy cover.

3.3 One of the most likely requirements is the need to produce a Tree Strategy, with one of the consultations going so far as to indicate the likely required content for such. To ensure the Council is as best placed as possible in the face of any changes, the 2020 Strategy incorporates key topic areas which are likely to become a statutory duty. Taking this higher-level approach enables the Council to embed these expected changes into our day to day working and allow the impact of these to be fully considered without the pressures of them being imposed by a set date.

3.4 **Inclusion of a central vision:** A central "vision" has been introduced to the document which leads onto 7 core aims. These were developed with the Councillor Working Group and are intended to ensure all the Council's actions in the management of the districts tree population (regardless of service area or department) are working towards one core purpose.

3.5 **A focus on data analysis**: A key element of the 2020 Strategy is that its aspirations and the policies are based on detailed analysis of current data concerning the district's tree population (section 2 of the 2020 Strategy). The collection of data required to be able to do this was a key action of the 2015 Strategy and has formed the basis for the review.

3.6 Our analysis of this over the review period has allowed us to focus the polices and actions of the 2020 Strategy on known strategic issues that affect Huntingdonshire (woodland cover statistics for example) while also being in a position to identify and address detailed challenges such as the limited age diversity of our own trees. The combination of these different strategic issues ensures a robust tree strategy can be put in place which promotes effective tree management.

3.7 **Engagement with national initiatives**: During the life of the 2015 Strategy, organisations such as The Woodland Trust and The Tree Council have developed national initiatives and campaigns which look to manage tree populations as a whole. These include the Tree Charter (by the Tree Council) which aims to promote "the creation of greener landscapes with trees". The principles of these national campaigns have been embedded into the 2020 Strategy and would enable the Council to publicly endorse these initiatives should we wish to.

3.8 **A Review of all policies:** All the existing polices contained in the 2015 Strategy have been reviewed, revised, or removed where needed. The

2020 Strategy contains a total of 20 policies covering all aspects of modern arboriculture in a local authority setting. 5 new policies have been incorporated to cover the following topics:

- Managing ancient and veteran trees (Policy TM5)
- Recycling of tree surgery arisings (Policy TM6)
- HDC action in cases of tree vandalism (Policy TM10)
- Managing trees in the urban environment (Policy TM11)
- Biosecurity management (Policy TBS1)

3.9 Where polices were present in the 2015 Strategy which solely covered the Council's statutory duty on a matter (reviewing dangerous trees (2015 Policy TP14) or owners' rights to raise objections to new designations (2015 Policy TP2) for example) these have been removed and the topic embedded into the text of document as they do not need to be re-covered at a policy level.

3.10 All of the polices included in the 2020 Strategy have been written (and re-written in the case of those retained from the 2015 Strategy) in such a way that they clearly set out the Council's position in subject. Where possible, technical arboricultural terms have been removed from the policy text and the policies are structured to ensure they can be easily understood by a wide range of groups and the residents of Huntingdonshire. (A full policy list is contained in Appendix 1)

3.11 **Updated Action Plan:** A new Action Plan has been written to accompany the 2020 Strategy. While an Action Plan was included in the 2015 Strategy, it focused on our everyday tree management operations. In addition, many of the projects set out have been completed or were no longer relevant. The 2020 Action Plan takes a more strategic stance and looks at projects across all service areas, such as increasing Huntingdonshire's Canopy Cover, managing pest and disease outbreaks and increasing planting. The revised Action Plan includes an indication of a project priority and at suggests at what stage each task should be considered. At this stage the Action Plan does not contain a set timescale for the completion of a task, as these are likely to be resource dependant.

3.12 A revised format: The 2015 Strategy comprised of a core document and 8 separate guidance notes. The 2020 Strategy has incorporated the content of these (where necessary) into one document to ensure it is easy to navigate.

4. COMMENTS OF OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY

4.1 The comments of the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Panel will be included in this section prior to its consideration by the Cabinet.

5. KEY IMPACTS / RISKS

5.1 Failure to endorse this evidence-based Tree Strategy will impact on the direction of our arboricultural operations (across all service areas) to 2030. Key polices are included in the 2020 Strategy which are aimed at altering

the way in which some of our key services are provided to ensure they are as efficient and robust as possible. This would also allow Officer's time to be concentrated on other project based tasks.

5.2 The Action Plan sets out key projects based on the sustainable management of the wider tree population of Huntingdonshire. Some of the projects included are based around national environmental issues (decreasing canopy cover in urban areas for example) which are becoming increasingly important in the face of a changing climate.

5.3 While there are likely to be future funding and resource requirements for projects set out in the Action Plan, endorsement of the Action Plan is key to ensuring that we maintain a sustainable and robust tree stock and its benefits to our communities can be maximised.

6. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION AND REVIEW

6.1 The 2020 Strategy will cover the Council's arboricultural functions across all services to 2030. It includes a robust monitoring programme (section 17) which sets out annual monitoring and reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Panel on the use of the document and Action Plan. This regular reporting also allows minor changes to be made to the content of the overall document, ensuring it consistently reflects the services provided by the Council and modern arboricultural practices.

6.2 An in-depth review is proposed at year 5 to allow any significant changes to be made without the need for a full review.

6.3 The Action Plan has been developed in such a way that the primary targets are for the scoping of projects which are for completion later in the strategy period. This allows Officers to fully explore options for all the objectives and present funding and resourcing options for each on a regular basis. These projects will then be the subject of separate funding bids.

7. LINK TO THE CORPORATE PLAN, STRATEGIC PRIORITIES AND/OR CORPORATE OBJECTIVES

7.1 The 2020 Strategy and Action Plan aligns with the following aspirations of the Council's Corporate Plan:
- PLACE – Create, protect and enhance our safe and clean built and green environment.
- PEOPLE – Support people to improve their health and well-being.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 The endorsement of the 2020 Strategy and Action Plan does not bring about any additional legal obligations for the Council. However, it does place focus on the Council's duty of care in respect of its tree management operations (across all service areas) and highlights our statutory functions and how they are met.

9. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 To allow the successful implementation of the 2020 Strategy continual revenue funding for arboricultural services across the Council is required.

9.2 The Action Plan which accompanies the 2020 Strategy (Appendix 3) sets out a range of broad tasks and projects to be completed between 2020 and 2030. Where additional resources and/or funding is required to undertake standalone projects, these will be subject to additional revenue bids and funding cycles over the life of the strategy.

10. HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Trees can have a significant positive impact on the health of our residents and improve our physical and mental wellbeing.

10.2 Research shows that a direct correlation exists between proximity to tree cover and indicators such as increased life expectancy, improved education rates and decreased hospital admissions.

10.3 A study of the East London Green Grid (a proposed network of interlinked, multi-purpose and high quality open spaces) by the Arboricultural Association, estimated that increasing the establishment of greenspace (with a quarter of this covered with trees) over an area of 100km^2 by only 5.5% could avert two deaths and two hospital admissions per year. Further studies by the Tree People indicates that areas with organised community tree planting projects and events have an increased a sense of community empowerment, community ownership and improved wellbeing.

10.4 The 2020 Strategy looks to harness the benefits trees can bring to the overall health of residents in Huntingdonshire through our polices and projects set out in the Action Plan.

11. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

11.1 **Climate change and environmental improvement:** The 2020 Strategy aims to provide a tangible approach to how the Council can play a part in tackling the challenges of a changing climate.

11.2 Though the 2020 Strategy is not an overall solution in tackling climate change across Huntingdonshire, trees are recognised as a key resource in managing environmental issues such as:

- Decreasing particulate pollution
- Improving air quality through carbon sequestration
- Decreasing water runoff and preventing nutrient loss in soils
- Improving urban drainage
- Providing urban cooling
- Creating and improving wildlife corridors

11.3 The 2020 Strategy and associated Action Plan places significant importance on these issues and sets about putting in place projects (such

as identifying land for planting and assessing and increasing urban canopy cover) from which a direct environment benefit can be realised.

12. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDED DECISIONS

12.1 In the review of the 2015 Strategy and the development of the 2020 Strategy and Action Plan, new policies and ways of working are proposed that are based on detailed analysis of our own tree stock (and those trees where we play a part in their management). The 2020 Strategy responds to modern arboricultural issues and looks to embed these into our working practices, bringing the Council up to date with industry changes.

12.2 The Action Plan sets out a clear set of objectives to be achieved over the life of the document which support the 7 key aims of the 2020 Strategy to ensure a sustainable tree stock across Huntingdonshire is ensured for the future.

13. LIST OF APPENDICES INCLUDED

Appendix 1 – List of policies included in the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030
Appendix 2 – Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 - 2030
Appendix 3 - Huntingdonshire Tree Action Plan

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Tree Strategy Working Group Final Report. Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) – 3rd October 2019.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name/Job Title: Tamsin Miles Arboricultural Officer
Tel No: 07864 604 208
Email: Tamsin.miles@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

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List of policies included in the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030

Management of HDC Trees

Policy included in 2020 Strategy	Action taken for policy inclusion
TM1: HDC tree management priorities	Replace 2015 Policy TP8 TP9 and TP10 (Tree works)
TM2. HDC tree surveying programme	
TM3. HDC tree maintenance works	
TM5. Supporting further health investigations	
TM6. Managing ancient and veteran trees	New policy
TM7. Recycling of tree surgery arisings	New policy
TM8. Public pruning requests	Replaces 2015 Policy TP10 (Tree works requests)
TM9. Extenuating circumstances and tree work	Replaces 2015 Policy TP8 (Tree works considerations)
TM10. Large scale tree operations	Replaces 2015 Policy TP17 (large scale works)
TM11. HDC action in cases of tree vandalism	New policy
TM12. Managing trees in the urban environment	New policy

Strategic Management Policies

Policy included in 2020 Strategy	Action taken for policy inclusion
TP1. Tree planting	Replaces 2015 Policy TP18 – 21 (Planting considerations)
TS1. Subsidence	Replaces separate tree guidance note.
TBS1. Biosecurity management	New policy
PT1. Management of private trees	Replaces 2015 Policy TP14 (Dangerous private trees)

Statutorily Protected Trees

Policy included in 2020 Strategy	Action taken for policy inclusion
PRT1. Managing protected trees	Replaces 2015 Policy TP4 (Works to TPOd trees)
PRT2. Works to protected trees	Replaces 2015 Policy TP3 (Works to TPOd trees)
PRT3. Tree Preservation Orders	Replaces 2015 Policy TP1, TP2 & TP7 (Making TPO and ownership rights)
PRT4. Trees in conservation areas	Part new policy and combination with 2015 Policy TP3)

Trees and Development

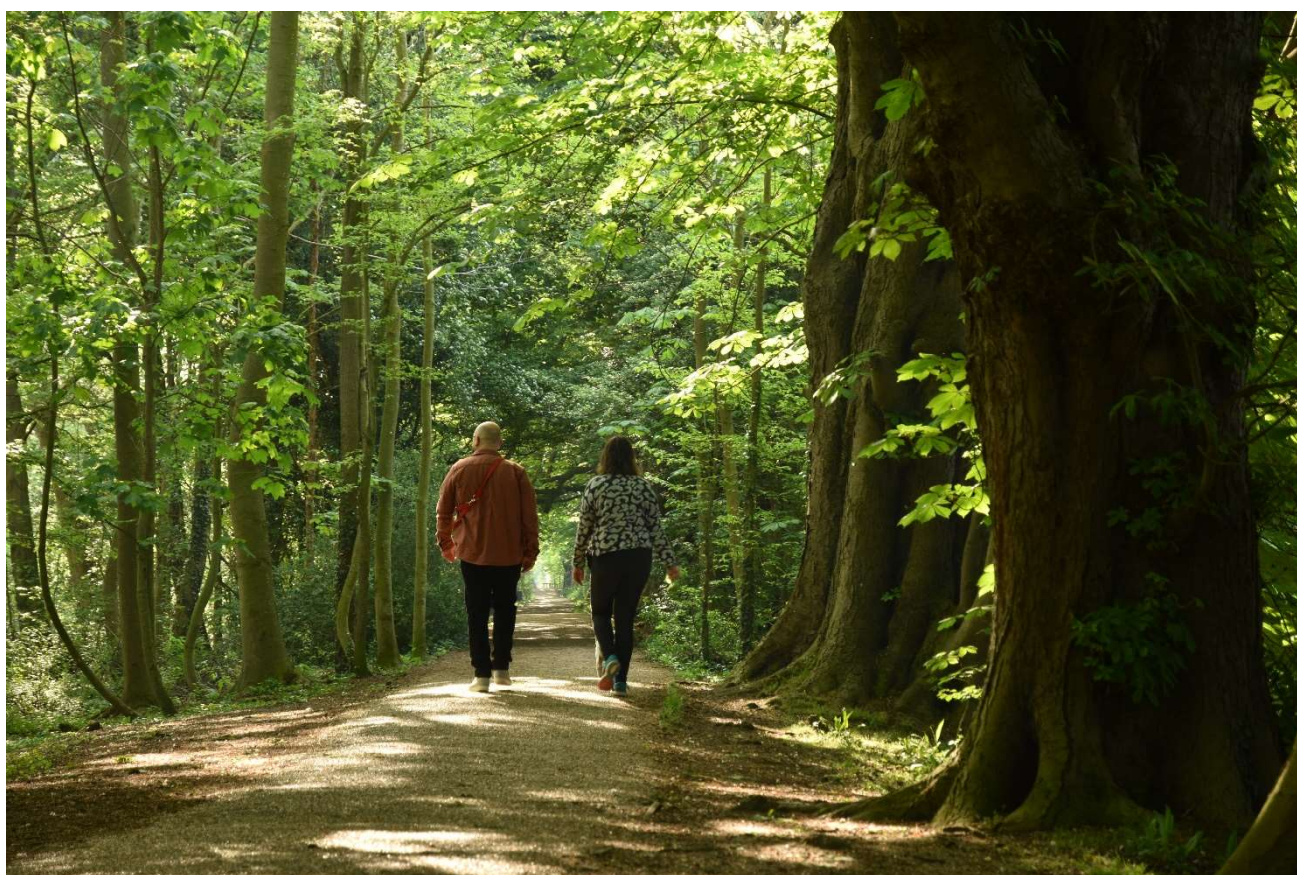| Policy included in 2020 Strategy	Action taken for policy inclusion
TDM1. Trees and development	Replaces 2015 Policy TP6, TP16 (Trees and development)
TDM2. Development and planting	Replaces 2015 Policy TP6 (Trees and development)

Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030
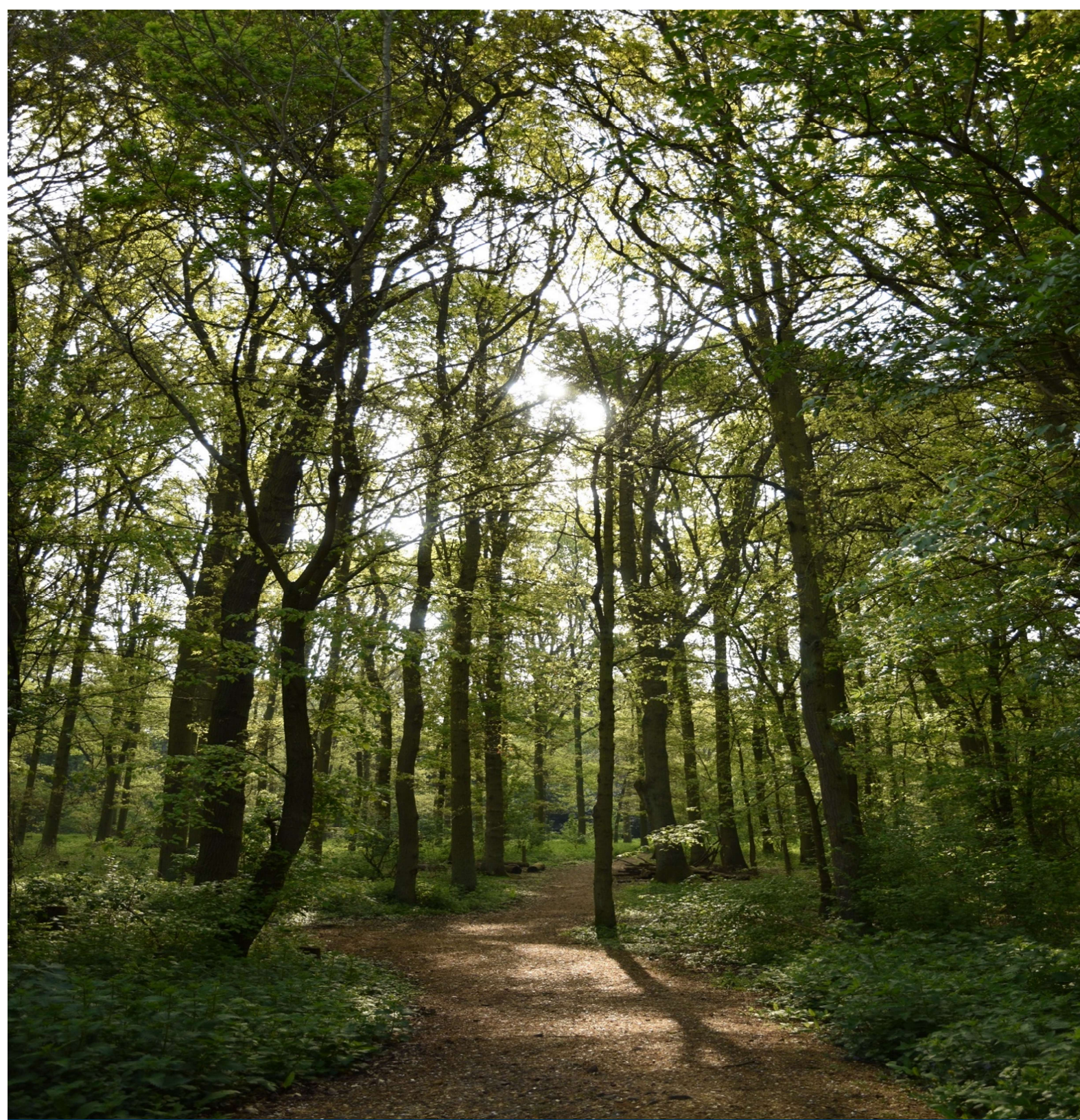
Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

Foreword

(To be added prior to adoption)

Horse chestnut walk. Hinchingbrooke Country Park (HCP)

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Introduction

I. Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) acknowledge the valuable contribution trees and woodlands make to the district as a connection between nature and modern living.

II. The care and protection of trees is at the forefront of our agenda and the services we provide to our communities. We recognise the significant benefits our trees offer and aim to make sure we pass on a legacy of a healthy and attractive tree population for future generations.

III. These benefits are widely recognised and are not just limited to those surrounding the visual contribution trees and woodlands make to an area. Trees bring significant benefits to the economy, our environment, our communities and our health and wellbeing. Their key benefits are detailed in Figure 1.

Environmental	Economic	Wellbeing	Communities
Moderation of urban temperature extremes	Increase property values by 7-15%	Provide opportunities for leisure and recreation	Provision of important links to our landscape history
Increase of carbon sequestration	Creation of attractive business areas	Contributions to our physical and mental wellbeing	Increase community cohesion and ownership of areas
Absorbtion of particulate pollution	Improve enviromental performance of buildings	Create opportiunites for learning	Create opportunities for community engagement
Provision of shelter, habitat and food for flora and fauna			
Decrease flood water runoff			

Figure 1. Summary of the benefits of trees[1]

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[1] **Reduction in stormwater runoff by attenuating precipitation in leaves** (Thomas, H., Nisbet, T.R. (2007). An assessment of the impact of floodplain woodland on flood flows. Water and Environment Journal, 21, pp. 114–126.)

Reduction in peak summer temperatures (Doick, K., Hutchings,T. (2012).Air temperature regulation by urban trees and green infrastructure. FCRN012 Forest Research)

Tree absorption of airborne particulates (Escobedo, F., Nowak, D (2009). Spatial heterogeneity and air pollution removal by an urban forest. Landscape and Urban Planning, 90 (3-4) pp. 102-110.)

3

IV.   The Council has an important role to play in the management of the districts' tree population; as well as looking after trees and woodlands on Council-owned land and protecting trees on private property, we have a role in raising the awareness of the importance of trees and influencing their positive management by acting as an example of best practice.

V.   The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030 builds on the achievements and progress made under the first Tree Strategy published by HDC in 2015. This document is a revision of this work and forms part of the Council's ongoing review of our tree management. This Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030 seeks to raise awareness of the importance of trees, confront the environmental challenges that have arisen since the adoption of the 2015 strategy and contribute to a sustainable tree population.

VI.   This strategy is designed to clearly set out our polices in relation to tree and woodland management and provide guidance to those whose activities bring them into contact with trees. This document comprises of four main sections:

Part 1. Review:
A review of the role of the 2015 Tree Strategy and the need for a revised document.

Part 2. Analysis:
A detailed analysis of the District's tree population and the challenges in its management.

Part 3. Vision:
Details of our strategic vision and aims for the next 10 years of tree and woodland management.

Part 4. Policies:
Our polices for the management of our trees and how we will work with others whose operations brings them into contact with trees.

Figure 2. Structure of the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030

VII.   Finally, this strategy embeds the 10 values of The Woodland Trust's Tree Charter[2] (which aims to promote the creation and promotion of greener landscapes and the benefits of trees for the future) into our tree management policies. Through our adoption of these wider principles, we are demonstrating the Council's commitment to excellent arboricultural management and the promotion of a sustainable tree population.

The presence of larger trees in gardens and as street trees adds from 3% to 15% to home values (Wolf, K.L. (2007). City Trees and Property Values. Arborist News 16 (4), pp. 34-36.)
7% higher rental rates are achievable for commercial offices having high quality treescapes (Laverne and Winson-Geideman, 2003).

[2] Charter for Trees, Woods and People. Woodland Trust. https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/tree-charter/

4

1. Overview of Huntingdonshire

1.1 Huntingdonshire covers an area of approximately 91,000 Ha (350 square miles) and lines the western boundary of Cambridgeshire. The landscape of the district is extremely diverse with flat, expansive fenlands in the north east, rolling uplands in the west and the Ouse and Nene river valleys running through the centre of the district. Our landscape has been constantly shaped by human activity, mainly through agricultural practices and the development of the strategic transport links which dissect the district, all of which have had a significant influence on the composition and distribution of the population throughout the landscape. Because of our geographic location, Huntingdonshire has important connections to the Capital and the cities of Cambridge and Peterborough resulting in the district being an attractive location for businesses and development.

1.2 Tree cover across Huntingdonshire has been slowly decreasing since Saxon times. While our overall tree cover is low, there is a range of important trees and woodlands present within the topographic character areas (Figure 3).

1.3 Today, the tree population is principally comprised of clusters of woodland concentrated at the centre of the district, hedgerow trees in our agricultural landscapes, street trees in our urban and peri-urban areas, trees within parks and open spaces, orchards and trees on private land. With continued strategic development planned for Huntingdonshire and a predicted increase in population, the contribution the tree population makes to our residents, businesses and the environment is ever rising.

1.4 Understanding the initial development and character of landscape, our typologies, the composition of existing trees, and the contribution future planting can make to the district is key in developing robust plans for its management.
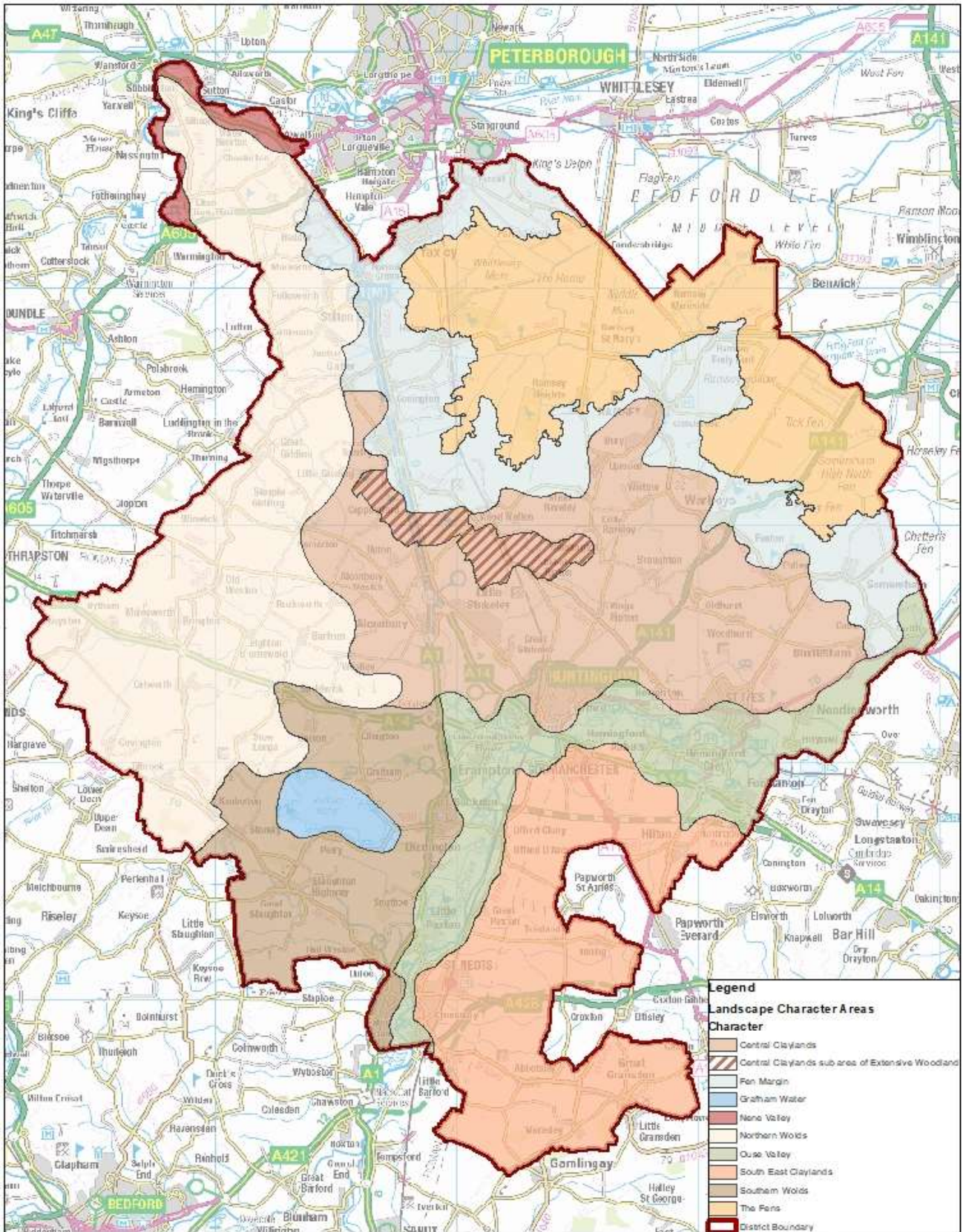
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Figure 3. Landscape character areas in Huntingdonshire As defined in the Landscape and Townscape SPD (2007) or successor documents.

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2.   Policy Context of the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 – 2030

2.1   The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy forms part of a suite of policy documents which shape our environment and influence how we respond to it. This strategy sits within a wider framework of national, regional and local policy documents which set overarching principles in relation to climate change, biodiversity and ecology, planning and development, biosecurity, health and wellbeing and landscape character; all of which are highly influenced by trees and their management.

2.2   At a national level, this strategy reflects the principles set out in *Trees in the Townscape: A Guide for Decision Makers*[3] in respect of maximising the benefits of the trees, and uses the baseline data from the research paper *Trees in Towns II*[4] as part of our action and policy setting. The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy endorses the values of the *Tree Charter* and the *Emergency Tree Plan*[5] for the UK and seeks to incorporate these into our approach to tree management where appropriate.

2.3   Regionally, the development of this strategy sits within wider policy documents associated with green infrastructure and wildlife management in Cambridgeshire.

2.4   At a corporate and local scale, the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy supports the Council's vision set out in the current *Huntingdonshire District Council Corporate Plan*[6] regarding the creation and management of a safe, healthy and prosperous place where communities and businesses can thrive. The Strategy also uses the information contained in the *Huntingdonshire Landscape & Townscape Assessment* as part of baseline tree population analysis and builds on the policies contained in the Council's *Healthy Open Spaces Strategy Open Space Strategy*, *Local Plan,* and *Design Guide*. A comprehensive exploration of the relevant policies and strategies that affect the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy can be found in Appendix 1.

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[3] Trees in the Townscape. Trees and Design Action Group. http://www.tdag.org.uk/uploads/4/2/8/0/4280686/tdag_treesinthetownscape.pdf

[4] Charter for Trees, Woods and People. Woodland Trust. https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/act/tree-charter/

[5] Emergency Tree Plan for the UK. The Woodland Trust. 2020. https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/publications/2020/01/emergency-tree-plan/

[6] HDC Corporate Plan 2018 - 2022 https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/1390/corporate-plan.pdf

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3. Achievements since the adoption of the 2015 Tree Strategy

3.1 The 2015 Tree Strategy set a range of actions and targets to be achieved over the life of the plan. A summary of the three key aims and associated actions is shown in Figure 4.

Key Aim 1 *"Protect trees within Huntingdonshire district through sustainable management"*	Key Aim 2 *"Care for the trees within Huntingdonshire district by practising and promoting good tree care"*	Key Aim 3 *"Plant more trees in Huntingdonshire district by promoting and carrying out appropriate tree planting"*
• Develop a computerised record of the Council's trees. • Initiate a prioritised survey of Council owned trees. • Identify and evaluate important groups of trees and woodlands and promote them to the public.	• Make, manage and review Tree Preservation Orders. • Create an information strategy and supplementary document.	• Undertake planting as part of the Council's arboricultural management. • Use enforcement powers to secure new tree planting. • Provide information about trees to the wider public. • Promote tree planting as part of development sites and wider community projects

Figure 4. Summary of the Key aims of the 2015 Tree Strategy

3.2 A significant change in available resources since the adoption of the 2015 Tree Strategy resulted in re-prioritisation of our actions during the strategy period. However, despite this, there has been considerable progress in the management of our arboricultural functions. Our main achievements are:

- *Implementation of a Tree Management Programme:* A key part of our work since 2015 has been the adoption of a computerised tree inspection and management system. This has enabled a robust programme of tree surveying to be put in place and has allowed public tree works requests, urgent, and programmed works to be managed effectively. To date, this system has been used to survey the majority of trees and woodland owned and managed by the Council with the intention to have all our trees surveyed and plotted in the future. This work has formed the basis for responses to public requests for tree works and has allowed a priority works system to be implemented. This work has formed the basis of our understanding of the composition of the Council's tree population and will shape the work we undertake in the future.

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- *Tree works priorities:* A new priority system has been developed to manage tree pruning requests raised by the public, which is based on current legislation and legal duty of care. This also encompasses tree works generated from the Council's routine tree surveying program. The new priority system allows the Council to focus its resources more effectively to ensure our trees are managed appropriately.

- *Move to use of contractors:* The Council now uses Arboricultural Contractors to undertake technical and large-scale tree maintenance work. This also includes the use of Arboricultural Consultants to undertake detailed health and condition investigations, allowing us to make more informed tree management decisions.

- *Tree Planting:* Significant work has been undertaken to develop and implement a programme of tree planting. The Council has adopted a method for tree species selection; committed to the use of only nursery suppliers with robust biosecurity policies and implemented an aftercare programme for newly planted trees. We have also promoted the planting of Memorial Trees, a tree planting service available to outside bodies and the wider public. The continuation of this work forms a key part of this strategy, through the expansion of community tree planting projects.

- *Protected tree replacement:* A programme has been developed to ensure the replacement of protected trees (those subject to a Tree Preservation Order) where they have been removed as part of an application for felling. This has aided the creation of a new phase of planting of protected trees and contributes to the creation of a sustainable tree stock.

- *Providing information:* Significant work has been undertaken to provide details of protected trees on the Council's website. This allows applicants, third party organisations and the public to access details of trees in Conservation Areas and those subject to Tree Preservation Orders through interactive mapping.

- *System review:* A large scale review of how the Council operate tree-based planning functions has been undertaken. This has resulted in significant improvements to the way in which we make and manage our Tree Preservation Orders, assess applications for works to protected trees and carry out enforcement investigations.

- *Tree Subsidence investigations:* A review has been undertaken of investigation procedures where Council-owned trees have been identified as contributing to building subsidence, ensuring adoption of a consistent approach to insurance cases.

3.3 These achievements represent a considerable improvement to the way in which the Council's Arboricultural Services operate and how we manage the wider tree stock in Huntingdonshire. However, now these new systems and ways of working are in place, similar effort and focus is needed to secure the future of our tree stock and to maximise the benefits realised from our trees.

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Part 2. Analysis

4. Understanding the tree population of Huntingdonshire

4.1 Having a detailed understanding of the district's tree population as well as the composition of our own tree stock is a vital component in being able to effectively manage our urban and rural trees. Our assessment of these assets has provided essential baseline information on the condition of our own trees and the management implications of features such as woodlands and spinneys and the number and age of protected trees across Huntingdonshire. This information allows us to set management objectives and policies that are tailored to the current needs of the district's trees.

4.2 Trees managed by Huntingdonshire District Council

4.2.1 Analysis of data initially collected from our tree surveying project (an action set out in the Council's previous Tree Strategy) allows us to fully explore the composition of our tree population. The data collected between 2016 and 2020 utilises the information gathered during the initial tree surveying project and is subject to ongoing updates as part of our day to day tree management operations.

4.2.2 This data not only gives us a benchmark of our current tree stock composition, but also allows us to accurately plan our future management and focus our resources to ensure we maintain a sustainable and robust tree population.

4.3 Species composition of Council owned and managed trees

4.3.1 Analysis of our survey data indicates that 98% of our trees are deciduous species (Figure 5). While this data does not take account of trees in woodlands, spinneys, or shelterbelts, it clearly indicates that our tree population is dominated by broadleaved species with coniferous species only comprising 2% of our overall stock. Further analysis is required to understand the geographic distribution of these two types to increase species diversity and support smaller conifer populations.
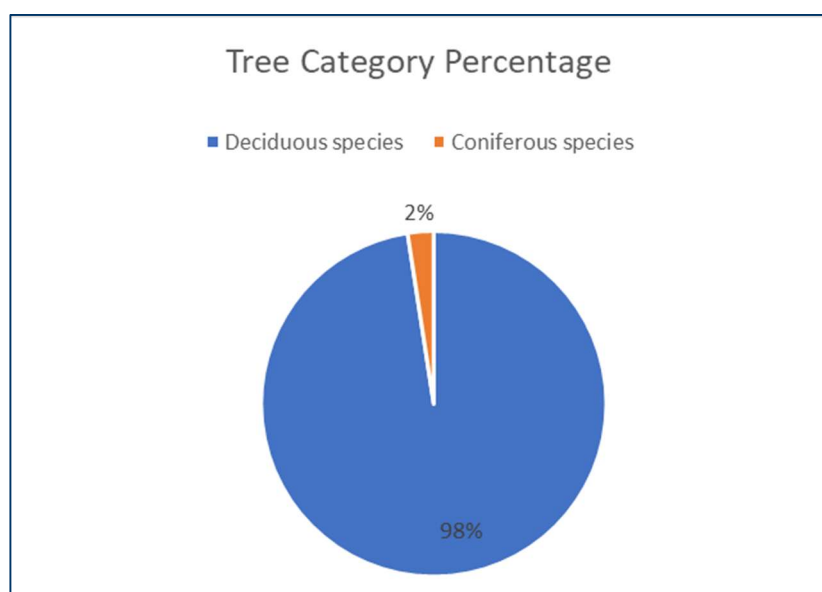
Figure 5. Huntingdonshire District Council tree population by deciduous and coniferous species.

4.3.2   A more detailed assessment of our species composition indicates a further dominance of certain species within the deciduous category. *Acer* (Maple) family species (including Field, Norway, Silver leaf and Purple leaf Maple and Sycamore, are the dominant genus and make up 20% of our deciduous trees. *Fraxinus* (Ash) species (including Common & Narrow leaf species) are the second largest tree genus, making up 11% of the overall recorded population. Prunus (Cherry) family species (including Bird, Wild, and Plum) contribute 8% of our trees. Species recorded in the coniferous category consist of *Sequoia, Thuja*, *Pinus*, *Picea* and Chamaecyparis and contribute to only 3% of overall recorded trees managed by the Council.
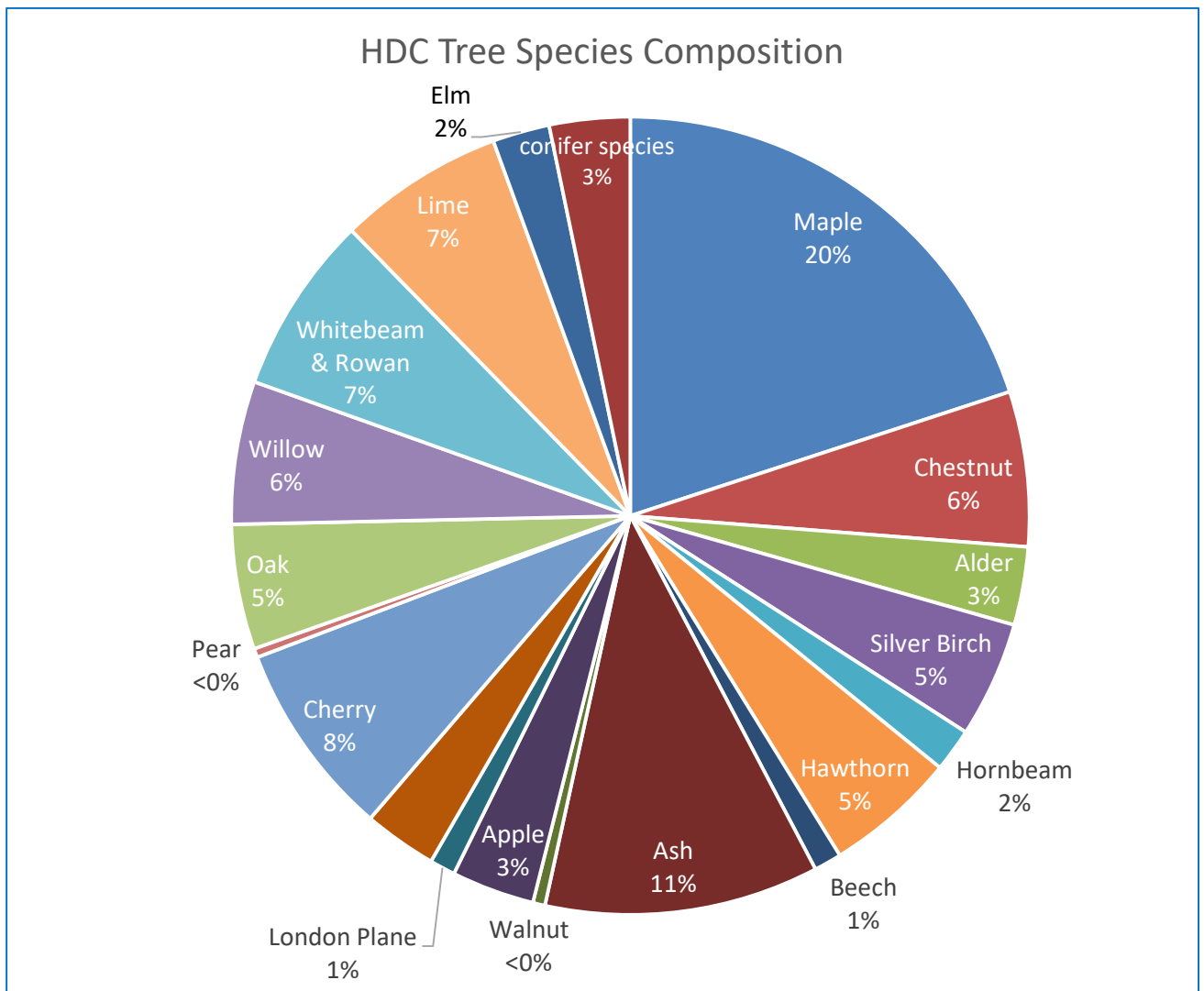
Figure 6. Huntingdonshire District Council tree population composition by percentage.

4.3.3   Tree species which generally have smaller canopies (such as Cherry, Whitebeam / Rowan, and Hawthorn) make up a total of 7% of our tree population. A large proportion of these species occupy the open spaces in our urban areas and are likely to have been planted as part of large-scale residential development carried out in the 1960s. Given the increased benefits derived from trees with larger canopies, this information indicates an opportunity to introduce larger sized trees to our urban open spaces to maximise tree related benefits to the community.

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4.3.4   Species which are considered to have increased environmental benefits through pollution filtration (such as London Plane – 1%) comprise a very small proportion of our tree population. This demonstrates that there is an opportunity for further investigation into the benefits derived from certain tree species in urban areas to allow focused planting in higher pollution settings.

4.3.5   Although this data highlights that our tree population is greatly unbalanced in terms of species diversity, it does reflect the planting trends in landscape design throughout the second half of the 20th century and has created character areas in the district. This information can now be used to reinforce any of these planted character areas as well as looking at new species to increase seasonal interest, biodiversity value and environmental benefits.

4.3.6   The data in Figure 6 also demonstrates that the Council's tree stock is vulnerable to certain pests and diseases. The dominance of species such as Ash (11%), Maple (20%) and Chestnut (6%) increases the potential for significant losses through known health issues such as Ash Dieback, Sooty Bark Disease and Bleeding Canker. Large scale loss of vulnerable species will not only impact on the landscape of Huntingdonshire but also on our resources to manage any significant outbreaks. Recognising these issues and raising awareness of species dominance will help combat pests & diseases, allowing the Council to develop a more resilient tree stock through planting of a wider range of species.

Trees at St Mary Magdalene. Brampton

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4.4 Age distribution of Council owned and managed trees

4.4.1 Figures 7 and 8 provide an overview of the percentage of our trees in certain age categories. The combined percentage of semi-mature and mature trees equates to 75% of the total figure of our trees (Figure 8). This reflects the dominance of mature trees across the population and a limited age diversity among our trees. 22% of our trees are classified as "young" which have the potential to become the next generation of mature trees as they develop.
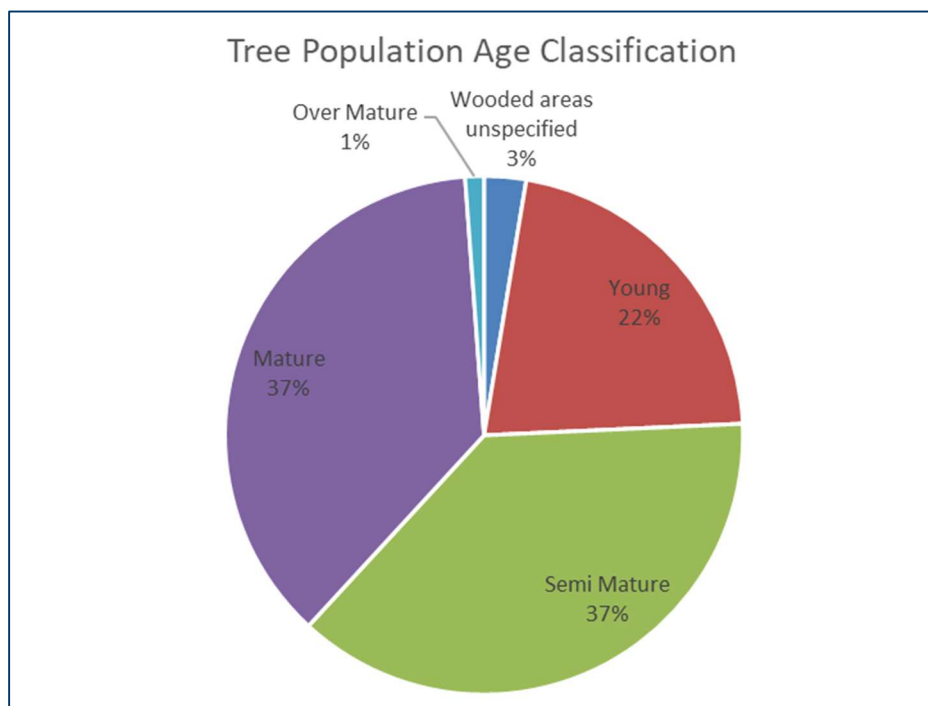
Figure 7 Huntingdonshire District Council tree population age classification.

4.4.2 Only 3% of the trees managed by the Council are classified "over-mature", a category which includes veteran and ancient trees. Given the increased historical, ecological, and environmental benefits of trees of this age, increasing the number of trees that have the potential to grow into this category will form part of our actions. The need to further investigate the condition and location of our veteran and ancient trees will also form part of our future work.

Unspecified	Young	Semi-mature	Mature	Over mature
Encompassing small tree groups, shelter belts, pocket woodland and woodland areas. (3%)	Encompassing trees that have been planted since 2016, also including trees that have been estimated to be up to 20 years old. (22%)	Encompassing trees that are an estimated age range of 20 to 50 years old. (37%)	Encompassing trees that are an estimated age range of 50 to 150 years old. (37%)	Encompassing trees that are estimated as being over 150 years old. Categorised based on tree species & condition. *(1%)*

Figure 8. Overview of age classifications used by the Council.

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4.5   Location analysis of Council owned and managed trees

4.5.1   The distribution of trees managed by the Council throughout the district is greatly concentrated within the Wards which cover our key urban areas. Figure 9 shows the number of trees managed by the Council per ward and shows that a large proportion of our tree stock is within the urban areas of St Neots, St Ives and Huntingdon.

4.5.2   While this data is influenced by the landholding of the Council in certain wards (which is generally lower in more rural areas) it also reflects the proportion of the trees that the Councils manage in residential areas dating from the 1960s and 1970s (highest in the Wards of Huntingdon and St Ives) and those areas which contain our largest parks and open spaces. This data highlights the need to secure and utilise open spaces within villages under Council ownership in order to maximise tree planting opportunities and increase tree canopy cover across the district

Number of trees managed by Huntingdonshire District Council by Ward.

Ward	Number of trees
Yaxley and Farcet Ward	74
Warboys and Bury Ward	106
Upwood and The Raveleys Ward	4
The Hemingfords Ward	104
Stilton Ward	46
St Neots ward	3392
St Ives ward	1256
Somersham Ward	110
Sawtry Ward	178
Ramsey Ward	134
Little Paxton Ward	147
Kimbolton and Staughton Ward	75
Huntingdon Ward	2589
Gransden and The Offords Ward	61
Godmanchester Ward	488
Fenstanton Ward	32
Elton and Folksworth Ward	64
Ellington Ward	49
Earith Ward	103
Buckden Ward	200
Brampton Ward	297
Alconbury and The Stukeleys Ward	69

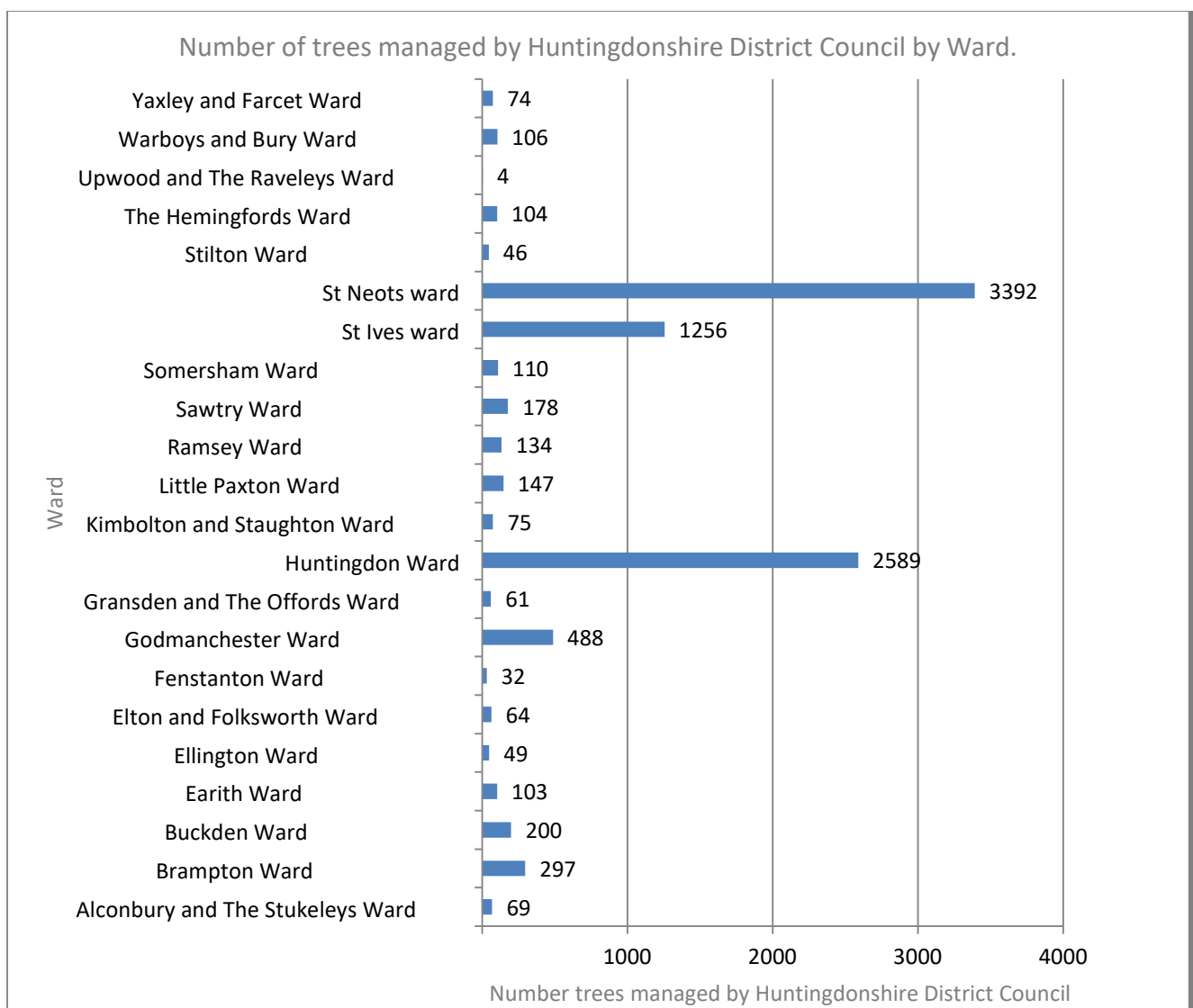Number trees managed by Huntingdonshire District Council

Figure 9. Number of trees managed by Huntingdonshire District Council by Ward.

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4.6   Woodland, shelterbelts and spinneys owned and managed by the Council

4.6.1   The Council own and manage approximately 42.8 Ha of woodlands which is comprised of "Woodland", "Pocket Woodland" and "Shelterbelts". These important areas not only make a significant contribution to our tree stock, but also present management challenges.

4.6.2   The Council currently manage an estimated 28.2 Ha of woodland throughout Huntingdonshire (Figure 10). These are of mixed species and age class which varies depending on their geographic location and history. In the southeast of the district, woodlands such as that in Priory Park comprise native deciduous tree species such as Oak Quercus / Ash and Sycamore with a Hawthorn understory. Whereas other woodland areas throughout the district contain predominantly Chestnut. These types of woodlands are classed as a non-working woodland and are managed for recreation as part a formal park.

4.6.3   Other woodlands, such as those at Hinchingbrooke Country Park, are managed predominantly for habitat and as part of a working woodland programme as part of the park's management scheme. These are also mixed in terms of their species compositions and structure.

Woodland location	Size m² (Approx.)
Priory Park St Neots: Southeast woods	4.1Ha
Priory Park St Neots: Northwest woods	1.5Ha
Hinchingbrooke Country Park: Bobs wood	13.5Ha
Hinchingbrooke Country Park: Eastside wood	9.1Ha

Figure 10. Woodlands managed by Huntingdonshire District Council by area

4.6.4   In addition to the woodlands, we manage approximately 8.6Ha of "Pocket Woodland" (Figure 11). These are small woodlands which are not connected to a continuous tree line or are otherwise isolated from other woodland areas. Most of these pocket woodlands consist of native tree species such as Ash, Oak and Chestnut, with small areas of Willow. These areas are publicly accessible and while being isolated, they support a diverse range of flora and fauna.

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	Pocket woodland location	Size m² (Approx.)
St Neots	Priory Park	0.7Ha
	Beatty Road Play Park	0.07Ha
	Barford Road Pocket Park	2.4Ha
	Top Wood Loves Farm	0.5Ha
St Ives	The Thicket,	2.7Ha
	Hill Rise Park	1.2Ha
	Long Plantation	0.8Ha
Huntingdon	Coneygeare Court	0.3Ha
	Falcon Drive	0.2Ha
	Hinchingbrooke Country Park	4.9Ha

Figure 11. Pocket Woodlands managed by Huntingdonshire District Council by area

4.6.5 An estimated 6 Ha of our woodland cover is defined as "shelterbelts" (Figure 12). These are areas of trees that envelop housing estates and open spaces. They can form visual screens and sound barriers to roads and other land uses, they significantly contribute to our local wildlife corridors and can support local health and recreation. Most of our shelterbelts consist of mixed native deciduous species such as Hawthorn, Blackthorn, Birch, Ash, Cherry and Oak.

Shelterbelt location	Size m2 (Approx.)
Stukeley Meadows, Huntingdon	1.8 Ha
Hartford, Huntingdon	1.4 Ha
Flamsteed Drive, Hinchingbrooke,	0.7 Ha
Loves Farm, St Neots	2.1 Ha

Figure 12. Shelterbelts managed by Huntingdonshire District Council by area

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4.7   Privately owned trees and those managed by other bodies

4.7.1   Data from The Woodland Trust[7] for the two parliamentary areas in Huntingdonshire (Huntingdon and North West Cambridgeshire) suggests that woodland cover throughout the district is significantly lower than the national cover level of 13%. Woodland cover in Huntingdon constituency is 4.2% and 7.8% in North West Cambridgeshire (Figure 13). While this figure is low, it does not take account of our primarily agricultural landscape which does not typically include woodland areas.
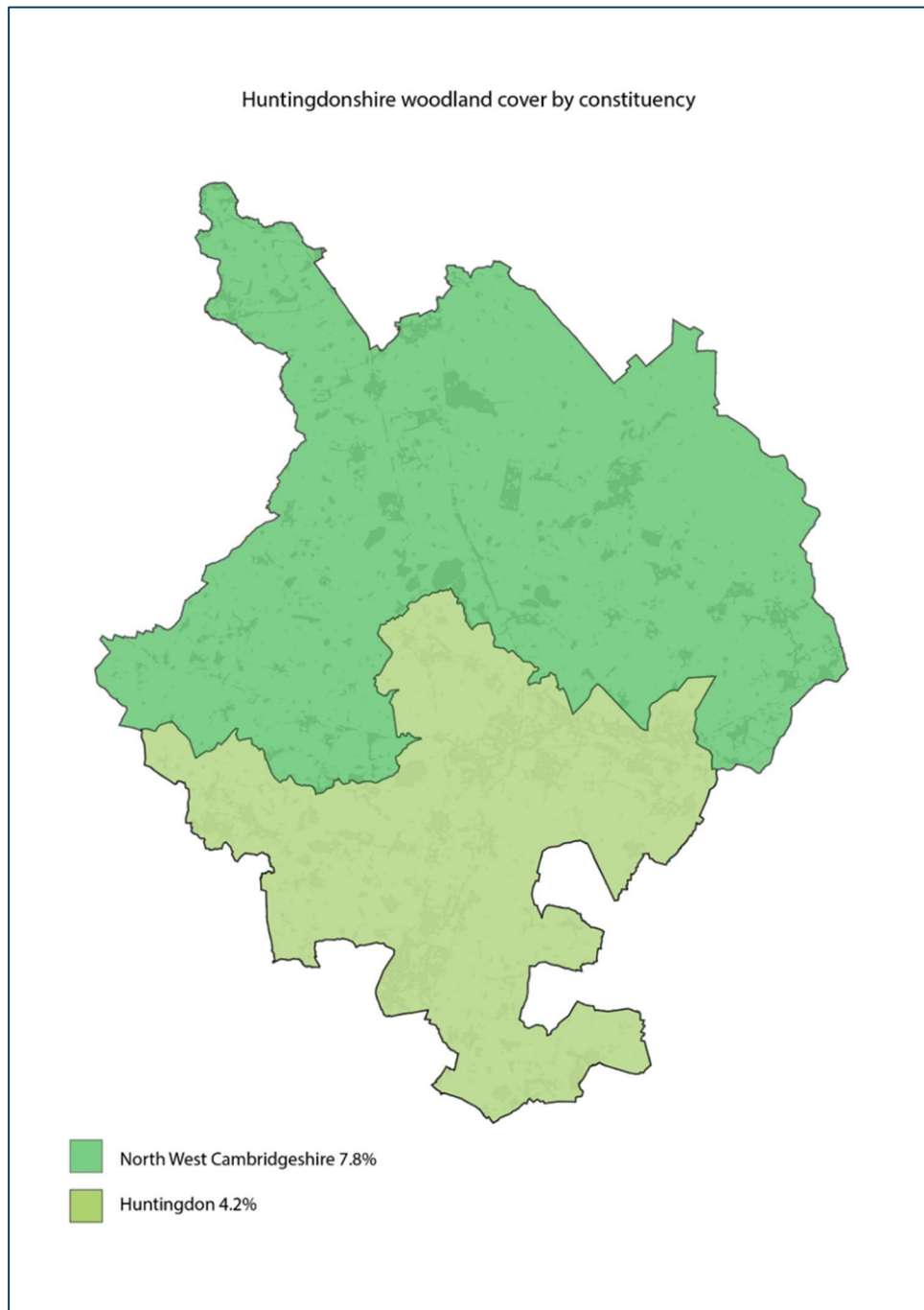

Figure 13. Woodland cover across Huntingdonshire

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[7] Woodland indicators by parliamentary constituency. The Woodland Trust.
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/43913/woodland-indicators-by-parliamentary-constituency.pdf

4.7.2   Further research undertaken by The Woodland Trust[8] sets out that to maximise the benefits of woodlands on public health, no person should live more than 500 metres from accessible woodland. Nationally, 18.2% of the British population meet this target. In Huntingdon constituency, 2.8% of the population live within 500 metres of accessible woodland, and 11.9% of the population in North West Cambridgeshire constituency.

4.8   Orchards in Huntingdonshire

The east of the district has a long tradition of fruit production, with large swathes of commercial orchards around Somersham, Bluntisham and Colne. The number of remaining orchards has declined rapidly in the last fifty years and is now included as a UK Priority Habitat. Collaborative work between a range of organisations intends to undertake further research into our current orchard population and its condition.

Apple Orchard in Huntingdonshire (HDC)

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[8] Space for people - Targeting action for woodland access. The Woodland Trust. May 2017
https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/1721/space-for-people-woodland-access.pdf

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4.9 Ancient and Veteran trees in Huntingdonshire

4.9.1 Ancient and Veteran trees form an important part of our landscape character and have significant benefits in terms of the flora and fauna they support, the connection they have to historic landscapes, and their national rarity. The Ancient Tree Inventory records these important trees, allowing them to be recognised. Data from this inventory suggests that most ancient and veteran trees are unrecorded; however, data collected so far indicates that recording these trees is becoming more prevalent.

4.9.2 Current data from The Ancient Tree Inventory for the two parliamentary areas in Huntingdonshire suggests that 152 trees have been recorded in North West Cambridgeshire, but only 8 are recorded for Huntingdon. This significant difference is likely to reflect a lack of recording between the two areas rather than a limited population of ancient and veteran trees.

4.9.3 Ancient Woodland covers just 2% of the UK, yet these are irreplaceable environments which contain complex communities of plants, fungi, insects and other microorganisms. In Huntingdonshire there are in the region of 45 Ancient Semi Natural Woodland (ASNW) sites and 25 Plantation on Ancient Woodland (PAWS) sites, totalling approximately 1500 Ha of woodland (Figure 14). Huntingdonshire contains no ASNW or PAWS known to be currently under threat.

Ancient Woodlands in Huntingdonshire	Ancient Replanted Woodland in Huntingdonshire:
• **Brampton Wood** (north east of Grafham Water) • **Monks Wood** (south west of Wood Walton) • **Aversley Wood and Archer's Wood** (south of Sawtry) • **Raveley Wood and Lady's Wood** (south of Ramsey).	• **Brampton Wood** • **Bevill's Wood** (adjacent to Monks Wood) • **West Wood and Diddington Wood** (Grafham Water).

Figure 14 Significant Ancient Woodland sites in Huntingdonshire

4.10 Protected trees

4.10.1 As of January 2020, the Council currently administer 858 Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs); this equates to approximately 10,000 individual trees and 3000 Ha of protected woodland, groups, and areas of trees.

4.10.2 Our earliest valid TPO was made in 1951, with 30 orders dating from pre 1970. A significant proportion of our orders were made between 1985 and 1995 and reflect a period of considerable change in the district (Figure 15). Geographically, the parishes which contain the highest number of TPOs follow our river valleys, with the highest number of orders per parish being found in Hemingford Grey and Hemingford Abbots (the Hemingfords) at the centre of the district.
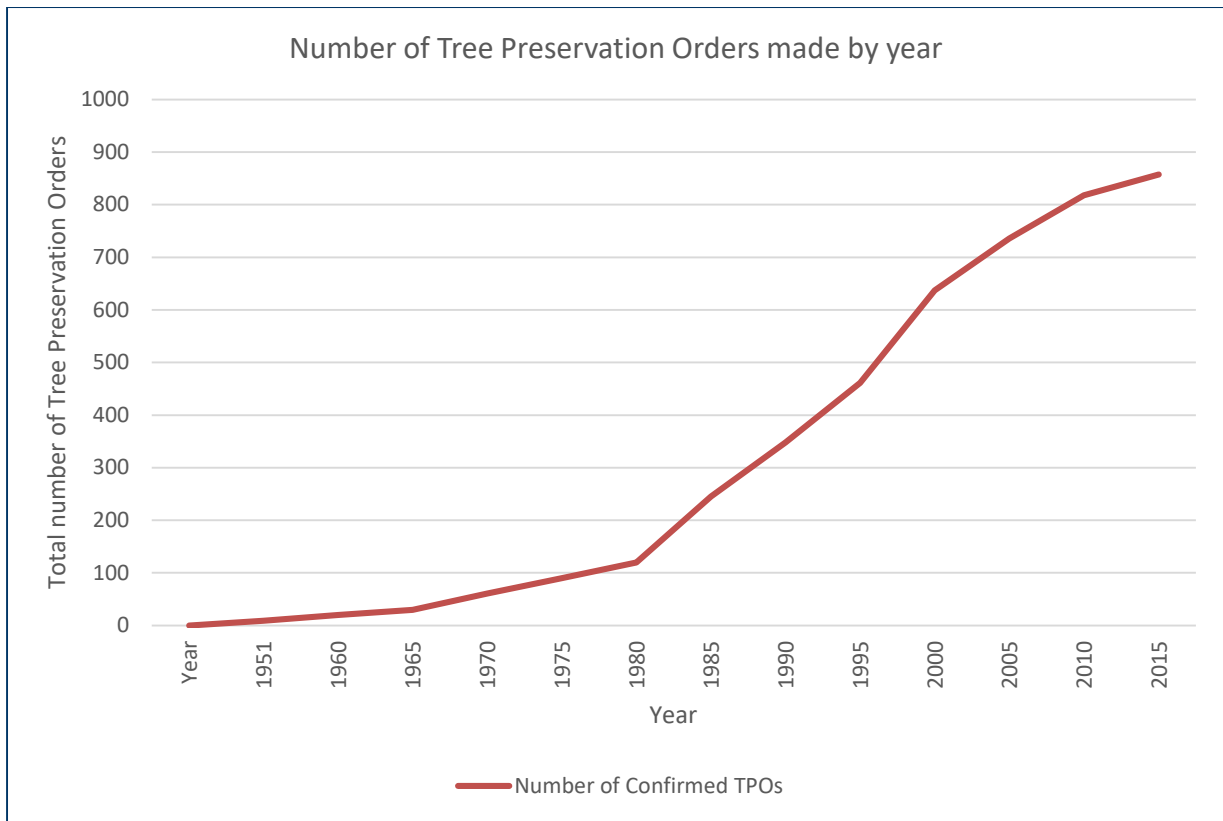
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Figure 15. *Number of Tree Preservation Orders made by year.*

Kimbolton School Grounds (HDC)

4.11 Canopy Cover

4.11.1 Canopy cover is the area of leaves, branches, and stems of trees covering the ground when viewed from above[9]. Assessing the level of cover in urban and semi urban areas can aid in understanding the scale of a tree population across an area. By evaluating these levels, we can better understand how the benefits offered by trees can be maximised and target planting and management efforts to areas where the levels are lower and fewer tree benefits are being derived. In addition, research suggests that even small increases in canopy cover can help urban areas and their residents adapt to the effects of climate change[10]. To maximise the benefits we derive from our trees, a study by Forest Research considers that a minimum canopy cover of 20% in urban areas is required.

4.11.2 A recent assessment of Huntingdonshire has provided important baseline information on the level of cover and its distribution across our towns and urban areas. This assessment highlighted canopy cover levels ranging from 15.9% to 18.8% in the four key urban areas. This compares to a national average of 15.8% in urban areas[11].

Urban Area	Canopy cover %
Huntingdon	18.2%
St Ives	15.9%
St Neots	17.6%
Ramsey	18.8%

Figure 16 Canopy cover in the 4 key urban areas in Huntingdonshire

4.11.3 A review of the canopy cover of the whole district indicates a total cover of 8.7%. While this is low, it does reflect the predominance of an agricultural landscape found in Huntingdonshire and may not accurately reflect the canopy cover benefits derived in our Wards (Figure 17). Further work is required to allow a full assessment of the district's canopy cover at a finer grain and, where possible, drawing comparisons against factors such as health, mortality rates and deprivation to allow effective management of our tree population for future generations.

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[9] A report on New York City's present and possible urban tree canopy. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. 2006.

[10] Adapting Cities for Climate Change: The Role of the Green Infrastructure. 2007.

[11] The Canopy Cover of England's Towns and Cities: baselining and setting targets to improve human health and well-being. https://www.charteredforesters.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Doick-et-al_Canopy-Cover-of-Englands-Towns-and-Cities_revised220317_combined.pdf
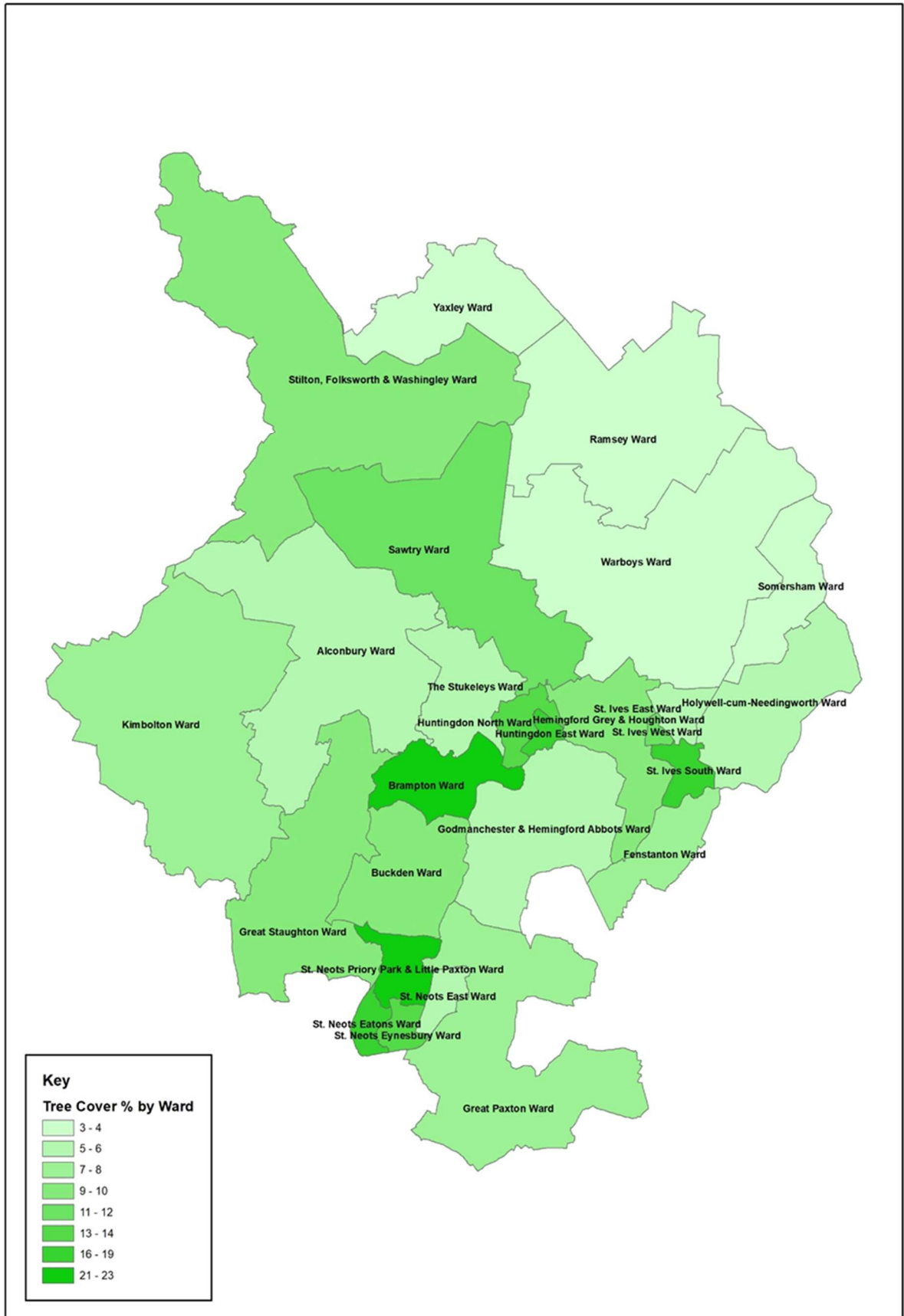
Figure 17 Tree canopy cover by ward in Huntingdonshire

Key

Tree Cover % by Ward

- 3 - 4
- 5 - 6
- 7 - 8
- 9 - 10
- 11 - 12
- 13 - 14
- 16 - 19
- 21 - 23

Yaxley Ward

Stilton, Folksworth & Washingley Ward

Ramsey Ward

Sawtry Ward

Warboys Ward

Somersham Ward

Alconbury Ward

The Stukeleys Ward

St. Ives East Ward

Holywell-cum-Needingworth Ward

Kimbolton Ward

Huntingdon North Ward

Hemingford Grey & Houghton Ward

Huntingdon East Ward

St. Ives West Ward

Brampton Ward

St. Ives South Ward

Godmanchester & Hemingford Abbots Ward

Fenstanton Ward

Buckden Ward

Great Staughton Ward

St. Neots Priory Park & Little Paxton Ward

St. Neots East Ward

St. Neots Eatons Ward

St. Neots Eynesbury Ward

Great Paxton Ward

5.   Future Challenges

5.1   Our trees, the overall population they form part of and our ability to manage them face a range of challenges. These challenges can have a negative impact on a tree at all stages of its life, from planting and establishment through to their growth and maturity. All of which affect a trees ability to deliver its maximum potential benefits.

5.2   These challenges are broad reaching and, in some cases, are national rather than specific to Huntingdonshire. However, to achieve the aims of this strategy the following will need to be considered and managed.

- *Climate change:* The effect of a changing climate will impact on our trees and woodlands. This is likely because of increasing occurrences of extreme weather such as high winds, heavy rainfall, and higher average temperatures. These factors may affect the rates of establishment for new trees and decrease the resilience of our existing tree population to pests and disease.

- *Increasing environmental pressures:* Environmental legislation surrounding the management of our trees and the reporting of arboricultural statistics has the potential to greatly impact on our resources. In addition, the time over which the strategy will be in place (to 2030) is likely to see the introduction of various national policies and targets in relation to tree management.

- *Canopy cover distribution:* While an initial assessment of the canopy cover across the district indicates that our urban areas have a cover level similar to that of the rest of the UK, the cover in our rural wards is notably low. In some areas this is due to the surrounding landscape character, however there is a noted loss of canopy cover on the edge of the urban areas, with little graduation of the tree stock in these areas. Furthermore, where there are important canopy populations in rural areas, they tend to be fragmented, decreasing their ecological and biodiversity potential.

- *Limited diversity in our tree stock:* A review of the composition of our own tree stock has shown limited diversity in terms of species mix, age classification and tree canopy size.

   A significant proportion of our trees are Maple or Ash species. Given the current threat to Ash trees, there is the potential that our tree population could be significantly affected by an outbreak of Ash Dieback in the district. Should a pest or disease affecting Maple species become established, this is likely to have a similar impact. This lack of species diversity makes our tree stock highly susceptible to significant losses through pest and disease outbreaks.

   Approximately 40% of our trees are classified as "semi mature". This has the potential to increase the likelihood of a large proportion of our trees maturing and eventually entering decline at a similar time. Not only does this have the potential to lead to large scale tree loss in a relatively short period of time, but also has resource implications of managing an aging tree population. Similarly, only a small

proportion of our trees are classified as "over mature" limiting the future benefits we can derive from our oldest trees.

Data concerning tree species mix also indicates that much of tree stock is comprised of tree species with typically small size canopies at mature, such as Rowan and Cherry. While these species still form an important part of our tree population, their benefits are limited when compared to trees with a larger growth potential such as Oak and Beech, especially in maturity.

- *Limited woodland connectivity:* The species mix and location of our woodlands, spinneys and shelterbelts give rise to challenges in their management. At present, many of the woodlands have limited connection to other habitat areas and corridors, limiting the ecological benefits they could provide.

- *Damage and vandalism:* Damage to trees through deliberate acts is common and places significant pressure on the Council to manage a sustainable tree population. Regular instances include the cutting of branches, lighting fires under mature trees, and poor-quality pruning of trees near domestic property.

Young and newly planted trees often have branches torn out or their stems snapped against their supports. These, and all other acts of vandalism to Council owned trees prevents strategic allocation of our resources to managing our trees.

- *Damage associated with the installation and repair of utility services:* While the benefits of street trees are well documented, they are extremely vulnerable to damage from utility works. For example, poor pruning to give overhead line clearance and root damage from trenching and service installation.

- *Dated TPO designations:* The assessment of our legal designations has indicated that a significant proportion of our protected trees fall within Tree Preservation Orders that were made prior to 1990. Many of the older orders cover trees which are no longer present and may not reflect the current tree population.

- *Establishment rates:* At present, the rate of successful establishment of new trees on development sites is unknown. This prevents a full understanding to be gained regarding the likely future tree populations created as part of new development.

- *Recognition of special trees:* While the Council recognises the importance of ancient and veteran trees, there is currently a lack of recording of these trees throughout the district. This lack of knowledge could result in their unintentional loss or their importance not being recognised.

- *Loss of orchards:* The number and extent of orchards in Huntingdonshire has declined rapidly in the last fifty years and they are now a threatened habitat. Work undertaken by other organisations has started to record traditional orchards, however a current lack of understanding of the Council's potential orchard ownership results in us not being able to proactively plant or manage any fruit trees in our ownership.

5.3   To tackle these challenges, the polices set out in this strategy and the tasks detailed in a supporting action plan will include (but no be limited to) projects which seek to:

- Aim to address the challenge of a changing climate on our tree population.
- Increase the age, species, and size diversity in our own tree stock.
- Respond to changes in arboricultural sector in respect to information reporting and changes in national tree management policies.
- Put in place a strategy for preventing and mitigating against deliberate and accidental damage to our trees.
- Better understand the establishment rates for newly planted trees on development sites.
- Locate and record our veteran and ancient trees.
- Understand the composition of our canopy cover and increase it in the most deprived areas.
- Increase the connectivity of our woodlands, spinneys and shelterbelts.
- Better understand the composition of any orchards in our ownership and how we can support the wider management of traditional orchards in Huntingdonshire.
- Review the potential for a review of our Tree Preservation Orders.

Riverside Park Huntingdon (HDC)

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Part 3. Vision

6.   Vision and Aims

6.1   At the heart of this strategy there is a core vision which will guide the way in which we manage trees in Huntingdonshire. Its purpose is to ensure that we are working in a consistent way, towards a common goal, regardless which Council department or stakeholder organisation is contributing towards our aims. The vision for the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030 is:

> *"To manage our districts trees in a sustainable way to ensure that their benefits are experienced by current and future generations"*

6.2   This integrated management approach to achieving the Council's long-term vision has the following aims:

I.   To promote sustainable management of the Council's trees through effective use of our resources.

II.   To maximise the environmental, economic and health benefits of trees across the district;

III.   To fulfil the Council's duty of care in respect of the management of its tree stock;

IV.   To create a legacy of tree planting across the district;

V.   To promote community engagement in all aspects of tree planting and management, realising the maximum benefits they can provide;

VI.   Make efficient and strategic use of the Council's regulatory powers for the protection of trees of current and future value.

VII.   To recognise, promote and protect important tree populations within Huntingdonshire.

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Part 4. Tree Management Policies

7.   Managing trees owned by the Council

7.1   Huntingdonshire District Council currently manages over 9000 individual trees, tree groups, shelterbelts and woodland within; country and amenity parks and open spaces. It has been estimated that the tree stock is 400 Ha across the district. We recognise that our trees across the portfolio of our land makes a significant contribution within the urban and rural setting of the district. To ensure we are managing our tree population effectively, we employ professional staff experienced in arboriculture.

7.2   We view our trees as an asset that requires an approach of care that reflects their importance. Tree retention is our priority when managing our trees, promoting the benefits they bring to the urban and rural landscape. Management and care of our trees is achieved by ensuring tree management is to follow current best practice and legislation.

7.3   Trees in publicly accessible areas may, from time to time, require management. This work may include the removal of some trees, pruning of others and replacement planting, with the aim of maintaining the overall tree cover in a safe, healthy, and sustainable condition.

Policy TM1: As part of the Council's arboricultural functions we will ensure our actions are based on :

1. Meeting our duty of care when managing trees in our ownership.
2.   Managing trees for their ecological and habitat benefits where practicable.
3. Increasing the tree canopy cover by committing to continued tree planting.
4. Recognising our tree stock as an asset that enhances the local area.

7.4   Our tree management is based on tasks from two key sources, our planned inspection routine and associated tasks and requests for tree works from the public and other outside sources. While all aspects of our operations are important, our resources need to be balanced to ensure we are delivering thorough management of our trees. Figure 18 sets out our key work areas. When considering tree works to Council trees the following Acts will be adhered too:

1. Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981
2. Town & Country Planning Act 2012
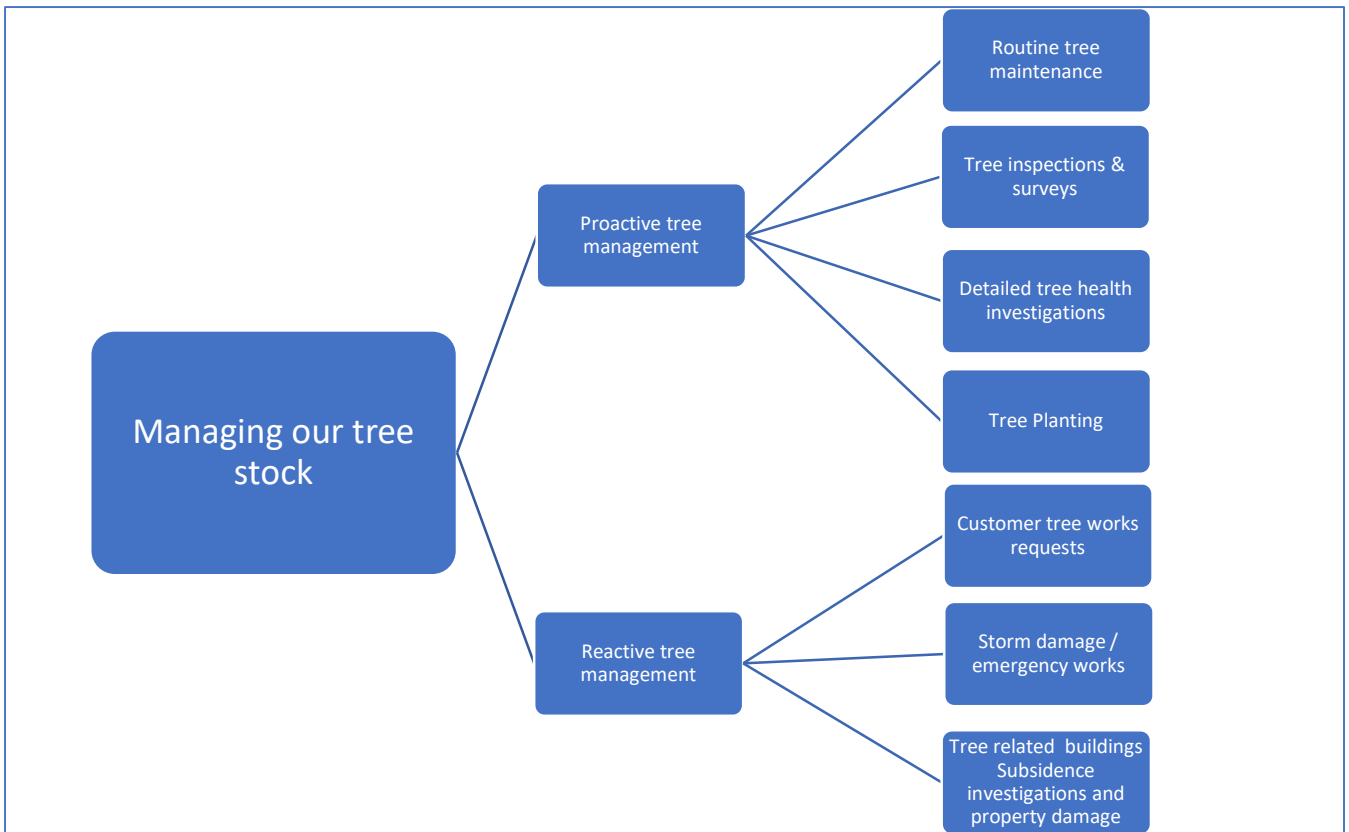3. Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000
4. Highways Act 1980

Figure 18 Key tree management areas undertaken by the Council

PiCUS test on a Beech tree (HDC)

8.   Proactive tree management

8.1   The Council has a responsibility to maintain the trees in our ownership and management to ensure they are in a safe condition and not causing an unreasonable danger or actionable nuisance.

8.2   Council-owned trees are surveyed and inspected for safety and information gathering purposes, the results of which are recorded on a computer-based tree management system. This information includes details on species, age, condition, and any recommendations for work. The frequency of surveys and inspections is dependent on a range of factors such as tree location, condition, and our management objectives. This allows us to organise tree maintenance programs based on our priorities and objectives.

8.3   The main aim of the inspection is to identify trees which pose a risk to people or property, but other management issues are also identified such as obstruction to paths, roads street signs, street lighting and where branches physically touch fences and buildings. Tree maintenance recommendations generated from our routine tree surveying are prioritised to reflect our legal responsibilities.

Policy TM2. The routine surveying of our trees is based on:
1. Protecting public safety so far as is reasonably practicable and to minimise damage to property.
2. Continuing to use and develop a computerised tree surveying software to inspect all trees on Council land.
3. Conserving, protecting, maintaining and enhancing the district's tree resources by analysing tree data collected using modern surveying practices
4. Escalating identified tree safety concerns efficiently to ensure acceptable tree investigation procedures are met.

8.4   Routine Tree Maintenance
8.4.1   There are trees within the Council's ownership that require a management pruning on a cyclical basis such as pollarding and footpath clearance. Such trees may be subjected to a pruning plan to prevent them from becoming a hazard or legal nuisance.

8.4.2   All work to our trees is be carried out by appropriately qualified and experienced staff or by approved Arboricultural Contractors. We ensure appointed persons undertaking work to the Council's trees adhere to current UK and EU legislation, Arboricultural Industry Code of Practices[12], British Standard 2010: BS 3998[13], Arboricultural HSE guidance[14].

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[12] Industry Code of Practice for Arboriculture – Tree Work at Height
[13] British Standard 2010: BS 3998 (Tree Works – Recommendations)
[14] Health & Safety @ work Act & Arboricultural and Forestry Advisory Group (AFAG)

Policy TM3. Tree maintenance undertaken to Council trees will be in accordance to Health & Safety procedures and industry best practice and be justified through the Council's hierarchy of accepted reasons. The Council will ensure that:

1. Tree works which follow the principles set out through current industry best practice unless there is overriding arboricultural justification as to why this cannot be undertaken are carried out.
2. Appointed persons undertaking maintenance works to Council tree will adhere to HSE and industry best practice
3. Recycle opportunities will be explored with waste generated from Council maintenance tree works.

8.5   Detailed health and condition Investigations

8.5.1   We also recognise that there are limitations to the level of tree assessment we are able to undertake and we may require additional skills and expert opinion. In such cases the Council may call upon an independent Arboricultural Consultant to undertake further investigations.

Policy TM4. Where the Council identifies a tree has a heath or condition issue which requires further investigation, we will appoint an Arboricultural Consultant to undertaken further assessments and analysis to support our management decisions.

8.6   Statutorily protected trees owned by the Council

8.6.1   Some of the Council's trees are protected via statutory protection such as a Tree Preservation Orders. In cases where tree maintenance work has been identified to protected trees belonging to the Council, we will follow the statutory procedures to notify our Local Planning Authority and provide public notification if required.

8.6.2   If we are requested by a member of the public to undertake works to Council owned protected trees, there will need to be a greater justification for the work to be undertaken. In such cases, timeframes for the completion of work may exceed our usual response periods to allow for a more detailed investigation to be undertaken and to allow for application procedures to be followed.

8.7   Managing veteran and ancient trees

8.7.1   Managing Ancient and Veteran trees owned by the Council is an important part of our operations. These trees require increased levels of care and specialist management techniques. This not only ensures they can be retained, but allows them to continue to support their own ecosystems and retain the valuable links the give us to the past.

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Policy TM5. The Council will protect veteran and ancient trees owned or managed in our ownership by:
1. Managing the natural ageing and degeneration of these trees in a sensitive manner, following current best practice guidelines.
2. Carefully manage the area around these trees to create the most favourable conditions for their retention
3. Where appropriate, undertake tree works to "veteranize" mature trees to create niche habitats.
4. Record ancient and veteran trees owned and managed by the Council with the Ancient Tree Forum.

8.8 Recycling

8.8.1 Waste generated from Council tree maintenance operations will be recycled to reduce the impact on the environment and costs to the organisation. Opportunities will be explored to utilise by-products such as woodchip and wood to support local environmental projects or re-used on Council land with open space projects.

Policy TM6. As part of the Council's tree management options, we will endeavour to adopt a closed loop system for recycling of arisings

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9. Reactive tree management

9.1 A significant proportion of our work arises from public or third-party requests for tree works. All requests are recorded and prioritised according to their urgency; with safety issues being given the greatest weighting. This allow for equal assessment and prioritisation of work.

9.2 We assess all requests to determine our initial course of action and may include a site visit. Where a site visit is required, we willendeavour to do it within 4 weeks of the request and the customer advised of the decision within a week of the visit. Where longer response times are anticipated the customer will be informed.

9.3 Any tree works we consider to be required are programmed dependent on its urgency, appropriateness, and availability of resources. Some tree works may be recommended for inclusion within existing programs of work.

9.4 Our tree pruning commitments are based on common law, duty of care and best practice approaches to tree management. Because of the adverse impacts that pruning can have on trees, we carefully consider situations where pruning is requested. Appendix 2 provides examples of tree pruning requests that we deem not justifiable.

Policy TM7. Customer tree pruning requests will be managed in line withthe following stages:

1. The Council will only respond to customer tree pruning requests that are reported through the Council's adopted reporting systems, unless overriding personal circumstances apply.
2. All customer requested tree works will be accessed against "*Hierarchy of tree maintenance works*" table (Figure 19)
3. The Council will endeavour to respond and complete a customer request in the agreed timeframe, during busy periods this may be extended and – customers notified.
4. Exceptions & Exclusions will be considered when assessing customer tree pruning requests
5. Complaints will be investigated and managed case by case, outcomes will be within a reasonable timeframe

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9.5 All of our maintenance tree works conform to the tree maintenance hierarchy table (Figure 19). All customer tree pruning requests will be assessed against this table, as it allows the Council to effectively allocate resources and focus on priority tree maintenance work.

Priority Level	Response Times
High Priority	A site visit will be made on the same day or within 24 hours in respect of a working 5-day week (Monday to Friday). Timescales for action will be organised on the outcome of the Councils site visit.
Cases where it has been reported that Council tree(s) are in such a condition that they may cause immediate harm to persons or damage to public and private properties, roads, and footpaths or other public and/or private land. These may include: • Trees which are dead, dying or imminently dangerous • Snapped, broken, branch failure, dangerous structural parts of a tree • Up rooted trees or those with root plate disturbance • Tree structural defects such as cavities, cracks, and hollows • Trees with pest and diseases • Storm damage • Trees with mushrooms and fungi	
Secondary Priority	A site visit will be undertaken in accordance with our inspection timescales for that geographical area. Actions following our site visit may take up to 6 months depending upon a site assessment, findings, and planned maintenance schedules.
Tree work which has been requested and work has been identified, but does not sit in the "High Priority" category and is, therefore, managed within a longer timeframe may include: • Legal nuisance (causing direct damage to property). For example, part of a tree is damaging property or have reached property. Identified work will be organised by the Council's tree maintenance procedures set out in this guidance notes. • Tree in relation to subsidence claims. (See section 9) • Woodland and shelterbelt management. Areas as such have been identified through routine surveying or reported by members of the public – dead trees / storm damage / hazard trees • Young tree maintenance of newly established trees. For example, newly planted trees require watering and monitoring to insure they establish ensuring there are trees in place to replace maturing tree stock. • Vandalism. For example, fire dangerous of physical structural damage that results in the tree to become a hazard to person or property. In such reports the Police will be notified of the suspected act of vandalism to record the criminal offence and to raise a crime number in the eventuality that if further evidence is provided which may support seeking further investigation. • Reducing anti-social behaviour activities with tree populated areas • Tree; roads & footpaths. The Council will undertake work to trees in council ownership / management to maintain a minimum 5.2 metres clearance over roads, 2.4 metres over footpaths. This include trees obstruction road junction visibility and footpath & cycle path visibility. In accordance to The Highway Act 1980	
Low priority	12 months where possible but works may not be undertaken as a priority. If works are not completed in this timeframe, we will reassess the need of the request.
Cases where tree works request did not fall into the above categories and are not within the scope of works contained in Appendix 2. *completion timescales may be extended based on unforeseen circumstances that are outside of the council's control, such as: storm damage, subsidence claims, works generated from tree surveying, poor weather conditions, contractor commitments*	

Figure 19 Hierarchy of maintenance works undertaken by the Council

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9.6   Where it has been identified that Council trees are obstructing CCTV cameras, pruning works will be considered by firstly investigating the desired level of work required to improve lines of sight. We will also undertake work to a Council owned tree to maintain clear sight lines (where feasible) at junctions, access points (associated with a street, road or highway), traffic signals and street signs.

Policy TM8. Where elderly, infirm or disabled persons who spend a significant amount of time within their home are affected by trees, the Council will take a flexible approach to tree management. Where it can be established that the presence of trees is detrimental to the health of such residents, further consideration will be given to our management approach. This consideration will also take into account the quality and importance of the tree in question, as well as the benefits to the wider community. The Council will consider the following:

1. Effecting light to property
2. Closeness to the property
3. Effecting / obstruction access to property
4. Tree species characteristics

9.7   Complaints

All recommended tree works will be guided by Council policy. However, if an individual is unsatisfied with the decision and following further discussion with the Arboricultural Managers and agreement cannot be reached, a formal complaint can be made using the Council's existing procedures[15].

9.8   Consultation of large-scale works

9.8.1   Where proposed tree works are of public interest, if there are special circumstances or the work deviate from the normal standards we work to, public consultation may be undertaken. Generally, pruning works within the Councils guidelines will not require public consultation.

9.8.2   Where large scale work is to be carried out, such as woodland felling or the thinning of a shelter belt as part of routine management, local residents, Ward Councilors, and any other local groups such as Parish and Town Councils will be informed before works commence. Any responses will be considered prior to works commencing. Where trees present an immediate hazard such that felling is the only practical urgent solution it may not be possible to inform interested parties before the work is carried out.

Policy TM9. Where large scale tree works operations have been identified, the Council will undertake consultation with the following parties:
1. Residents that may be directly affected by the identified works
2. Parish & Town Councils
3. Ward members
4. Community groups were appropriate

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[15] Complaints: https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/contact-us

9.9 Anti-social behaviour & vandalism management

9.9.1 The Council's ethos is to ensure trees are valued by the community as part of our environment. However, sometimes our trees are the subject of deliberate damage such as unauthorised pruning, removal of newly planted trees, fire damage and poisoning.

9.9.2 Investigating and managing these instances not only has a detrimental impact on our environment, but also impacts on the allocation of our resources. The Council will seek compensation from any external organisation or party responsible for wilfully damaging or removal of any Council owned tree(s) to the value as calculated by CAVAT.

Policy TM10. The Council will act on cases of damage and vandalism to trees in our ownership. Where such cases are experienced, we may:

1. Report the incident to the local police and/or Wildlife Protection Officer if appropriate.
2. Encourage local communities to report incidents of vandalism.
3. Publicise cases of tree-based vandalism.
4. Seek compensation for damage as appropriate.

10. Managing trees in the urban environment.

10.1 Trees form an important part of our urban environment and their environmental benefits are often apparent in these locations. However, these places can be challenging for trees, and their growth and development can be significantly reduced due to a range of factors such as drought, increased reflective heat and pressures for space from different uses.

10.2 To ensure that trees in these challenging locations thrive and offer the most benefits to our residents, we strive to manage their environment carefully. This includes taking an engineering approach to new tree planting in hard surface areas, adoption of special planting techniques and protecting our existing urban trees from damage.

Policy TM11. Where the Council are planning for new trees or managing existing trees in hard surfaced or highly urbanised areas, we will:

1. Plant trees using specialised planting techniques which ensure adequate soil volumes, appropriate hydration, and prevent damage from other users.
2. Select species which can tolerate the site-specific conditions.
3. Utilise alternative surfacing methods around trees where repairs are required to address surface cracking.

Hornbeams; Huntingdon (HDC)

11. Tree planting

11.1 Tree planting forms one of our key priorities and is undertaken by different teams and services across the Council.

11.2 As part of our own tree works programme, where felling is undertaken, we will endeavour to plant new trees on a 2:1 replacement ratio unless exceptional circumstances prevent this. Where we are not able to, or do not wish to replace trees in the same location (due to immediate site conditions and nearby features rendering replanting unsuitable for example), we will endeavour to seek nearby Council land that may be more suitable.

11.3 Alongside our reactive replacement planting, we administer a tree planting programme which was initiated in 2017. This programme identifies land owned by the Council which may be suitable for tree planting which is not currently treed. As part of this work, we encourage working with residents and user groups who are interested in tree planting projects and engage tree planting schemes administered by national environmental organisations.

11.4 Where we undertake any new tree planting we actively support the ethos of "right tree, right place" and look to increase species and age diversity as part of all of our planting operations to ensure the maximum benefits can be derived from our new trees.

11.5 As part of our commitment to new tree establishment, we follow a detailed aftercare programme for all our new trees to ensure successful establishment and that our new trees thrive. This covers basic operations such as programmed watering to more skilled young tree care operations such as formative pruning and tree health and support checks.

Policy TP1. The Council is committed to planting trees on land owned or managed by the Council. We will do this by:

1. Ensuring replacement tree planting is undertaken on a 2:1 ratio where possible.
2. Investigate opportunities for new, strategic tree planting on Council owned land where appropriate.
3. Work with community groups and utilise schemes administered by national environmental organisations to procure and plant trees.
4. Developing a young tree maintenance aftercare program to maintain young tree establishment rates.
5. Select tree species and stock types that are suitable for the surrounding environment.

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12. Subsidence and building damage management

12.1 We consider our trees as an environmental asset that enhance the landscape within urban areas. However, from time to time our trees may be identified as contributing to building damage. We understand the distress subsidence may cause to property owners and ensure we follow a detailed route of investigation in these cases. Due to the legal implications that are involved with the investigation process this may impact the speed of the investigation. If you believe that your property is being damaged because of tree related subsidence you should firstly contact your building insurer for advice.

12.2 Where a claim is made against a Council owned tree the Council will reasonably expect an appropriate level of evidence provided to demonstrate that the tree in question is an influencing cause in the subsidence. Please refer to appendix 3.

12.3 In the case of a protected tree (those subject to a TPO or located in a Conservation Area) this evidence is mandatory. Without this information it is unlikely that the Council will be able to take an informed view on any proposed works or an appropriate solution. Please refer to Appendix 3.

Policy TS1: The Council will only consider claims where there is supporting evidence made in writing and contain the required evidence in Appendix 3.

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13.   Biosecurity management

13.1   The threats facing our trees is increasing at an unprecedented rate. Global travel, the importation of goods and a changing climate all have the potential to introduce pests and diseases which can have highly damaging impacts on our national and local tree populations. These outbreaks not only have the potential to have a devastating impact on the landscape of Huntingdonshire but can also impact on our ability to strategically allocate our resources to manage the district's trees effectively.

13.2   Outbreaks have already impacted on the district's tree population through the loss of Elm from Dutch Elm Disease in the early 1970s. The current rate of infection from Ash Dieback is predicted to have a similar impact on our native Ash species. In addition, newly recognised pests and diseases are being regularly found among the Country's tree population which can have devastating impact on tree stock.
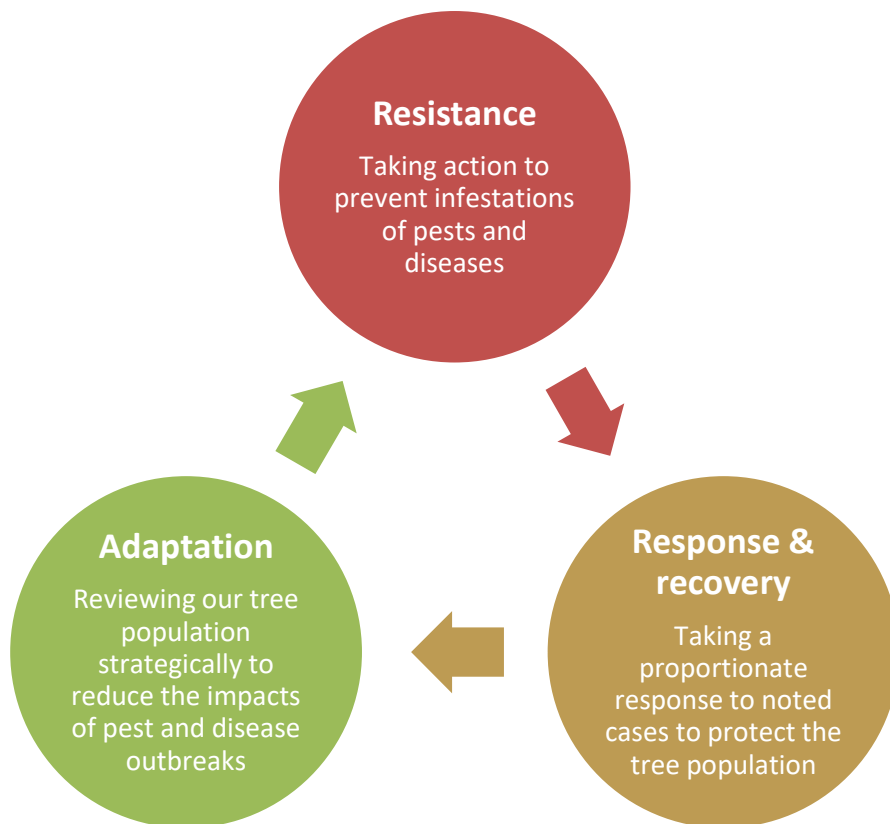

Resistance
Taking action to prevent infestations of pests and diseases

Adaptation
Reviewing our tree population strategically to reduce the impacts of pest and disease outbreaks

Response & recovery
Taking a proportionate response to noted cases to protect the tree population

Figure 20. Principals of the Tree Health Resilience Strategy

13.3   To reduce the risk of tree pests and diseases having a harmful impact on the Huntingdonshire tree population, the Council follow current government and industry best practice in relation to biosecurity matters[16] and endorse the principles set out the

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[16] Government and industry documents include the Arboricultural Association's guidance notes (https://www.trees.org.uk/Trees.org.uk/media/Treesorg.uk/Documents/eBooks/AA_GuidanceNote2_BiosecurityArboriculture-ebook.pdf and current guidance form Forest Research.

Tree Health Resilience Strategy[17] (Figure 20) as part of our approach to managing pests and disease establishment.

13.4 We understand that we are not able to address biosecurity issues as a standalone organisation and owner of trees. However, through the adoption of these values, having robust biosecurity practices in place and working with other organisations and tree owners we can effectively respond to any new pest and disease outbreaks.

Policy TBS1: The understanding, promotion and implementation of good biosecurity practices will form a key part of the Council's arboricultural operation. We will do this by:

1. Reporting the instances of notifiable pests and diseases to the appropriate national bodies.
2. Developing Local Action Plans where necessary to address pest and disease outbreaks.
3. Ensuring our appointed contractors have up to date biosecurity plans working practices in place.
4. Maintaining a high level of training in biosecurity matters for our employees who encounter trees.
5. Only procuring new trees from UK Nurseries with high biosecurity standards in place (including how they source their growing stock).
6. Developing diversity in our own tree population.
7. Promoting high standards of biosecurity to our partner organisations and the public.

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[17] Tree Health Resilience Strategy. DEFRA. 2018
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/710719/tree-health-resilience-strategy.pdf

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14. Managing privately owned trees

14.1　While the benefits of trees can be clearly demonstrated, they can sometimes be a source of concern. While the Council are not able to directly influence the management of privately owned trees (or those on land owned by other public bodies), there are certain circumstances where we can investigate and take action to prevent the risk of imminent damage to persons or property.

14.2　These fall within the obligations of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976[18] and seeks to prevent damage from dangerous trees in emergency situations. However, these provisions cannot be used as a resolve to general management concerns and these should be discussed between parties privately or through a mediation service.

14.3　Where trees are located on the Highway or are managed by another organisation, the Council will direct enquiries about their management to them. Contact details for other organisations that manage trees such as Cambridgeshire County Council can be found on our website.

Policy PT1: The Council will utilise its statutory powers to address health and safety issues surrounding private trees where no legal owner of the tree(s) can be identified and there is a confirmed imminent risk to persons or property. To do this we will:

1. Only investigate cases where the complainant has attempted to resolve the situation as far as they reasonably can. Complainants will be expected to have undertaken Land Registry searches and have sought to contact landowners before they seek the advice of the Council.
2. Only use our resources in cases where a clear and imminent risk is identified. Where no owner can be identified and / or the owner is not able or willing to undertake works themselves.
3. Seek to recover all associated costs from undertaking any required actions.

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[18] S.23 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1976/57/part/I/crossheading/dangerous-trees-and-excavations

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15.   Protected tree management

15.1   A significant proportion of the trees and woodlands in the district are on privately owned land and cover areas ranging from agricultural fields and country estates to business parks and private gardens. While these trees are outside of the management of the Council, the contribution they make to the district's tree population is considerable.

15.2   Many of these trees benefit from some form of statutory legal protection, which either gives them legal status in their own right (such as Tree Preservation Orders), because they are located in a designated place such as conservation areas or are protected by certain arboricultural or forestry based legislation. The protection of these trees form a significant part of the work undertaken by the Council. While these designations provide opportunities to promote excellence in tree management, they also have significant resource implications.

Church Lane, Brampron; TPO'd Beech tree (HDC)

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15.3 Tree Preservation Orders and managing tree works applications

15.3.1 Section 197 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990[19] gives Local Planning Authorities the power to protect trees on private land with a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) where this is in the 'interests of amenity". While the current Regulations[20] do not specifically define amenity, it can be generally considered as a phrase to describe a feature which can be seen by the general public or has some level of quantifiable importance.

15.3.2 A TPO prohibits the cutting down, topping, lopping, uprooting, wilful damage, and wilful destruction[21] of protected trees without the Local Planning Authority's written consent. Undertaking works without the prior permission of the Council is a criminal offence.

15.3.3 The Council assess on average 165 applications for works to protected trees each year, which range from large scale woodland management proposals to basic pruning requests. The Council assess all applications in line with current planning guidance relating to protected trees and promote good arboricultural management in all cases. Should an application for tree works be refused, an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate[22] can be made. Where felling is permitted, replanting will be sought unless there are exceptional circumstances to prevent this. Any works undertaken without the prior permission of the Council will be subject to an investigation by the Council's Planning Enforcement Team.

Policy PRT1. The Council will seek to maintain a robust and sustainable population of protected trees by:

1. Developing a review programme which focusses on assessing key orders.
2. Ensuring replacement trees are required as part of all applications for the felling of protected trees, except where there are clear arboricultural reasons why this is not appropriate.
3. Promoting the planting of a diverse range of tree species, ensuring that the species selection follows the principals of "right tree, right place".
4. Attach conditions to planning applications to conserve, enhance or replace trees where appropriate.
5. Taking enforcement action when replanting requirements have not been complied with.
6. Actively encourage the planting of replacement trees in conservation areas.

15.3.4 Where works are proposed to Council owned and managed trees which are subject to TPO's, these will be coordinated by a lead officer in the Arboricultural Operations Team. All works to Council owned protected trees will be advertised through a site notice displayed on or near the tree. The proposals will be assessed by the Council's Arboricultural Team in Planning Services.

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[19] Town and Country Planning Act 1990 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/8/part/VIII/chapter/I
[20] The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012 http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/contents/made
[21] S.13 The Town and Country Planning (Tree Preservation)(England) Regulations 2012
http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/605/regulation/13/made
[22] Appealing a decision about a Tree Preservation Order https://www.gov.uk/appeal-decision-about-tree-order

Policy PRT2. The Council will promote excellence in the management of protected trees and woodlands by:

1. Only validating applications for works to protected trees which clearly describe the proposed operations and follow the application requirements set out by current planning practice guidance.
2. Resisting applications for works to protected trees which do not follow the recommendations contained in current industry best practice guidelines.
3. Investigating any reported breaches to the TPO legislation in accordance with our enforcement procedures.
4. Working to increase public awareness of good arboricultural management practices.
5. Attach conditions to planning applications to conserve, enhance or replace trees within or adjoining development sites as appropriate.

Brampton Pack tree line (HDC)

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15.4 Making and managing Tree Preservation Orders

15.4.1 The Council receive, on average, 20 requests annually to designate new TPO's. These requests originate from a range of sources, such as members of the public, Parish and Town Councils or local groups. When new requests are received, the Council's Arboricultural Officer will assess the trees to determine their suitability for a new designation using a structured assessment method.

15.4.2 Where a new designation is being considered, the trees will usually be visible from public areas. However, in some circumstances this may not be the case and other overriding factors will be in place, such as species rarity and historical importance. Similarly, the tree being visible as a standalone factor will not usually result in a designation being made. Where trees are under good management (by a private or public landowner) we will not seek to make them subject to a TPO, unless there is a clear risk of harm to them.

> **Policy PRT3.** The Council will consider all new requests for Tree Preservation Orders. As part of our assessment, we will:
>
> 1. Consider the expediency and necessity for applying a legal designation to trees where a new order has been requested.
> 2. Assess all requests for new orders in accordance current government and industry guidance and best practice.
> 3. Only consider requests for new orders where they are received in writing, unless the tree(s) is in immediate risk of loss or damage.
> 4. Give clear reasons for any cases where we decide not to make a new order.

15.5 Trees in conservation areas

15.5.1 In addition to TPO'd trees, the Council administer 60 Conservation Areas. The main aim of these designations is to protect the special historical and architectural interest of an area. However, they also provide a level of statutory protection for all trees with a stem diameter of 75mm or more when measured at 1.5m from ground level.

15.5.2 Where tree works are intended to be undertaken in a conservation area, any applicant must serve 6 weeks' notice on the Council prior to starting works[23]. This allows us to determine the likely impact of any tree work on the special character of the surrounding area. The Council assess on average 450 notifications for tree works in a conservation area a year.

15.5.3 All notifications will be assessed by the Council's Arboricultural Officers and will not be subject to consultation with interested groups or neighbours unless there are extenuating circumstances. Where the Council have concerns regarding the impact of any proposed works on the character of the conservation area, these will first be discussed with the applicant. In cases were the Council consider that the works will be

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[23] Tree Preservation Orders and trees in Conservation Areas https://www.gov.uk/guidance/tree-preservation-orders-and-trees-in-conservation-areas#Protecting-trees-in-conservation-areas

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to the detriment of the surrounding area, they will seek to make the trees subject to a TPO.

15.5.4 Many of the trees owned and managed by the Council fall within a conservation area. While there is no requirement for other Council departments to serve notice on the Local Planning Authority before works are completed, to ensure clear working procedures are followed, the Councils Arboricultural Team will informally notify the Planning Services Team before undertaking any works to trees in a conservation area.

Honey Hill, Brampton (HDC)

Policy PRT4. The Council will seek to protect and enhance the special character of our conservation areas through our arboricultural functions. We will do this by:

1. Promoting excellent arboricultural management of trees in conservation areas.
2. Encouraging the use of the national notification forms from all potential applicants.
3. Only validating notifications for assessment where the proposals are clearly described.
4. Objecting to notifications for tree works in conservation areas which will have a negative impact on trees with a high level of visual amenity value through the making of a Tree Preservation Order.
5. Investigating any reported breaches to the TPO legislation in accordance with our enforcement procedures.
6. Encouraging replanting where felling is proposed.
7. Attaching conditions to planning applications to conserve, enhance or replace trees within conservation areas where appropriate.

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16. Trees and development

16.1 Growth and development forms a key part of the Council's strategic agenda with large scale development planned over the life of the Tree Strategy within the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036[24]. These, along with other smaller forms of development, create opportunities for a strategic tree management, new planting and offer opportunities to increase tree and woodland cover across the district.

16.2 Research shows that the retention of existing trees as part of new development can have significant benefits to the desirability of new developments. However, retained trees can be damaged as a result of construction, which ultimately degrades the character of any new scheme. To ensure that the full range of tree related benefits can be realised, the Council promotes the appropriate integration of existing natural features in all development schemes and promotes tree protection as part of the development process.

Policy TDM1. The Council will utilise its planning powers to retain and protect good quality trees where development is proposed. We will do this by:

1. Considering planning applications where trees could be affected, assessing them against current national and local planning policies.
2. Engaging with developers and applicants to promote appropriate tree retention and protection at all stages of a development.
3. Ensuring that planning applications which are likely to have arboricultural implications are supported by appropriate supporting information and those which do not contain such information are not validated. Conditions will be attached to a planning permission to retain and protect trees within a development where appropriate.
4. Seek additional new trees within landscaping proposals for major scale developments.
5. Where necessary, using the planning enforcement options available to the Council to protect trees in the face of unapproved forms of development.

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[24]Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 https://www.huntingdonshire.gov.uk/media/3872/190516-final-adopted-local-plan-to-2036.pdf

16.3 In addition to protecting existing trees and natural features, developments provide a key opportunity for new tree planting. This can help increase canopy cover, diversify our existing tree population, and help to ensure a sustainable future tree stock is created.

Policy TDM2. The Council will promote appropriate tree planting as part of new developments. We will do this by:

1. Considering the number, type and proposed location of new trees where landscaping proposals are included within a planning application and assessing them against current national and local planning policies.
2. Seeking to enhance the local landscape character by ensuring the provision of appropriate species for the specific location.
3. Promoting the establishment of structural landscape belts to mitigate against adverse impacts associated with new or existing developments.
4. Seek additional new trees within landscaping proposals for major scale developments.
5. Conditions will be attached to a planning permission to retain and protect trees within a development where appropriate.
    Where necessary, using the planning enforcement powers available to secure new tree planting and maintenance strategies are implemented according to their permission. Encouraging developers to achieve biodiversity net gain on sites by planting trees adapted to climate change and which will increase biodiversity.

Forster Road, Brampton (HDC)

17. Delivery, Monitoring and Review

17.1 This strategy covers a 10-year period from 2020 to 2030 and will be subject to regular monitoring by the Council's arboricultural teams. The following delivery, monitoring and review programme is proposed:

	To whom	Information to be included in review
Annual reporting	• Relevant committee / panel • Updates published on the Council's website	• Provide updates on the progress made to meeting the actions set for that year and on the progress made on achieving longer term actions. • Provide details of any changes that may need to be made to the Action Plan so that the aims of the Tree Strategy can be best met. • A review of the resources used in that year to implement the actions set in the Action Plan and identify any potential areas for greater resources to best deliver the remaining actions of the Action Plan and overall visions and aims of the Tree Strategy. • Provide details on any industry or organisational changes that are likely to impact the use of the Tree Strategy or Action Plan and update both accordingly.
5 Year Review	• Work with stakeholder and working group. • Relevant committee / panel • Updates published on the Council's website	• A review of the effectiveness of the policies within the Tree Strategy. • Provide details on the achievements and successes over the first 5 years as well as details on the remaining actions or progress yet to be made on outstanding actions. • Provide details on potential changes to the Tree Strategy to best meet outstanding actions and to reflect any changes in position.
10 Year Review	• Work with stakeholder and working group. • Reporting to Relevant committee / panel • Updates published on the Council's website	• Provide a full review of the Tree Strategy. Set out a summary of the achievements made, what actions were successfully undertaken and any that require further work or need additional resources to address which can be taken forward into a new Tree Strategy.

Figure 21. Tree Strategy review programme

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Appendix 1. Policy Context.

National Policies and Strategies

- **Trees in Towns II** *(Department of Communities and Local Government. 2008)*
  This report sets out the results of a national survey which intended to estimate the tree stock in our urban areas and review its management by local authorities. The study concludes that although the management of the urban forest is a local government function and sets a number of targets in relation to this (including the production and adoption of a Tree Strategy), it promotes the use of partnership working with other organisations to ensure the throughout management of our urban trees.

- **National Planning Policy Framework** *(Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government National Planning Policy Framework February. 2019)*
  The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England along with a framework for preparing local development plans and for making planning decisions. In paragraph 7 it states that 'the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development'. One of the three overarching objectives of the planning system is to contribute to protecting and enhancing our natural environment and development plans should contain strategic policies for the conservation and enhancement of the natural environment and to address climate change (Paragraph 20c).

  The NPPF states that planning policies should aim to enable and support healthy lifestyles, for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure (paragraph 91), plan green infrastructure to mitigate and adapt to climate change (paragraphs 149 and 150) and reduce the causes and impacts of flooding, including the use of sustainable drainage systems (paragraphs 157 and 165).

  NPPF also advises that planning policies and decisions should contribute to and enhance the natural and local environment (paragraph 170) by protecting valued landscapes and sites of biodiversity and recognising the economic and other benefits of trees and woodland. In particular, developments resulting in the loss or deterioration of vulnerable habitats (such as ancient woodland and ancient or veteran trees) should be refused, unless there are wholly exceptional reasons and a suitable compensation strategy exists (paragraph 175). Further, more detailed, guidance on planning for trees and woods is included in Planning Practice Guidance on implementing the NPPF.

- **Trees in the Townscape: A Guide for Decision Makers** *(Trees and Design Action Group. 2012)*
  Trees in the Townscape: A Guide for Decision Makers takes a 21st century approach to urban trees, one that keeps pace with and responds to the challenges of our times. It offers 12 action-oriented principles spanning the range of planning, design, works and management issues that must be addressed for maximum economic, social and environmental returns. Each principle is supported by explanations of benefits and delivery mechanisms, as well as references for further reading.

- **Woodland Trust Tree Charter** *(The Woodland Trust. 2017)*
  The Charter is based on 10 principles including planning greener local landscapes and planting for the future. The principles of the Charter are to be embedded within the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy.

- **The National Adaptation Programme and the third strategy for climate adaptation reporting** *(Department for Agricultural and Rural Affairs. 2018)*
  The National Adaptation Programme (NAP) sets out the actions that government propose to adapt and address climate change in the UK. The strategy sets out certain key actions to be taken over a set period.

- **Emergency Tree Plan for the UK. How to increase tree cover and address the nature and climate emergency** *(Woodland Trust January. 2020)*
  This policy document sets out the key recommendations of The Woodland Trust in response to the climate and nature crisis. The document sets out how local authorities should maintain trees, create new polices for managing trees and woodlands and increasing canopy cover.

Regional Policies and Strategies

- **Cambridgeshire Green Infrastructure Strategy (2011)**
  The County wide GI strategy is designed to assist in shaping and co-ordinating the delivery of Green Infrastructure in the county. Initially developed in collaboration with Cambridgeshire local authorities and statutory and non-statutory nature conservation organisations, it focuses on biodiversity, mitigating against climate change, promoting sustainable growth and supporting health and wellbeing.

- **Doubling Nature - A Vision for the Natural Future of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough in 2050** *(Natural Cambridgeshire)*
  This joint vision aims to double the area of rich wildlife habitats and natural green-space, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough. Huntingdonshire District Council is a partner organisation and supports the aims of putting nature at the heart of Cambridgeshire's development. The document specifically aims to increase tree cover and the network of woodlands, hedgerows, within and around our towns and cities which can be directly influenced by the Tree Strategy.

Local Policies and Strategies

- **Huntingdonshire District Council 2018 – 2022 Corporate plan**
  The Council's Corporate Plan sets out our priorities for 2018-2022 and relates to all areas of service provision. The vision in the plan sets out our aspirations for the People of Huntingdonshire to live in a safe, healthy and prosperous Place where communities and businesses can thrive. The Corporate Plan makes specific reference to supporting people to improve their health and well-being and creating, protecting and enhancing our safe and clean built and green environment; both elements which are reflected in the Tree Strategy.

- **HDC Healthy Open Spaces Strategy.**
  This strategy is based on extensive consultation with the public and user groups of our parks and open spaces to understand how our open spaces are used, enjoyed and valued by the community. The document sets out four strategic themes; shaping our parks and

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open spaces with a community based approach to the development of these areas, creating communities through open space to tackle social isolation and improve wellbeing, celebrating our open spaces and seeking to reinvigorate our parks. The strategy seeks to rethink how HDC manage parks and open spaces to bring most benefit to the communities that use them.

- **Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036**
  Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036 sets out the Council's approach to securing sustainable development from 2011 to 2036. The plan identifies key areas of land for development (known as allocations) to deliver the homes, jobs and services needed in the district, and includes policies against which all planning applications are considered. The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy links directly to policy LP31 (Trees, woodlands and hedgerows) and more widely to a policies surrounding green infrastructure, landscape character, design and biodiversity.

- **Huntingdonshire Landscape & Townscape Assessment Supplementary Planning Document 2007. Forthcoming update 2020**
  The revised SPD will provide information on the visual character of Huntingdonshire's landscape, spatial planning areas and key service centres. It will support the delivery of the Huntingdonshire Local Plan to 2036 by raising awareness and understanding of the special qualities of the District, and assist the Council and neighbourhood plan groups in considering future priorities for the conservation, enhancement and regeneration of the area's countryside, villages and towns as well as providing developers with further guidance for planning proposals.

- **Huntingdonshire District Council Infrastructure Delivery Plan and November 2017 Update**
  The Infrastructure Delivery Plan is an evidence base document that supports the Local Plan. It assesses the suitability of existing infrastructure provision (including green infrastructure elements) and identifies the infrastructure investment required to support growth.

- **Huntingdonshire Design Guide 2017**
  This Supplementary Planning Document sets out design principles based on recognised best practice and explains key requirements that the Council will take into consideration when assessing planning proposals. Section 3.6 of the SPD addresses the Councils approach to the design of the public realm, which is of relevance to the Tree Strategy.

- **Conservation Area Appraisals**
  A conservation area is 'an area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. There are 61 conservation areas within Huntingdonshire, the majority of which have a Conservation Area Appraisal document. These designated areas may vary in character and size from a small group of buildings to a major part of a town, but their status means that they are worthy of protection. These areas provide a level of legal protection to certain trees within the designations and provide an important notification function for all tree works.

- **Neighbourhood plans**

  Neighbourhood plans allow local communities to develop a shared plan for their local area to shape the development and growth of their own neighbourhood. There are a growing number of Neighbourhood Plans in Huntingdonshire, which in some cases do make reference to tree management matters.

Appendix 2. Pruning limitations

The following information provides guidance about the types of customer requests for tree works where Huntingdonshire District Council do not consider there to be justification for maintenance works. Each topic has a policy statement that outlines the reasons why the Council will not undertake trees in these situations.

Topic / Justification	Policy statement	Guidance
Tree Blocking Light	We do not prune or remove trees to improve natural light into a property or for solar panels in accordance to Common Law rights.	In law, there is no general right to light.
Trees overhanging garden (branch encroachment)	We do not prune or remove trees to stop the nuisance of overhanging branches in accordance withCommon Law rights.	You have a Common Law right to cut back any branches encroaching onto your property from a Council owned tree. However, this is only from the point where it crossed over onto your boundary. Before you consider doing any works to a tree(s), you should find out if it is protected by a Tree Preservation Order or is in a Conservation Area. If the tree(s) are protected, you will need to gain consent by making an application for tree works. Please see tree touching building section.
Trees growing too big	We do not prune or remove a council owned tree because it is considered to be too big or tall. There are many types of tree species that very in size, shape, and form. There is no obligation to prune trees to a uniformed shape or height.	A tree may seem too big for where it is, but this does not make it dangerous. Our trees are visually surveyed for safety. Frequency of the visual survey will be between one to three years, depending on the trees condition and location.
Low tree branches – Road, cycle, or foot path	In accordance with the Highways Act 1980, we will carry out work to Council owned tree to maintain the following clearance: • Road – 5.5m height clearance • Cycle path next to a road or highway – 3m height clearance • Footpath next to a road or highway – 2.5m height clearance	Any works necessary to prevent an obstruction in the width of a carriageway, cycle or foot path associated with the highway due to the presence of a Council owned tree would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Trees blocking my view	We do not prune or remove trees to improve the view from a private property.	Viewpoints from a dwelling may naturally change as a result of trees within the landscape.
Trees blocking my TV signal	We do not prune or remove trees to prevent interference with TV / satellite installation / reception.	Your satellite or TV provider may be able to suggest an alternative solution to the problem. Signal boosters should be considered.
Trees growing into telephone line	We do not prune or remove trees trees to stop or reduce interference with telephone wires.	Your telephone service provider may be able to suggest an alternative solution to the problem.
Leaves are falling into my garden	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from private property. Leaf fall is part of the natural cycle of deciduous trees in autumn	The loss of leaves from trees in the autumn is part of the natural cycle and cannot be avoided by pruning. The maintenance of gutters is the responsibility of the landowner and the Council is not obliged to remove leaves that may have fallen from our trees. In parks and green spaces, foot and cycle paths and areas of hard standing are regularly cleared.
Trees dropping; blossom / Fruit / berries / nuts / seeds	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce fruit, berries, nuts or seeds falling as this part of the natural cycle of the tree species **Extenuating circumstances:** If the tree species is deemed to bearing poisonous fruit, it will be investigated and managed in accordance with the Council's tree policies	Blossom is a natural occurrence, which cannot be avoided by pruning. If you wish to exercise your Common Law right to abate the nuisance associated with encroaching trees - see Common Law Right. The maintenance of gutters is the responsibility of the landowner and the Council is not obliged to remove fruit/berries/nuts/seeds or seedlings that may have fallen from council owned trees. Should fallen fruit lead to a significant anti-social problem the Police should be contacted.
Tree roots and drainage systems	We do not prune, remove, or cut the roots of trees to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged.	Tree roots typically invade drains that are already broken or damaged. Trees themselves very rarely break or damage a drain. Tree roots found in drains are usually due to an underlying problem with a broken pipe. If you are concerned about the condition of your drains, we advise you to contact your water and sewerage company.

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Pollen, Allergies, Hay fever etc.	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce the release of pollen. These are classed as seasonal cycles of certain tree species	We do not prune or remove a Council owned tree where a request has been made to do so because of a personal medical condition. If you are experiencing seasonal allergies, the normal advice is to close window to reduce the levels of pollen entering your property.
Tree dropping sap/sticky residue on property/car etc.	We do not prune or fell trees to remove or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue from trees. These are classed as seasonal cycle of certain tree species	Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem that is related to a natural relationship between tree species and insects. When honeydew affects your car, wash with warm soapy which will help remove it. Also consider parking your vehicle away from the tree during the of year honeydew is dropping from the tree.
Birds in trees are making a mess on property/car etc.	We do not prune or remove a council tree to stop or reduce bird droppings from trees or remove bird droppings from private land. Birds are protected under the Wildlife & Country Act; it can be classed as a criminal offence deliberately disturbing or destroying a nesting site	Bird droppings may be a nuisance, but the problem is not considered a sufficient reason to prune or remove a tree. Nesting birds are protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act (and other related wildlife law). Warm soapy water is usually sufficient in removing bird droppings. You are welcome to exercise your Common Law right to remove the nuisance associated with encroaching trees.
Animals inhabiting trees are causing a problem	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce incidents of perceived pests; wild animals.	You are welcome to exercise your Common Law right to remove the nuisance associated with encroaching trees.
Insects	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce incidents of perceived pests such as bees, wasps.	In such incidences it would be advised that you keep your distance from such insects and to contact the Local Authorities Pest Control service to assess the situation
Children/people climbing trees	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce incidents of children / people climbing trees.	Some trees may attract children or members of public to climb them, based on their structural formation. We cannot practically manage or prevent a person from climbing a tree. We advise you to contact your local community Police Officer if you believe it is a risk or anti-social behavior
Utility Provider Works	Trees; Power lines: Only utility companies have the authority to work on trees near power lines.	The Council does not carry out any tree work near powerline based on statutory laws & legislation. We advise you contact UKPower Networks.

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Trip hazard – footpaths	Huntingdonshire District Council have the responsibility of few footpath within the district	If you are concerned about a tree that might be causing a trip hazard to a footpath you can report to County Council Highways.
Suckers from tree roots	We do not prune or remove trees to stop or reduce the nuisance of sucker growth on private land.	You have the right to exercise your Common Law Rights to abate the nuisance associated tree roots and tree suckers.

Note: Extenuating circumstances

We have no general policy to remove trees bearing poisonous fruit / foliage (such as yew trees), however where it is claimed or known that unsupervised young children or livestock are likely to be exposed to poisonous berries or foliage and thorn species, such cases will be investigated and appropriate action considered. If you would like to report a concern over a tree with poisonous parts or thorns that unsupervised young children are exposed to please uses the Councils contact details.

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Appendix 3. Tree Related Claims Management.

Subsidence & Property Damage

We consider our trees as an environmental asset that enhance the landscape. However, from time to time our trees may be identified as contributing to building damage. We understand the distress subsidence may cause to the property owners and ensure we follow a detailed route of investigation in these cases. Due to the legal implications of these types of investigations, the speed of progression in us looking into cases can fluctuate.

Council trees and subsidence claims.

If you believe that your property is being damaged because of tree related subsidence you should firstly contact your building insurer for advice.

Where a claim is made against a Council owned tree, the Council will reasonably expect an appropriate level of evidence to be provided to demonstrate that the tree in question is an influencing cause in the subsidence. In the case of a protected trees (one subject to a Tree preservation Order in a Conservation Area, this evidence is mandatory. As a guide this information is likely to comprise the following:

- Engineers assessment of damage to building
- Plan and profile of foundations
- Full details of all areas of damage attributed to the subsidence including a location plan of building in relation to trees both on and adjacent to the property.
- Soil analysis. Including proof of desiccation and details of liquid and plastic limits taken from both a trial pit and control pit
- Tree root identification from beneath foundation level
- Monitoring results (preferably for 12 months or more), including level monitoring
- Details of any drainage report carried out for the property
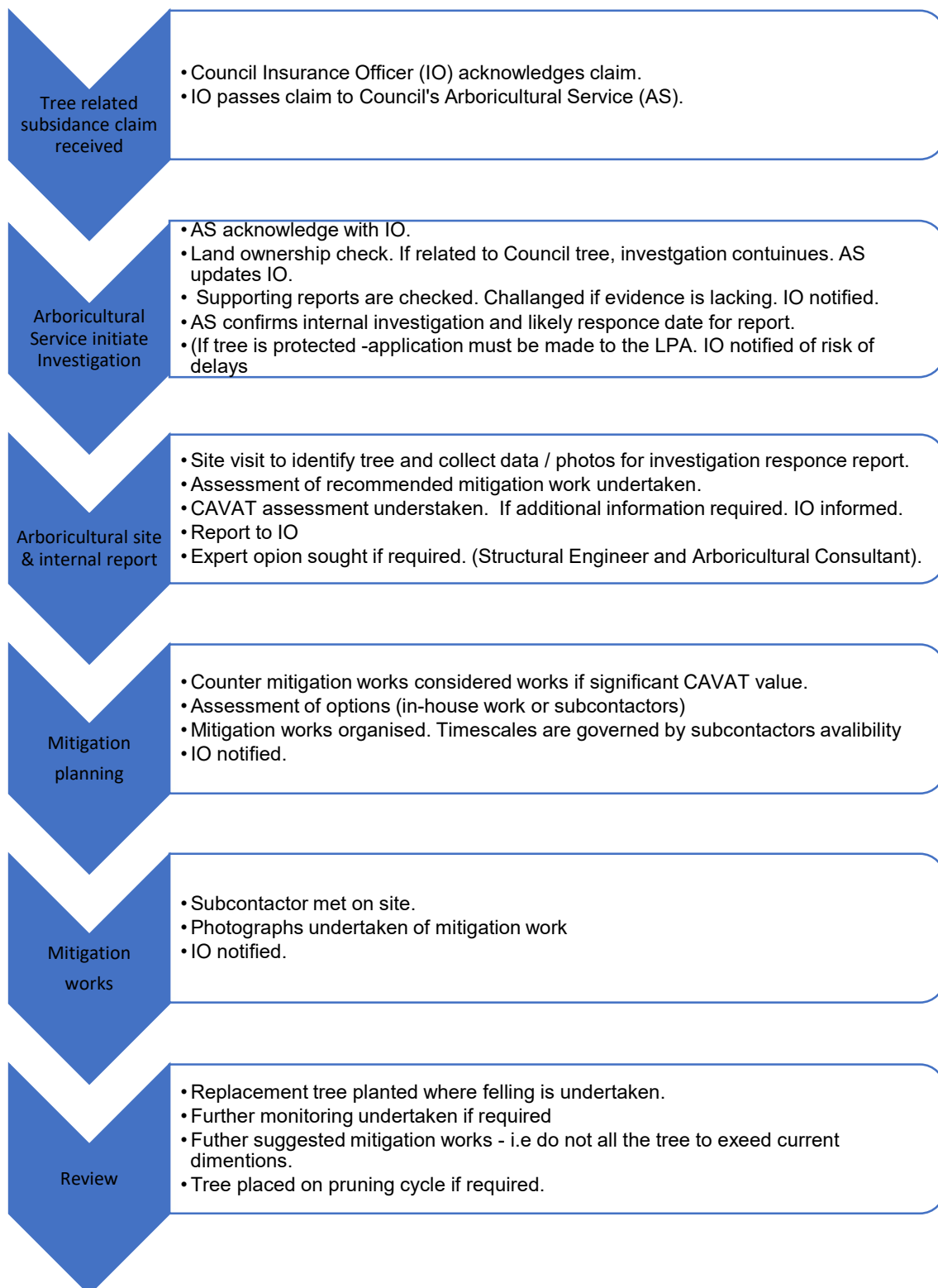- Details of previous underpinning or relevant building works to the property

The exact level of information required will be determined by the monetary value of the tree (Tables A and B). Without the information specified it is unlikely that the Council will be able to take an informed view on any proposed works or an appropriate solution.

Protected trees owned and managed by the Council.

Where the implicated trees or vegetation are subject to a Tree Preservation Order, permission will be required from the Local Planning Authority before works can be undertaken. All applications based on building movement will need to be supported by the information set out in the standard application form.

Assessing subsidence and property damage Claims.

Where the Council receives a claim of building damage from an owned or managed tree, we will undertake the following investigations:

Tree related subsidance claim received
- Council Insurance Officer (IO) acknowledges claim.
- IO passes claim to Council's Arboricultural Service (AS).

Arboricultural Service initiate Investigation
- AS acknowledge with IO.
- Land ownership check. If related to Council tree, investgation contuinues. AS updates IO.
- Supporting reports are checked. Challanged if evidence is lacking. IO notified.
- AS confirms internal investigation and likely responce date for report.
- (If tree is protected -application must be made to the LPA. IO notified of risk of delays

Arboricultural site & internal report
- Site visit to identify tree and collect data / photos for investigation responce report.
- Assessment of recommended mitigation work undertaken.
- CAVAT assessment understaken. If additional information required. IO informed.
- Report to IO
- Expert opion sought if required. (Structural Engineer and Arboricultural Consultant).

Mitigation planning
- Counter mitigation works considered works if significant CAVAT value.
- Assessment of options (in-house work or subcontactors)
- Mitigation works organised. Timescales are governed by subcontactors avalibility
- IO notified.

Mitigation works
- Subcontactor met on site.
- Photographs undertaken of mitigation work
- IO notified.

Review
- Replacement tree planted where felling is undertaken.
- Further monitoring undertaken if required
- Futher suggested mitigation works - i.e do not all the tree to exeed current dimentions.
- Tree placed on pruning cycle if required.

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Information levels.

When investigating a subsidence case, the level of information required is based on the value of the tree. On this basis, the lowest value trees implicated in damage require less supporting evidence then higher value trees. We measure the value of trees based on the CAVAT system and the current values set by the London Tree Officer Association (LTOA) shown below. The level of information required is shown in Table A.

Current values bands. May 2020	•Low - less than £7672
	•Medium - from £7672 to £24,858
	•High - greater than £24,858

Low Value Trees
1. Report on damage to building.
2. Plan & profile of foundations.
3. Plan of site showing location of building in relation to all trees and significant vegetation in vicinity of site.
4. Trial pit cross section to underside of foundation depth plus borehole through base of trial pit to a minimum depth of 3m (explanation to be provided if borehole unable to reach 3m depth). Borehole log to be provided.
5. Root ID from beneath underside of foundation.

Medium Value Trees:
All of the above plus:
1. Soil moisture content readings at 0.5m centres, starting at the underside of the foundation, down to 3m depth of B/H.
2. Liquid limit test results at underside of foundation and approx 2m depth
3. Plastic limit test results at underside of foundation and 64pprox. 2m depth.
4. Soil plasticity calculated from LL – PL.
5. Control borehole to 3m depth with log, with same tests as above, if it is possible to locate such a borehole on the site and remote from the influence of any vegetation. If impossible then explanation needed.
6. Oedometer or suction test results at underside of foundation & 1.0m centres down depth of 3m borehole **ONLY** when there is **NO** control borehole. If there is a control borehole then other tests listed are sufficient.
7. Shear vane test results at 0.5m centres, starting at the underside of the foundation, down to 3m depth of borehole(s).
8. CCTV & hydraulic testing to drains (excluding Water Board owned) located within 3m distance of area of subsidence damage. If unable to water test due to no access/blind entries/etc then give reason.
9. Crack monitoring is required on a maximum of 2 month frequency and is to be set up ideally at time of first visit by building insurer representative or within 7 days of 1st visit. Send all available readings with Submission of Evidence.

High Value Trees:
All of the above **EXCEPT crack width monitoring**, plus:
1. 15. Control borehole (if possible) & point of subsidence borehole, each to 5m depth (not 3m as for medium value).
2. 16. Level monitoring commencing at outset of claim for a relevant period (max. 12 months) using a deep datum (if possible) to 8m depth, otherwise use deep manhole.
3. 17. Particle Size Distribution Analysis to BS 1377 Part 2 test 9.0 on a single soil sample taken from a 1m zone below the underside of foundation (Only if drains are present within 3m of the site of damage).

Table A. Tree value bands and associated information levels.

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Considering building damage and subsidence cases.

Tree subsidence claims can cause complication and destress to those involved, However, it also requires significant resources and Council Officer time.

Recently, the Council has seen an increase of tree related subsidence claims. This has highlighted that there is an ever-increasing risk of subsidence claims related to Council trees which inevitably will cause a financial issue if not effectively managed.

In response to this, the Council will endeavour to investigate and adopted a subsidence tree risk management programme which aims to develop a tree survey program which identifies Council trees that may pose a subsidence risk.

From this, a programme of tree maintenance will form base on the survey and risk categorisation to for future management that will contribute to reduced claims and financial impact. Although measures are being made to manage tree related subsidence claims, unfortunately there will always be a unforeseeable element with such cases due to outside uncontrollable factors. This is a reactive approach with the aim bring a balance with managing subsidence cases.

Table B sets out the key actions the Council will take in relation to reducing claims against it for damage to property alleged to have been caused by trees owned by the Council.

Actions the Council will take	Notes
1. Challenge unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated or inaccurate evidence.	Where claimants' submissions fall below the Council's standard for supporting evidence, deficiencies will be brought to the attention of the insurers and loss adjusters and challenged.
2. Adopt specific evidence requirements for trees of value and apply them to existing claims.	Generally as the value of the tree increases, the requirement for detailed information will increase. Placing a value on the tree at an early stage in the process is a key element in deciding the Council's response to a claim.
3. Instigate a tree removal and replacement regime where building movement is known to be an issue.	The Council will endeavour to allocate sufficient resources to enable a survey of its tree stock to be carried out and analysis to be carried out of tree locations, species and the incidence of claims.
4. Reject claims where the evidence provided indicates another cause for movement. The claimant will be informed of the Council's decision.	The tree claim report pro-forma will provide the mechanism to make a decision.

Direct tree damage to property

Trees can cause direct damage to buildings and structures through direct contact with their roots, branches and stem. Large established buildings, such as houses, aren't normally affected; it's the smaller structures, such as walls, patios, sheds and garages, which are most at risk.

The damage would normally be caused by the annual increase in the girth of the root, branch or stem; as it increases in diameter it lifts or pushes the structure. The concrete foundations of most modern buildings are able to withstand such incremental growth, or to prevent root access altogether.

What to do if you notice damage to your property

You must first contact your insurers, who may ask for a report from a qualified structural engineer. If there are trees in the vicinity, it would be a good idea to contact an arboricultural consultant to carry out an assessment.

Once the Council has received the notice of claim, an assessment will be undertaken in accordance to claim processes. In all circumstances, the Council's insurance office will send a claim form to the claimant as part of the procedure of investigation. Once acknowledged, communication is only to be between claimant or representative of claimant and Councils insurers.

Subsidence, building damage and trees. Frequently asked questions.

What is subsidence?

It is ground or foundation movement that normally results in the cracking of external and/or internal property walls.

Can trees cause subsidence?

Yes. When tree roots enter a shrinkable, clay soil, they can take up enough moisture to cause the clay to dry and shrink. As a result, any foundation built upon the clay may move or subside.

Can trees cause subsidence on any soil?

Normally it would be shrinkable clay soils.

What should I do if I suspect a tree is causing subsidence damage?

Trees close to buildings and other built structures can increase the risk of subsidence when roots extract moisture from shrinkable clay soils beneath foundation level. If you suspect that trees (council owned or on neighbouring private land) are causing subsidence to your property, then it is important that you contact your home insurance provider. Your insurance company will look into your concerns and may want to investigate the damage as part of a claim. If they believe that a council or neighbours tree is implicated in the damage, they will contact the respective tree owners on your behalf.

If I suspect tree-related subsidence what should I do?

You should report it immediately to your building insurer. They may undertake investigations and produce evidence that either identify that a tree is contributing to the subsidence.

What is the situation if the tree causing subsidence is protected?

The Council has a dual responsibility: to protect trees in the interests of public amenity, but also to try and ensure that no individual suffers undue loss, distress or damage resulting from this.

What information will the Council require to support a subsidence-related, tree work application on a tree covered by a Preservation Order?

The key information the Council will normally require to decide the most appropriate course of action is taking into account:

- the age of the property and any extensions
- the ownership of the tree(s)
- the nature of the problem
- details of any historical defect monitoring
- type and depth of existing foundations
- details of soil type and composition to a depth of approximately 3m
- evidence of tree root presence below foundation level
- evidence that any roots found belong to the suspected trees
- measurement of subsoil shrinkage potential at and below foundation level

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- a plan showing accurate locations of relevant site features including buildings, drains and trees on, or adjacent to, the site
- a plan showing the borehole sampling locations

How can I obtain this evidence?

Your home insurer would usually arrange this but if not you should employ a suitably qualified and experienced building surveyor or a structural engineer who will carry them out for you.

What is 'soil heave'?

Heave can only occur where subsidence has occurred before it: the shrunken clay, in re-wetting, returns to its original volume, thus causing uplift to any foundation set upon it. If a tree has not been the cause of clay shrinkage, its removal cannot cause heave - any surplus water will simply drain away.

Appendix 4 - Glossary of Terms.

Ancient Trees – Trees significantly older, and often larger in girth, than the general tree population providing a rich variety of habitats for wildlife.

Ancient Semi Natural Woodlands – Woodland thought to have been in existence since at least 1600 and designated on the Natural England register of ancient woodlands.

Arboriculture - The cultivation, management, and study of trees for purposes other than timber production. The science of arboriculture studies how trees grow and respond to cultural practices and to their environment.

Biosecurity - Procedures or measures designed to protect the population against harmful biological or biochemical substances.

Canopy Cover – The area of ground occupied (covered) by the overall branch spread of trees normally expressed as a percentage of the total land area.

Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) – A method developed by the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) in 2008 to allow a consistent allocation of monetary value to trees.

Conservation Area - An area of notable environmental or historical interest or importance which is protected by law against undesirable changes.

Detailed tree inspection – An inspection of a tree which involves a physical examination of its parts using specialised equipment. Normally to gather data of the tree's condition to determine a management plan.

Felling – To cut down a tree.

High Water Demand Trees – Trees that take up large amounts of water from the soil in comparison to other species with a lesser capacity to extract water.

Lopping - Refers to the removal of large side branches and the making of vertical cuts. Often used to describe crude, heavy-handed or inappropriate pruning.

Natural Regeneration – Young self-sown trees derived from naturally distributed seed produced by nearby trees.

Particulate Pollution - Pollution of an environment that consists of particles suspended in some medium. There are three primary forms: atmospheric particulate matter, marine debris, and space debris. Some particles are released directly from a specific source, while others form in chemical reactions in the atmosphere. Particulate pollution can be derived from either natural sources or anthropogenic processes.

Plantations on ancient woodland sites - Ancient woods that have been felled and replanted with non-native species.

Pocket Woodland – Small woodlands that are not connected to another significant tree population.

Pollarding – A traditional and historical management technique often used in deer parks and wood pasture which involves reducing the tree to a height of around 3 to 4 m on a cyclical basis to provide firewood and small poles; the regrowth is then safe from browsing livestock and deer. Today, pollarding is often used to control the crown spread of trees. Cyclically reduction to a low framework of branches is a form of pollarding. Some species are particularly tolerant of this treatment such and lime, London plane and willow.

Priority habitat – A habitat identified as being the most threatened and requiring conservation action under the UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework.

UK Post 2010 Biodiversity Framework. Developed in response to two main drivers: the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD's) Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020

Semi Mature Trees – Trees in the first third of their life cycle and growing strongly.

SUDS – Acronym for Sustainable Urban Drainage Schemes which allow for natural drainage of water runoff from roofs and hard surfaces into the ground, rather than directing runoff into the sewerage and main drainage systems.

Shelterbelts – Treed areas that envelop housing estates and open spaces, forming screens or acting as sound barriers from roads or industrial estates.

Specimen Trees - Largely free standing, Council owned trees in streets or public open spaces.

Structured Soils – Specially formed soils that can be compacted but still allow root growth and water percolation. Normal structural soils have a high percentage of sand and gravels.

Topping - The practice of removing whole tops of trees or large branches and/or trunks from the tops of trees, leaving stubs or lateral branches that are too small to assume the role of a terminal leader.

Tree Stocks – The total of a particular population of trees.

Tree Belt – Narrow belt of trees typically 15 to 20 m often planted for screening and shelter.

Tree Preservation Order - Designated under the Town and Country Planning Act. A TPO is made by a local planning authority (usually a local council) to protect specific trees or a particular area, group or woodland from deliberate damage and destruction if those trees are important for the amenity of the area.

Urban Forest – All trees and woody vegetation which grow within an urban area regardless of ownership.

Uprooting – To pull out by or as if by the roots, to remove violently or tear away from a native place or environment.

Veteran Trees – Traditionally, trees with the same characteristics as given for ancient trees. However, more recently, the term has been expanded to include trees of any age that have features that support wildlife such as splits, cracks, holes and dead wood.

VTA – Visual Tree Assessment, a recognised method of surveying trees based on visual observation and minimal physical examination of parts of a tree.

Ward - Electoral districts at a sub-national level represented by one or more Councillors.

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Huntingdonshire Tree Action Plan

Part of the Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020 – 2030

V.1 November 2020

Background.

The Huntingdonshire Tree Strategy 2020-2030 sets the Council's approach to arboricultural administration over the next 10 years with the aim of managing our districts trees in a sustainable way to ensure that their benefits are experienced by current and future generations. To fulfil this vision, we have set 7 key objectives:

I. To promote sustainable management of the Council's trees through effective use of our resources.
II. To maximise the environmental, economic and health benefits of trees across the district;
III. To fulfil the Council's duty of care in respect of the management of its tree stock;
IV. To create a legacy of tree planting across the district;
V. To promote community engagement in all aspects of tree planting and management, realising the maximum benefits they can provide;
VI. Make efficient and strategic use of the Council's regulatory powers for the protection of trees of current and future value.

The work required to fulfil these objectives not only involves the management of trees owned by the Council, but also those which are privately owned or are managed by a third-party organisation.

This Action Plan sets out our approach to fulfilling these objectives. It also highlights the key projects we aim to complete over the life of the strategy and sets out our priorities for our day to day arboricultural management. The objectives listed are categorised to indicate their priority. This priority system is based on the following:

Green	Long term projects which will either evolve over the course of the Action Plan or form part of our core day to day operations
Amber	Tasks that have already commenced or are less time and resource sensitive that those categorised as "red".
Red	Projects that require immediate attention and additional resources

Key Aim 1: To promote sustainable management of the Council's trees through effective use of our resources

Objective	Expected outcomes	Likely resources required	Reason	Target Timescale
1. **Developing a tree population that is healthy, varied in age and diverse in species.**	1. A healthy and diverse tree population where risk is managed to be "As Low as Reasonably Practicable" 2. Creation of a tracible record of management operations of Council trees.	Officer time (Operations and Tree Surgery Staff) Arboricultural Sub-contractors	To meet the Council's legal duty of care and maximise the environmental, social and community and economic benefits to of trees in Huntingdonshire To allow for savings & budget forecasting	On-going over the duration of the Action Plan.
2. **To ensure sufficient data and resources are in place to enable the efficient and sustainable management of the districts tree population.**	1. Collaborative projects initiating investigations to address key issues with Huntingdonshire's tree population. 2. Working towards a progressive movement increasing the canopy cover	Joint Officers time Engaging with other authorities and partner organisations	To secure the future management of trees within the district. To ensure sufficient funding is in place to allow tree management issues to be addressed as and when they arise (pest and disease outbreaks for example)	Currently in progress – view to be completed mid 2022
3. **Ensure essential tree maintenance is met through proactive maintenance planning.**	1. Continued development of using Council approved Tree Surgery companies & Arboricultural Consultants 2. Adoption of a priority system of maintenance programs for the Councils trees reflected in the Tree Strategy	Officer time (Operations) and in-house tree surgery staff	To allow a value for money service that efficiently delivers services to be developed. To allow thorough management of the Councils tree stock and meet our duty of care.	Currently in progress – view to be completed early 2022
4. **Develop the current tree surveying & evaluation**	1. Encompassing all trees under HDC ownership to be captured / recorded, creating a user-friendly data base of all trees that can be used to assess, develop, budget setting & forecasting, tree planting.	External asset software providers (HDC currently use Ezytreev as an asset management system for recording & survey its trees) Officers time and collaboration with service area which manage trees.	To allow a value for money service that efficiently delivers services to be developed Legal duty of care. To ensure a robust and traceable system of management is in place for all Council owned trees. To allow for accurate resource allocation.	Undertake project scoping exercise by end financial year 2021

| 2. **Staff training & development** | 1. Creation of an internal training and development programme for Council staff involved with managing arboricultural matters across all services. | • Collaboration with external professional training bodies, recognised national organisations (The Woodland Trust and Ancient Tree Forum etc) and Cambridgeshire Tree Officers Group.

• Officers time across service areas. | To inspire staff involved with tree management, increase staff retention and invest in people.

To meet the Councils duty of care, ensure accountability of decision making.

Growth of collaborative working across services. | Training programme in place by end 2021 |

Key Aim 2: To maximise the environmental, economic and health benefits of trees across the district.

Objectives	Expected outcomes	Resource required	Reason	Target Timescale
1. **Promote excellence in arboriculture**	1. The Council continues to demonstrate working in accordance with industry best practice. 2. Adoption of new methods for working as per industry changes.	Officers time Training & development of staff involved with managing trees within the district	To ensure HDC are demonstrating best practice in Council trees are managed to the best possible standards. To increase tree retention through all age categories; young through to veteran To maximise the ecological and environmental benefits of our trees.	On-going over the duration of the Action Plan
2. **Tree retention & evaluation**	Evidencing the importance of tree retention and investment	Officers time External organisations; Woodland Trust / LTOG / Ancient Tree Forum?? Evaluation software systems Arboricultural consultants	• Health & wellbeing • Social & community • Environmental & ecology • Carbon footprint?? • Monetary value of HDC tree population??	Undertake project scoping exercise by 2024
3. **Developing a monetary value of Council trees.**	1. Development of a monetary evaluation report of HDC trees within towns.	Officer time and training External arboricultural consultancy to investigate option for evaluation. Possible funding for development / adoption of Monetary Software System. For example – CAVAT itree	To support tree related building subsidence investigations and tree management decisions Demonstrate the true value of trees within urban areas and provide data to contribute towards the Councils environmental commitments. To allow for allocation of resources and highlight areas for resource investment. To demonstrate the economic value of trees in market towns	Undertake project scoping exercise by 2024

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4. **Develop and promote tree biosecurity policy that reflects future environmental challenges**	1. Development and adoption of HDC Biosecurity Strategy which promotes the creation of a sustainable tree stock and the protection of our existing trees and woodlands. 2. Biosecurity policies and actions put in place to ensure we protect our tree stock across all services that interact with trees.	Collaboration of officers to set out scope for a strategy (Operations, Countryside Services, Planning and those involved in landscape management). Possible resources required to implement any changes to working practices as a result of the strategy.	Protecting our current and future tree stock from pests and disease. Management of a sustainable tree population. The creation of a cross departmental strategy will assist with all those involved with arboricultural management in ensuring our everyday activities do not result in outbreaks and we are able to act appropriately if an outbreak occurs.	Undertake project scoping exercise by end 2021.
5. **Engage with Tree Warden Groups and Parish / Town Councils on industry changes.**	1.Provision of information surrounding current industry issues where necessary to the local Tree Wardens Network and Parish/Town Councils.	Officer time (Operations and Development Management) Officer collaboration with Cambridgeshire Tree Officers Group	Tree Warden Groups and Parish / Town Council specialised members are an important part of managing local tree populations across the district. Promoting engagement with these groups is important as changes in the industry occur	Ongoing engagement over the life of the strategy.

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Key Aim 3: To fulfil the Council's duty of care in respect of the management of its tree stock

	Objectives	Expected outcomes	Resource required	Reason	Target Timescale
1.	**Develop the Council's current tree surveying system**	1. A review of current asset management systems which will evaluate the benefits and drawback of current tree surveying systems. 2. Investment in new equipment, with the view to create a tree data base that can be accessed by all members of Council staff that have a level of responsibility with survey Council trees 3. To seek modern computer hardware and software that is more user friendly then the current systems	Officers time 3C ICT External asset management software company Staff training & development	To ensure the Council is utilising current tree surveying software and all Council trees are captured under one tree management system To maintain maintenance and survey details and create a systematic tree surveying system that is robust	Undertake project scoping exercise by end 2021.
4.	**Investigate and develop HDC *"Trees in relation to buildings Subsidence"* policy**	1. Creation of a robust policy that contains all essential guidelines on managing subsidence cases. 2. Creation of guidance for residents on how the Council deal with building movement around trees. 3. Developing a tree subsidence risk project (Councils trees) which promoted proactive prevention mitigation works.	Officers time (Operations, Development, 3C Legal) Staff Training & development Neighbouring authority collaborative opportunities Possible use of Consultants in high profile cases.	To reduce claims related to buildings subsidence linked to Council trees and reduce insurance premiums To allow for efficient use of existing staff resources.	Undertake project scoping by end 2021 and report options by end 1st Q 2022.
4.	**Investigate and develop a tree risk**	1. Adoption of a TRMS.	Officers time	To fulfil the Councils duty of care and measure and reduce risk	

management system (TRMS)	2. Creation of an accessible and tree risk report or data base.	Arboricultural consultant's appointment where required to develop strategy External asset management software company Staff training & development	To guide resources on delivering an annual tree maintenance program. To create a value for money service Reduce insurance claims	Undertake project scoping by end 2021 and report options by end 1st Q 2022.
5. **Encompass all trees owned or managed by HDC under one central management regime.**	1. Creation and adoption of one central management regimen for all service areas with a responsibility of tree management.	Councils departments that have trees on their sites: • Countryside • Estates • One Leisure • Any other Officers time	To effectively manage the Councils duty of care •	Ongoing project with the view to be completed by 2025
6. **Update the Public tree maintenance requests system**	1. Develop a clear concise guidance document that is available for; public / Council officers / customer services. Contains information on how HDC maintains its trees and processes involved	Officer Time	Improve public relations and allow effective management and allocation of resources. Public information.	On-going over the duration of the Action Plan

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Key Aim 4: To create a legacy of tree planting across the district

	Objectives	Expected outcomes	Resources required	Reason	Target Timescale
1.	**Continued development of the tree planting program**	1. Continuation of the annual tree planting program 2. Increase of canopy cover within the district	Officers time and engagement with voluntary groups Collaboration with Woodland Trust / charity organisations Tree planting & young tree maintenance equipment Resources to fund increased tree purchases.	To maximise the environmental, social and community benefits of trees. Increase tree canopy cover and create a sustainable tree population.	On-going over the duration of the Action Plan
2.	**Celebratory tree planting programme – revamp memorial tree program**	1. Review the current planting scheme and propose changes 2. Promote planting programme	Officers time Internal services investigation Press & Comms	To maximise the environmental, social and community benefits of trees. Increase tree canopy cover and plant trees for the future	On-going over the duration of the Action Plan
3.	**Increase urban canopy cover relative to available planting space and aim to increase overall urban tree canopy cover to a minimum of 20% by 2030.**	1. Commissioning of a canopy cover assessment. 2. Identification of appropriate canopy cover levels for land typographies across the district. 3. Creation of a programme to increase / maintain tree canopy cover across key area	External Arboricultural Consultant to undertake canopy cover assessment. Review by HDC Departments to develop recommendations of assessment into actions.	Canopy cover is an effective method of assessing the benefits a tree population can bring to an area. A canopy cover of 20% minimum in urban areas is considered to be nationally required to maximise the benefits gained from trees	Canopy Cover Assessment complete by mid-2021. Canopy cover action plan complete by mid-2022.

4. Take part in and support national tree planting events.	1. Participation in planting events in line with Tree Week and other national initiatives.	Arboricultural Officers in Operations / Development. Support of Countryside Services Promotion by elected members.	To publicise and promote the benefits of tree planting to community groups and individuals' residents and businesses across Huntingdonshire.	Annual participation in national tree week and other events when possible.
5. Understand and improve establishment rates of new trees on development sites.	1. Monitoring of tree establishment rates planted as part of landscape schemes.	Officer input to review the potential to monitor tree establishment rates. Resources required to implement or support any monitoring function. Possible involvement with outside voluntary organisations and/or Parish/Town Councils.	New green infrastructure is a key part of site development and has the potential to significantly contribute to the districts tree population. However, information on establishment rates for new planting is not currently known.	Undertake project scoping by end 2021 and report options by end 1st Q 2022.

Key Aim 5: To promote community engagement in all aspects of tree planting and management, realising the maximum benefits they can provide

Objectives	Expected outcomes	Resource required	Reason	Target Timescale
1. **Promote voluntary working parties (young trees in your area – ownership) and promote education events.**	1. Development of collaborative community tree planting projects	Officers time and collaborative working across service areas.	Community engagement projects enhance community ownership and promote health & wellbeing. To maximise the benefits of trees.	As and when opportunities arise.
2. **Engage with national tree planting events**	As above	Officers time and collaborative working across service areas.	As above	Follow annual organised events and national planting / management schemes. As and when opportunities arise.

Key Aim 6: Make efficient and strategic use of the Council's regulatory powers for the protection of trees of current and future value				
Objectives	**Expected outcomes**	**Resources required**	**Reason**	**Target Timescale**
1. **Implement a rolling review programme for all existing Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)**	1. Completion of a review of existing TPOs over the life of the strategy. 2. A rolling review programme implemented for all existing and future TPOs.	Officer time to provide funding options for the project. Financial implications expected to include: 1. Appointment of additional Officer. OR 2. Outsourcing to a consultancy to undertake the review.	Good practice under the scope of the Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 2012. HDC administers approx. 900 TPOs with 20% being made before 1970. These dated orders are resource intensive to administer, difficult to interpret by the public and reflect land uses that are no longer present.	Project plan to set by April 2022 and resourcing options presented.
2. **To digitise the Councils data in relation to Tree Preservation Orders.**	1. Digitised TPO files for existing and historic orders.	Officer time to manage the project (Customer Services, Development Management, Transformation and ICT) Appointment of document management service to digitise existing TPO data	Improved access to TPO information to officers, regardless of working location. To preserve important information contained in deteriorating files.	Scanning and digitising information by end 2021 (Current funding bid dependant)
3. **Utilise the Council's website as a source of information in relation to protected trees.**	1. Electronic copies of all existing TPOs available on the HDC website. 2. Improved GIS mapping for public inspection of TPOd trees, including address search and key information.	Officer time to manage the project (Customer Services, Development Management, Transformation and ICT) Appointment of document management service to digitise existing TPO data	Improved customer experience when trying to ascertain information To decrease costs of providing TPO documents	Options for project scope and resourcing developed and presented by mid-2021

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4. **To keep methods for assessment of protected trees and applications for works under review in line with emerging industry best practice.**	1. Updated working and assessment methods when required	Officer review on a rolling basis. No additional project or resources required.	To ensure the Council are working to current industry best practice and can provide information based on current arboricultural thinking.	Reviews undertaken in line with industry changes and publication of new guidance.
5. **Review standard conditions used for tree works applications.**	1. Review of all tree related conditions used for tree works applications.	Officer time (Development Management and Planning Enforcement)	The enforceability of conditions used in relation to tree works applications is essential to allow certain aspects (such as replanting) to be managed.	Review complete by end 2021.

Key Aim 7: To recognise, promote and protect important tree populations within Huntingdonshire

| Objectives	Expected outcomes	Resource required	Reason	Target Timescale
1. Locate important tree species populations and ancient / vet trees in HDC Ownership.	1. Project to locate and map Ancient and Veteran trees in HDC ownership. 2. Development of a veteran and ancient tree management plan. 3. Develop / promote education and training in management techniques and practices among services who interact with ancient and veteran	Assessment of resourcing options required with consideration to the use of external consultants to undertake work or resourcing internally.	These tree groups are nationally rare and make up less than 5% of the national tree population. A location study and management plan for these trees is needed to ensure their protection and enhancement.	Options for project resourcing developed and presented by 2026
2. Promote the recording of ancient and veteran trees on the National Ancient Tree Inventory.	1. Recording of ancient and veteran trees across the district and population of the National Tree Inventory website data.	Assessment of resourcing options required with the potential to engage with Parish Tree Wardens.	As above	Options for project resourcing developed and presented by 2026
3. Locate and record orchards in the ownership / management of HDC.	1. Locate and evaluate all Orchards on HDC managed land. 2. Development of Action Plan for Orchard Site. 3. Review of site which may be suitable for new orchard planting.	Assessment of resourcing options required with consideration to the use of external consultants to undertake work or resourcing internally.	Orchards are a key landscape characteristic of Huntingdonshire, have significant historic and cultural importance as well as being ecologically diverse. Protection and enhancement of our Orchard is an important part of our tree management	Options for project resourcing developed and presented by 2026

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Litter Minimisation Update
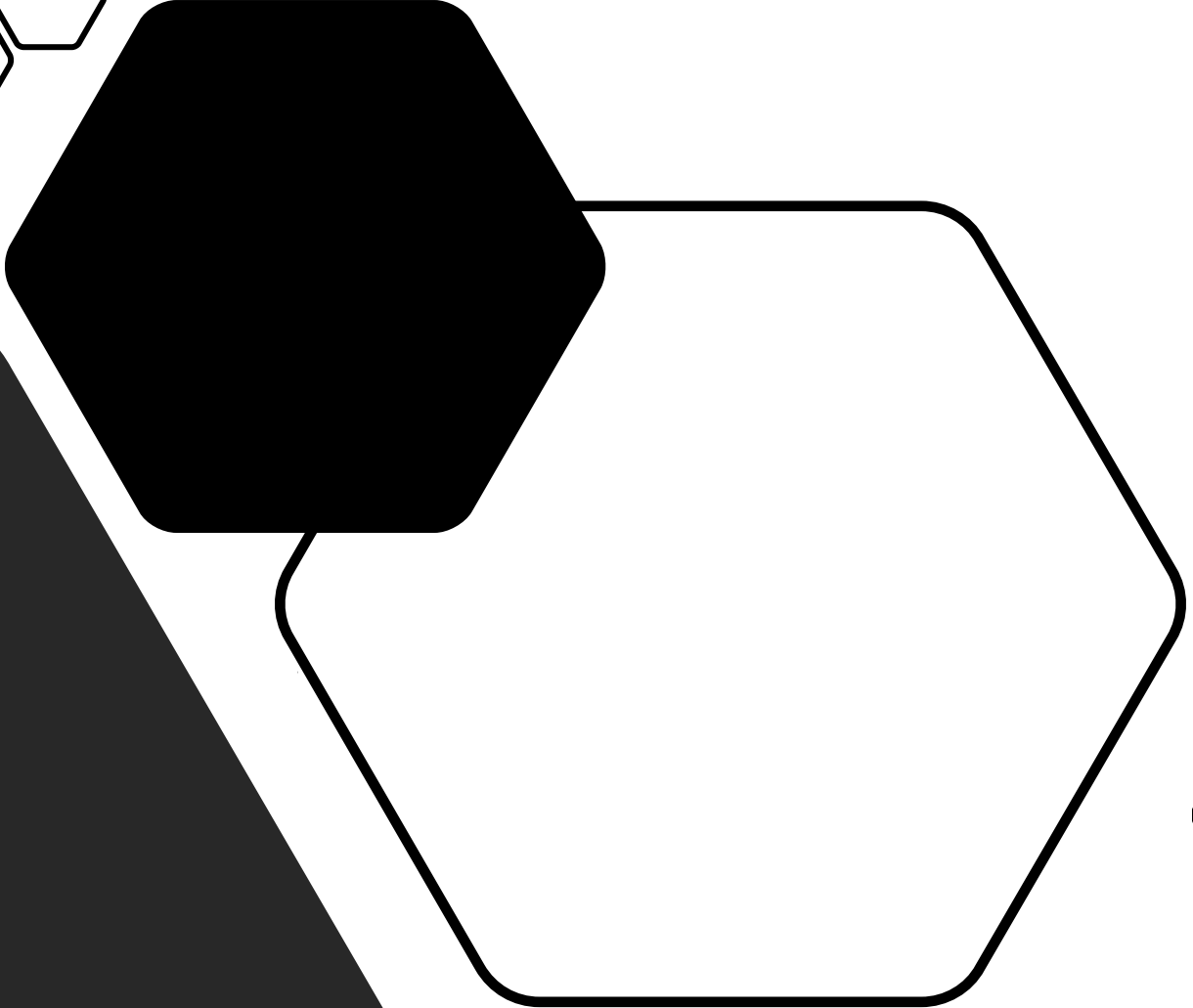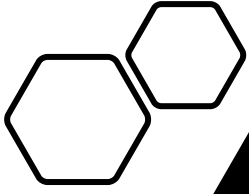
Projects 19/20
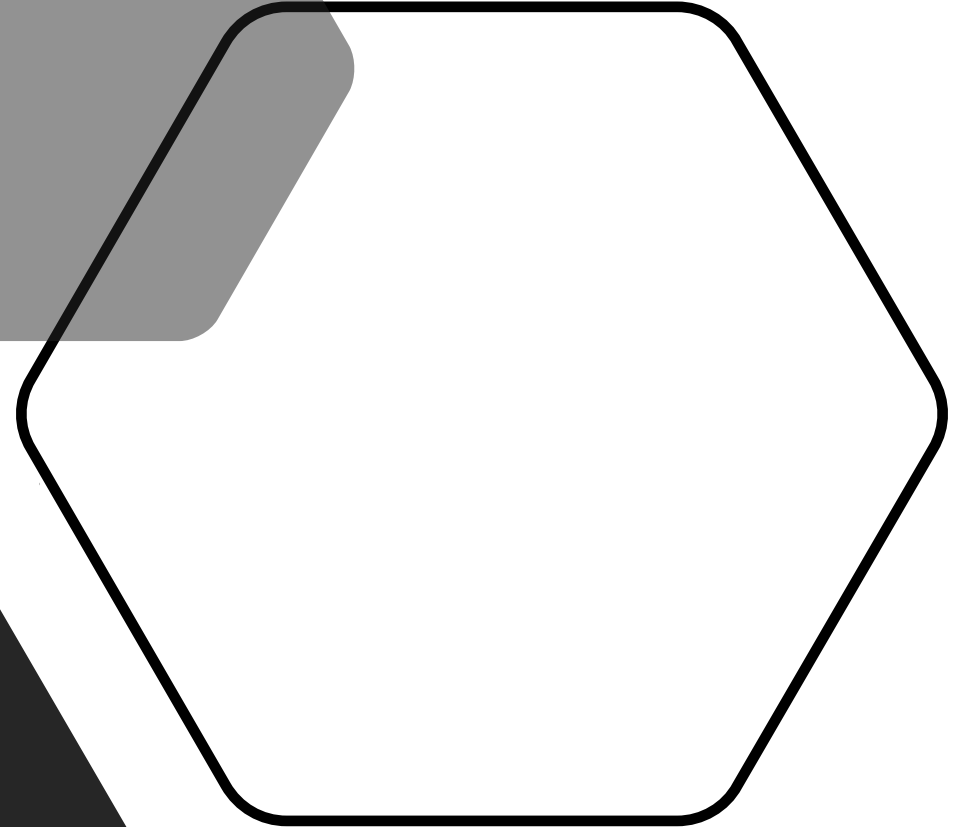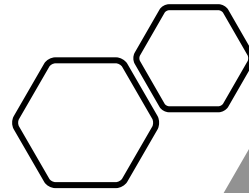
- On-street Recycling Pilot

- Layby Infrastructure Pilot

- Sustainable Communities Pledge Pilot

- Litter Pick System Overhaul

- Love Huntingdonshire

- Great British Spring Clean

- Improving Fly Tip Data

- Litter Education Pack

Projects 20/21
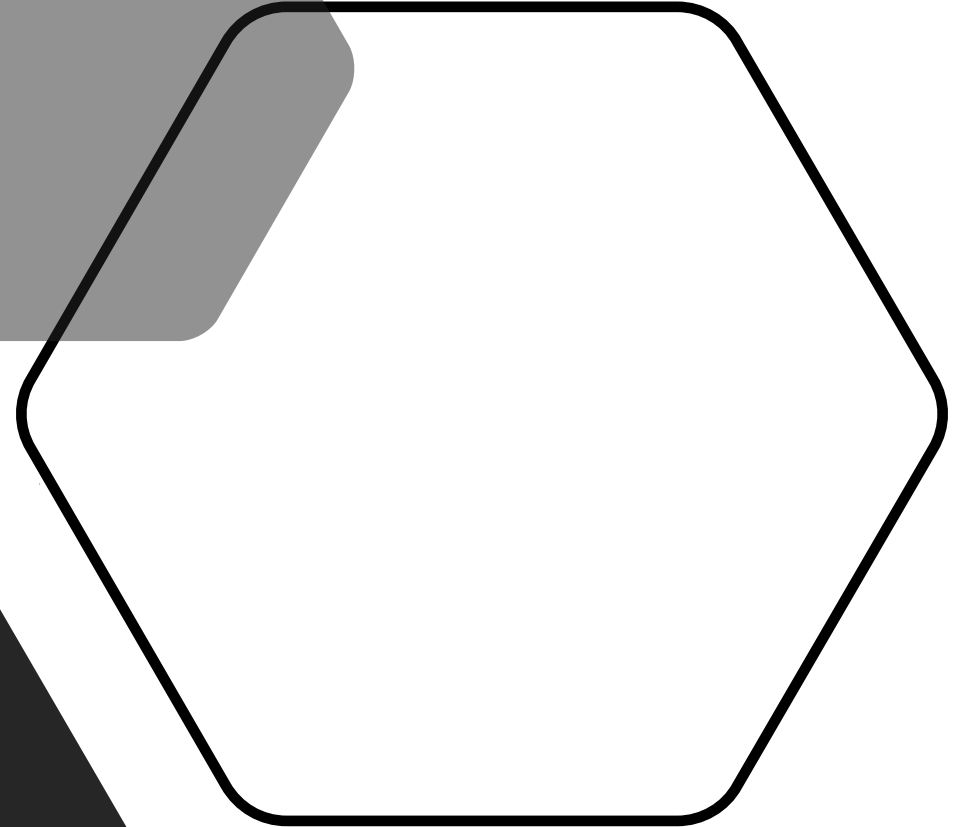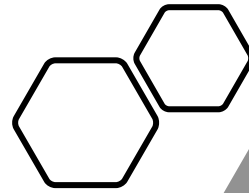
- On Street Recycling Pilot

- Sustainable Communities Pledge Pilot

- Great British September Clean

- September Anti-Litter Campaign

- Public Waste Carriers Search

- Christmas Anti-Litter Social Media Campaign

- Schools Spring Anti-Litter Week

- 'Volunteer Hub' Feasibility

On-street Recycling Pilot

High Streets Clear Up Fund- £31,024

Installation Locations:
St Neots
High Street
Moores Walk

Huntingdon
High Street
Chequers Court

St Neots

Original No. of bins: 25 units
New No. of bins: 15 units
Original Litres: 2750
New Litres: 4070

Estimated time emptying bins each day (based on 4 minutes): 1.6 hours
Weekly: 8.3 hours
Annual Staff Cost: £3936

Estimated new time per day: 1 hour
Estimated new time per week: 5 hours

New Annual Staff Cost: £2371
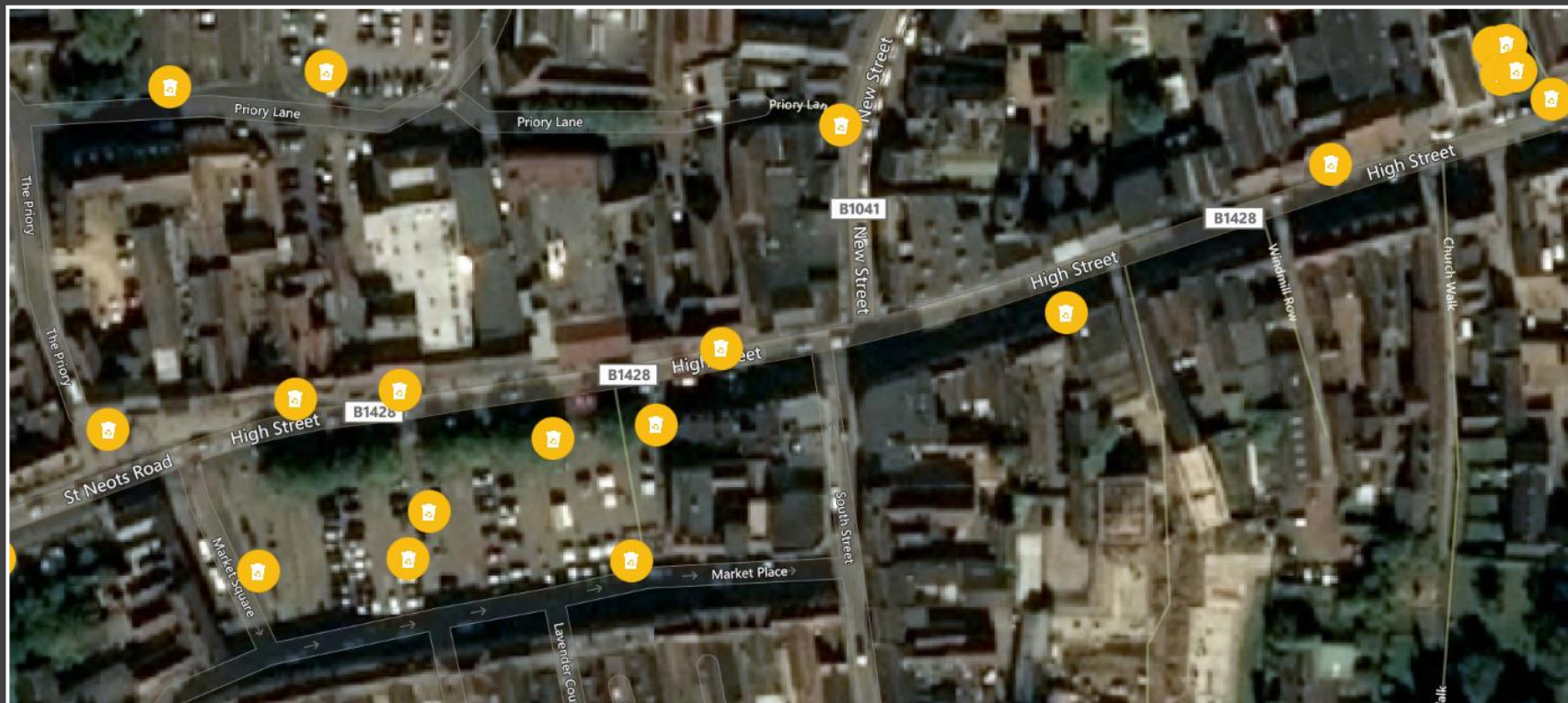
St Neots town centre first sample of recycling bins, with an extremely positive response with almost 75% of recycling successfully sorted into bottles or cans. General waste was also 98% correctly disposed of.
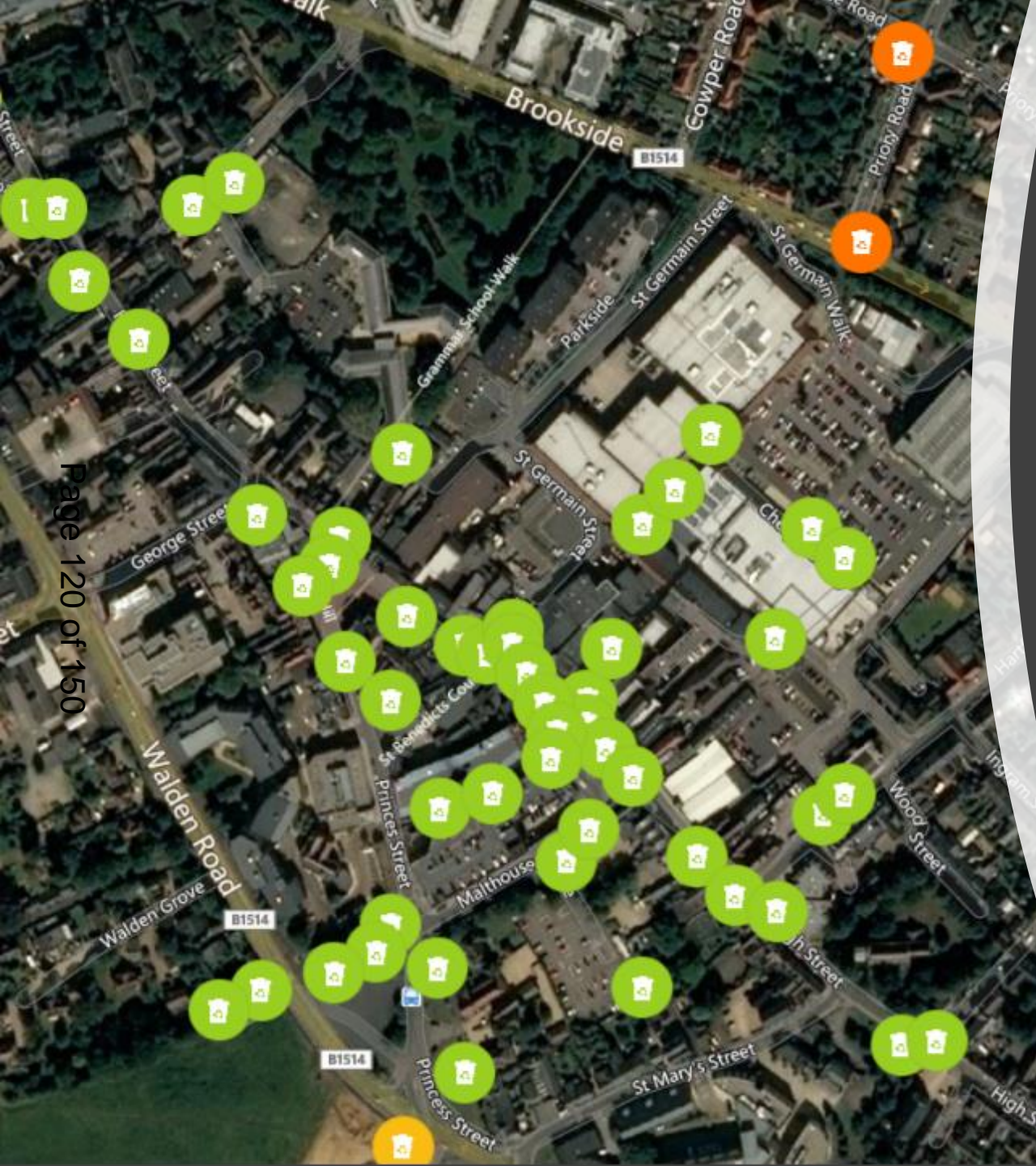
Huntingdon

Original No. of Bins: 53 Units

Original Litres: 5830

New No of units: 28 units

Litres: 4980

Estimated time emptying these bins each day is 3.6 hours (based on 4 minutes each). This is an estimated 17.6 hours each week (5 day week)

Annual staff cost: £8,367

New time per week: 9.3 hours

New Annual Staff Cost: £4410

Sample 6 months following install still showing 70% recycling.

On-street Recycling Pilot

St Ives
Crown Street
Bridge Street
The Quay
The Waits

Site Visit Completed
Looking to schedule dates with
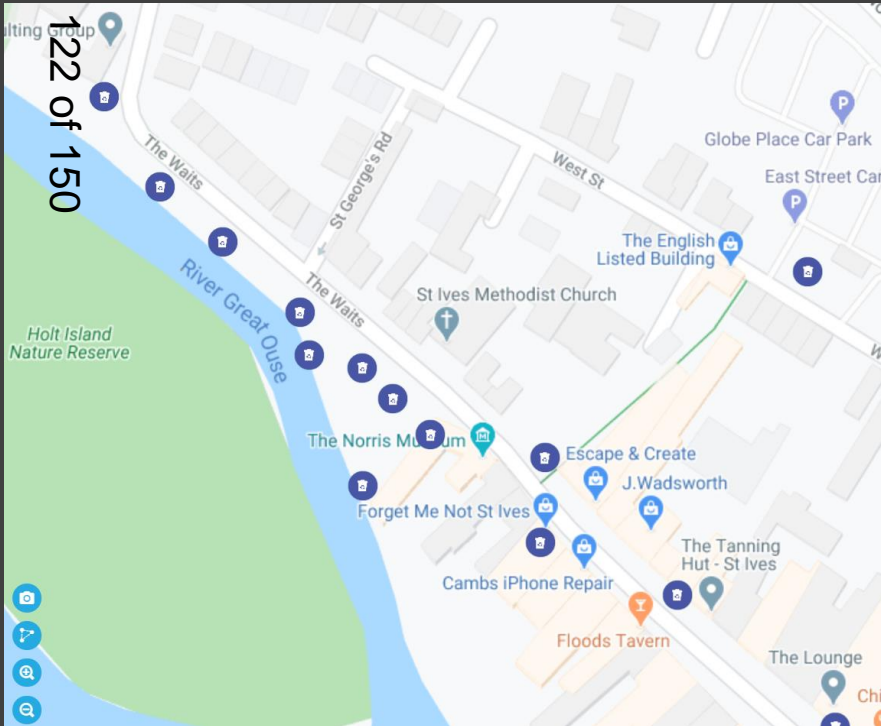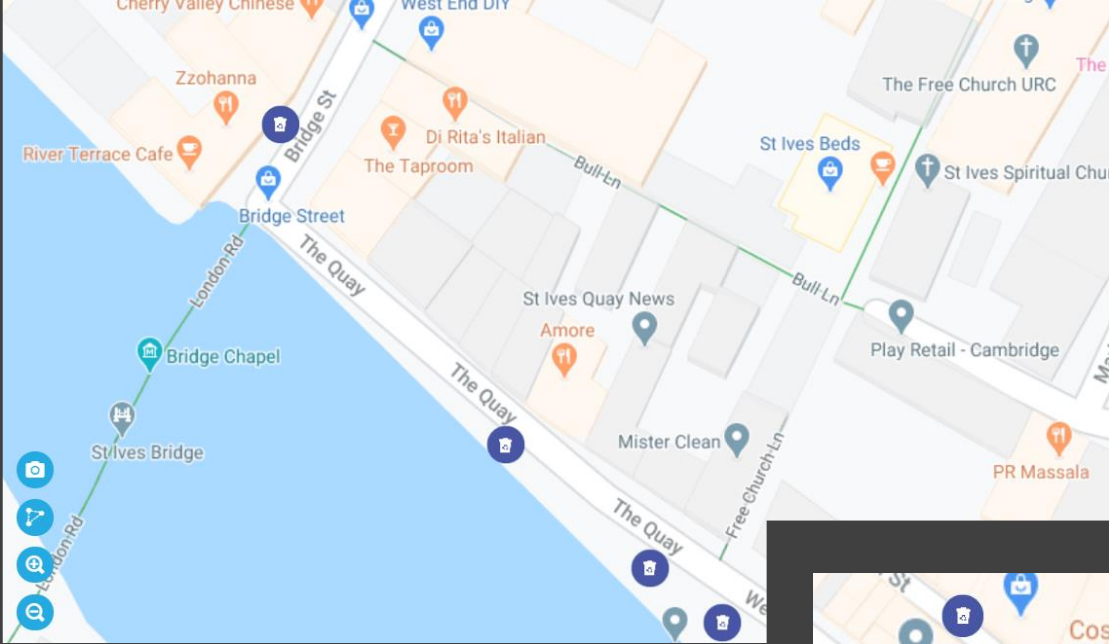contractors for installations

St Ives

Current No. of Bins: 40 units
Current Litres: 4400 litres

Estimated time emptying these bins each day is 2.6 hours (based on 4 minutes each). This is an estimated 13 hours each week.

Complete
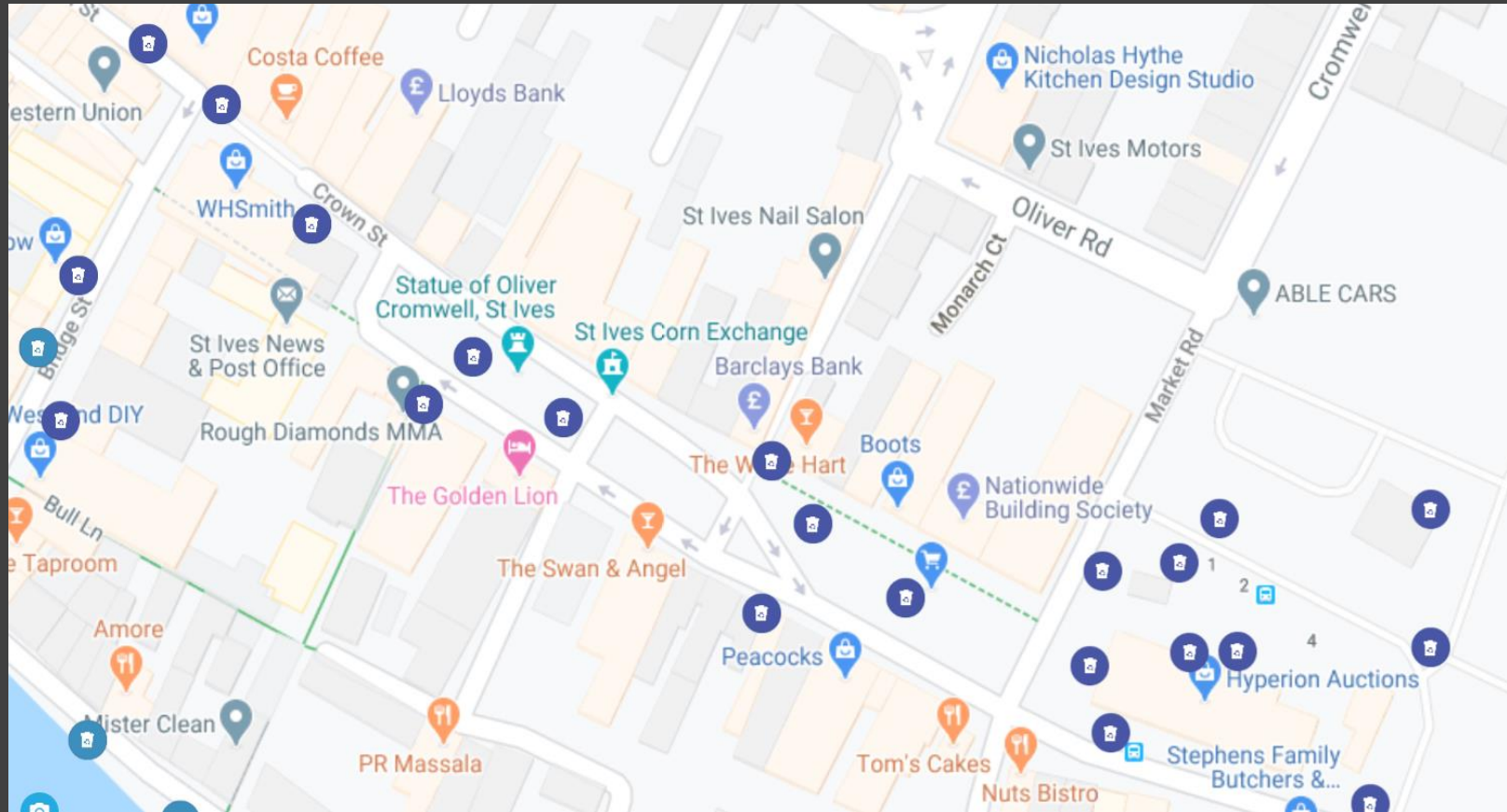
Layby Infrastructure Pilot
Litter Innovation Fund- £8807

Original Locations	**Additional Locations**
Marriott Huntingdon A141	Godmanchester A14
Southoe A1	Water Newton A14
Clues Corner	Hemingford Grey A14 East
Wains	Hemingford Grey A14 West
Vosa A1	
Galley Hill	

Brampton Hut roundabout was also cleared alongside this highways project, with 440kg removed.

Total weight (kg) taken from pilot laybys

Total	1667.67	145.64	45.68
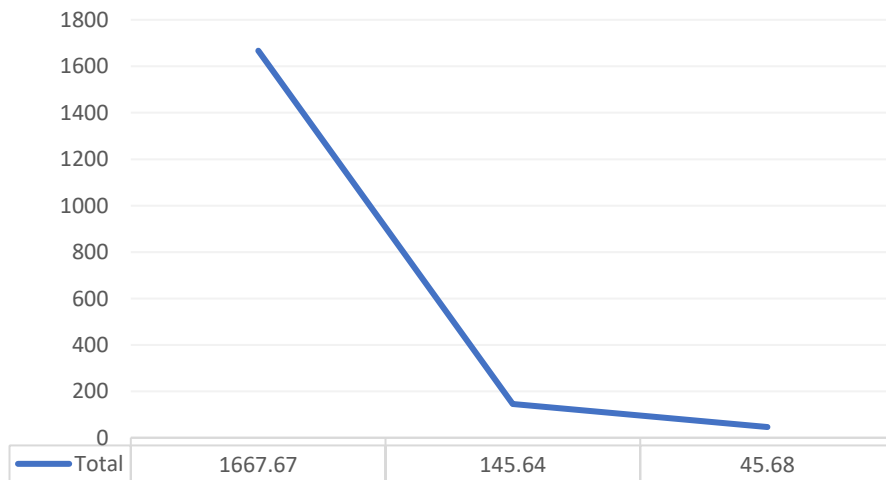
Before
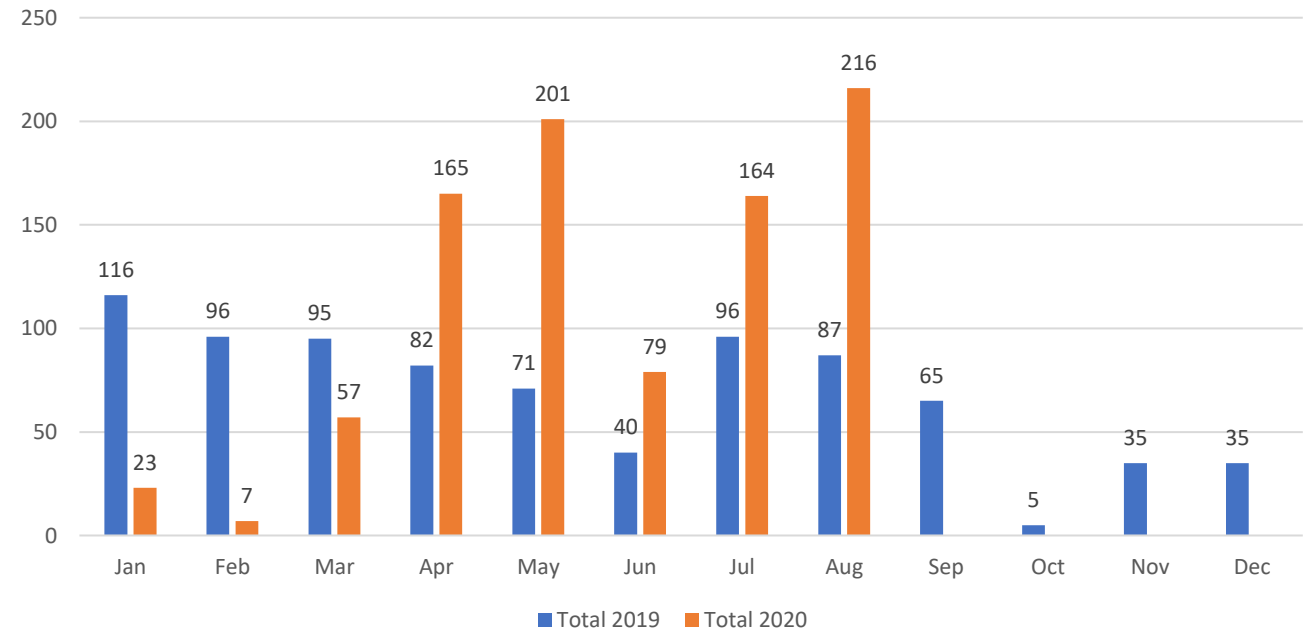
After

Improving Fly Tip Data

Drive for consistency

2019 data in consistent and therefore could not be accurately analysed

2020 data significantly improved consistency thanks to our Street Cleansing team

Move to Alloy October 2020 onwards

- **Use of tablets to input data**
- **Connected to Customer Portal**
- **Improved efficiency and accuracy**

Total Fly Tips Recorded

Month	Total 2019	Total 2020
Jan	116	23
Feb	96	7
Mar	95	57
Apr	82	165
May	71	201
Jun	40	79
Jul	96	164
Aug	87	216
Sep	65	
Oct	5	
Nov	35	
Dec	35	

Sustainable Communities Pledge

Sustainable Communities Pledge
Bronze Award

Proudly awarded to

for demonstrating commitment to reducing litter,
waste and improving education through the
Sustainable Communities Pledge

Joanne Lancaster
Managing Director

Neil Sloper
Head of Operations

Huntingdonshire
DISTRICT COUNCIL

LOVE
HUNTINGDONSHIRE

3 companies have achieved the Bronze Award

Many more expressed interest

Ongoing advertisement

Ambassadors

"Upon receiving the sustainable communities pledge, we as a company knew we needed to do more to create a positive impact on the environment. The pledge gave us areas of focus and guidance to improve and adapt internal policies around waste disposal, litter and educating staff. With minimal cost impact and minimal changes there has been a noticeable change in culture within the business. Not only has this created a tidier and more organised working environment it will no doubt have a positive impact on the environment and the nature that surrounds us." – Tom Gosling APPS UK

Complete

Litter Picking Overhaul

Equipment inventory created

Schedule of litter picks

Webform created so events can be organised through the website

Litter Picking Toolkit to give advice and guidance on how to host a litter pick- Made available on the website

Sign in/Sign out system created for collection of equipment

Thank you so much for your support. I really appreciate it. It has been remarkably easy to organise the event which is a really great council service!

Great British Spring Clean

National event by Keep Britain Tidy which encourages the community to get involved in local litter picks (13th March- 20 April 2020)

29 Total Organised Events

5 Completed

24 Rescheduled/Cancelled due to COVID-19

Great British September Clean

111 Bags of litter were collected from 9 Events around the district

Hinchingbrooke Grab 'n' Go litter pick

Over 39 litter picking events this year- Thank you to all of the volunteers and hosts

Total litter picks for 2019 was 35 events

Litter Education Pack

Draft Complete

Working on finalising document which is appropriate for all ages

Covers- Schools and Community groups

Symbols Quiz!

There are many symbols which are used to represent different things in the world of recycling, we have selected a few of the most common. Before reading the answers- Can you guess the meaning of all of the below symbols?

PET

Widely Recycled

FSC

Visit www.recyclenow.com to help identify other symbols you may have found on your packaging!

Products certified to be industrially composted acroding to European Standards may have the seedling logo. This cannot be put into a recycling bin as it will contaminate plastics, however can be put into your garden waste

This packaiging is collected by 75% of local authorities in the UK

Used on electricals, this means they should not be put into the general waste, as this could cause a fite. These should be recycled at your neared recycling centre.

The Forest Stewardship Council logo identifies wood based products from well managed forests which have been indepentalty certified in accordance with their guidelines

This does not nessesarily mean this item can be recycled. This is used in some European countries to signify that the producer has made a financial contribution towards teh recovery and recycling of packagaing in Europe

PET

This indicates the type of resin used, using a Resin ID code

Tidyman symbol asks you not ot litter, it does not relate to recycling, but remingds you to be a good citizen.

How quickly can you find these symbols in your cupboard at home?

What is Fly Tipping?

Some of the most commonly fly-tipped items we pick up are:

Fly-tipping is the 'illegal deposit of any waste onto land that does not have licence to accept it'.

Household Items

Black Bags

Fridge Freezers

Builders Rubble

Garden Waste

There are many companies out there which will offer to take your waste away for a fee. Frequently we find this household waste fly tipped, without the owners knowledge. These criminals make thousands of pounds each year with no disposal costs.
Find out how you can spot them using our checklist below!

How to report Fly Tipping?

If you see a fly tipped item in a residential or communal area, use the fly tipping webform through our customer portal on the Huntingdonshire District Council website with a location, description and photograph if available. This will be passed to our Enforcement Team to investigate

When you report fly tipping it can be removed and with your help the crime can be investigated.

What to do if you see someone fly-tipping?

Take note of the following and report it to us via our webform:

1. Date, time and place of the incident

2. What the waste looks like and how much there is

3. Descriptions of any person and/or vehicles involved along with the registration number

AS FLY-TIPPERS ARE DOING SOMETHING ILLEGAL, THEY DO NOT WANT TO BE CAUGHT. DO NOT APPROACH THEM OR PUT YOUR OWN SAFETY AT RISK.

Example Pages

Waste Carriers Licence Search

Search similar to the Environment Agency to help the public search for legitimate clearance companies within Huntingdonshire.

Current EA system includes confusing terminology which can be off putting

Our search would include name of business, licence number and location

How you can help stop fly tipping

Check the company has a 'waste carriers' licence with the Environment Agency by phone or online.	**Get a quote** (it costs £120 per ton to get rid of waste legally) so is it too good to be true?
If you choose a company, they should show you their Waste Carrier License on arrival, if not do not use them.	Find out where the waste is going for disposal before they load their van or trailer – Note it down
Take a picture of your waste and the vehicle that is going to take it away – Save it just in case!	Once loaded the Carrier must give you a receipt which describes the waste they have taken and cost charged
If you communicate via Facebook, Messenger or Text, screen shot and save your messages.	If you see a fly tip, report it to us on our website or through our call centre for us to investigate

Environment Agency — Public Registers

Home   About public registers

BETA   This is a trial service – your feedback will help us to improve it.

Home / Search waste carriers, brokers and dealers

Register of waste carriers, brokers and dealers

People or businesses who transport, buy, sell or dispose of waste, or arrange for someone else to do so, m

Quick check

To check a registration, enter the registration number or business name:

Business name or registration number   [Q look up]

Name	Registration	Registered as	Address
Huntingdonshire District Council	CBDL21756	Carrier, Broker, Dealer - Lower Tier	Pathfinder House, St Marys Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN
Huntingdonshire District Council	CBDL3671	Carrier, Broker, Dealer - Lower Tier	Pathfinder House, St Marys Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3TN

Christmas Anti-Litter Social Media Campaign

Campaign to target post Christmas fly tipping

Checking for Waste Carriers License

Working closely with enforcement

Advertising waste campaign eg Christmas tree recycling, additional recycling etc

Schools Spring Anti-Litter Week

Designed pack of resources for school for an anti-litter/environmental week

Included:

Assemblies

Lesson Resources

Homework Activities

Fun home activities

Games

Posters

Puzzles

'Volunteer Hub' feasibility

Explore a design for a central hub of HDC and parish/town council volunteer opportunities for the public to sign up for.

Encouraging volunteering within the community by advertising events which may not have been accessible before ie without social media

Future Funding

WRAP Litter Binfrastructure Grant
Smart Town- Connecting
Cambridgeshire

APPS UK is first company in district to achieve sustainable bronze qualification

Julian Makey julian.makey@archant.co.uk Read more from Julian Makey

September 28, 2020 Updated: Friday, September 25, 2020 (12:30)

APPS UK is the first company in the Huntingdonshire district to achieve a sustainable bronze qualification.

An air pollution products firm from Huntingdon has become the first in the district to qualify under a new sustainable communities scheme designed to improve the environment in their area.

The **Hunts Post** InBrief

District council to support 'Great British September Clean' in Huntingdonshire

September 10, 2020

Hunts Post - Environment; Council; People

Residents, businesses and community groups are being urged to join forces with Huntingdonshire District Council to take part in a September spring clean.

Litter pickers collect rubbish as part of September Big Clean

September 25, 2020

Hunts Post - Environment

Staff and family members from the APPS Group participated in the Huntingdonshire District Council's 'September Big Clean' scheme.

CCTV cameras to be installed in St Neots park to catch people littering

June 19, 2020

Hunts District Council seeks applicants for Sustainable Communities Pledge.

Huntingdonshire District Council has completed its first audit of a local business that has signed up for our Sustainable Communities Pledge Pilot.

Stukeley Meadows-based APPS UK Ltd, who provide high quality air pollution products and systems using environmentally friendly technology, signed up to complete the Bronze Level Award and are the first business to qualify.

Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment Marge Beuttell said: "Across Huntingdonshire, we have many thriving industrial areas which regularly struggle to get the recognition they deserve, from large chains to smaller independent businesses. The Sustainable Communities Pledge has been created with all sizes of business in mind, to be able to demonstrate and celebrate the great work that often goes into making the local

community more sustainable through reducing litter, educating staff and improving the surrounding areas. The overall aim is to create a cleaner, safer and more welcoming area for the public and to encourage them to visit some of the unique businesses which we have throughout the district.

The pledge has been embraced by all staff members within the company and it was clear to see the positive behavioural change, with the following comments being made by a representative following the achievement."

Currently the Sustainable Communities Pledge is being piloted within Huntingdon's Stukeley Meadows Industrial Estate and St Peter's Road and is free of charge to new applicants. To express your interest and find out further information on the pledge, please email Litterminimisation@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Public
Key Decision - No

HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Title/Subject Matter: Strategic Review of HDC Markets – Project Overview

Meeting/Date: Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) – 5th November 2020

Executive Portfolio: Executive Councillor for Operations and Environment

Report by: Operations Manager, George McDowell

Executive Summary:

Huntingdonshire District Council operates traditional street markets in Huntingdon (Wednesday & Saturday) and St Ives (Monday & Friday), however the service does not have a documented strategic approach to the operation of its markets as previously noted by the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth).

The attached document (*Appendix 1 – Strategic Review of Markets Services (T&F Scoping)*) proposes the scoping, membership and aims for the Council's Task and Finish in gathering evidence through to the establishing of a HDC Markets Services Vision & Strategy

List of Appendices Included:
- Appendix 1 – Strategic Review of Markets Services Task and Finish Scoping Document

Background Papers
- Item 65 Markets - Annual Review (5th March 2019)

Contact Officers:
- George McDowell, Operations Manager
  george.mcdowell@huntingdonshire.gov.uk
- Jasmin Brennan, Markets Services Manager
  Jasmin.Brennan@huntingdonshire.gov.uk

Recommendation:

1) That endorsement be given for the approach and aims as set out in 'Appendix 1 – Strategic Review of Markets Services (T&F Scoping)'

2) That the Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Customers and Partnerships) nominate membership inline with 'Appendix 1 – Strategic Review of Markets Services (T&F Scoping)'

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY - TASK AND FINISH GROUP SCOPING DOCUMENT

Task and Finish Group Title:	Strategic Review of HDC Markets
The Problem:	Huntingdonshire District Council does not have an agreed Vision or Strategy for its Markets Service as noted by the Overview & Scrutiny (Performance & Growth) Panel March 2019.
Membership of Working Group:	It is advised that the working group should include: • Councillor Marge Beuttell – Executive Councillor for Operations & Environment • A minimum of three Overview and Scrutiny Councillors with at least one representing St Ives and another representing Huntingdon.

Aim:	We wish to establish a clear **Vision** and **Strategy** for the Councils Markets Service.
	
	We will:
	
	1. **Discover** user needs and seek inspiration asking:
	  • What is our customer demographic?
	  • Are all our Markets the same?
	  • What brings visitors to our markets?
	  • What brings our Traders to our markets?
	  • What value our markets add to our towns?
	  • What styles of markets exist locally and further afield?
	
	2. **Define** a **Vision** based on our findings that answers:
	  • Why we run our markets?
	  • Who we run our markets for?
	  • What the key purpose of our Markets is?
	
	3. **Develop** a **Strategy** that:
	  • Looks at how we operate our markets.
	  • Asks if we should pilot new ideas and what these should be.
	  • Establishes how we brand our markets.
	  • Gives direction, not direct actions. This allows the testing of ideas post T&F in a live business as usual setting.
	
	4. **Deliver** & Evaluate the ongoing changes we make in line with the Strategic Direction set out. This stage will be 'post-strategy' and the return to the 'new business as usual' for the service. Changes will be monitored and fed back to the

	Service Portfolio Holder.
Key Officer Contacts: *(Lead and support)*	George McDowell – Operations Manager Jasmin Brennan – Markets Services Manager
Scoping form completed by:	George McDowell – Operations Manager
Scrutiny requested by:	Overview and Scrutiny Panel (Performance and Growth), March 2019
Criteria for inclusion in work programme:	
Customer Feedback:	We will gather feedback from a variety of customer groups and stakeholders including: • Members of the public who visit our markets • Members of the public who don't visit our markets • Our market traders
Council Priority:	Council Vision: • We want to support a safe and healthy environment, deliver economic growth and provide value for money services for the people of Huntingdonshire
Importance to local people:	Becoming a more Customer Focussed Organisation: • Involving customers in significant changes to services • Gaining a better understanding of our customer needs and ensuring all customer engagement is meaningful
Value for Money Concerns:	What is the cost operation basis (loss, neutral, profit) for the Councils Markets Service? Exploration of this question may be used to inform a future review of pitch charges outside of this strategic review.
Contributes to tackling inequalities:	How can we ensure our markets are accessible to all? We will look at industry best practice for visiting public & stall holders against current layout and location.
Improving partnership working:	We will enable members of the working group to explore the needs of different stakeholders e.g. • Market visitors • Stall holders

Cross-cutting issue:	N/A
Summary of overall anticipated benefits and intended outcomes:	For the Markets Service, we will have developed a: • Vision, and; • Strategy
Indicators of success:	Achieving an endorsed Markets Service Vision & Strategy
Scope:	
In Scope: *(Define what the scope of the review will be)*	Understanding: • Current customer demographics for each of our markets and conversely, the what may be barriers for those who do not attend our markets. • The current end customer offering, and importance e.g. should we limit a traders maximum space to ensure greater product diversity • The current stall holder offering e.g. is pitch size value for money? Do we need to do more for our traders or do we do to much? • What styles/categories of markets exist and where we fall within these. • Location – are our markets in the right place with the right layout? • The legislation under which we operate our markets and what limitations this may impose. • Do our markets have a clear purpose and if not, what should this be? • Why we run our markets & who we run our markets for? • Our current brand images for the markets • What are concerns around our market operation e.g. safety
Excluded from Scope: *(Define the exclusions from the scope of the review)*	• A review of the current level of fees and charges
Benefits:	Benefits: • Clarity, focus and direction. • A better understanding of the current facilities and if they will meet future needs • Understanding the longer term future • Identifying the key steps needed to achieve the strategy

Council and Partner Involvement	
Who would need to be involved from the Council?	Involvement would be required from: • Portfolio Holder • Members of the working group • Cabinet • O&S (Customers & Partnerships) • Markets Services Staff
Which of our partners, stakeholders and members of the community should we discuss this with?	Stakeholders would include: • Market Traders • Market customers • Non-customers • Huntingdon BID • Huntingdonshire Businesses Against Crime (HBAC) • Town Councils • Town Centre users/visitors
Review Resources	
Evidence: *(All to be gathered)*	• Customer feedback and user group analysis • Information relating to Market rights/charters • Industry standards available • Current product diversity
Witnesses: *(Who to see and when)*	Representatives of • key customer groups • market traders • specific Town issues
Site visits:	N/A – unless deemed required by the working group and where permitted in line with Covid guidance
Consultation:	Consultation will be undertaken with: • stall holders • town centre users • market visitors • key stakeholders e.g. BID, HBA
Expert Advice: *(Does the Task & Finish Group require expert advice and support due to the nature of the review?*	Advice will be sought from: • NABMA(National Association of British Markets) • H&S experts (internal and external where required) • Other specialist consultants where deemed required by the working group e.g. marketing etc

Note: if a cost is involved the senior officer will need to agree payment)	*budget is in place to engage consultants where required.
Timescales:	
Anticipated Review Start Date:	January 2021
Anticipated Reporting Date:	Vision – May 2021 Strategy – September 2021
Frequency of Meetings:	Monthly
Date to evaluate impact:	12 month review

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Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme 2020/21

Performance and Growth

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Transport Strategy	Councillor S J Criswell Councillor I D Gardener Councillor P L R Gaskin Councillor M S Grice	Nigel McCurdy/David Edwards	Study has not commenced.
Asset Management Strategy	Councillor I D Gardener Councillor D A Giles	Jackie Goldby/Justin Andrews	Study has not commenced.

Completed

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Housing Strategy to 2025	Councillor A Roberts Councillor S Wakeford Councillor D Wells Councillor Mrs S R Wilson • Comment and make suggestions on the emerging Housing Strategy.	David Edwards/Liz Bisset	**6th August 2020** – A meeting took place with Members; the Interim Corporate Director (Place), David Edwards and Liz Bisset. The vision for the strategy was outlined and Members had an opportunity to comment and make suggestions. **7th October 2020** – The Housing Strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny. **22nd October 2020** – The Cabinet approved the Housing Strategy and the accompanying one year action plan.

Customers and Partnerships

In Progress

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Digital Strategy	Councillor D Tysoe	Tony Evans	**Next Step** The Digital Strategy won't be presented until the Core Service Strategy is produced.
Climate Change Strategy	Councillor T D Alban Councillor Mrs J Tavener Councillor Mrs S R Wilson	Neil Sloper	**18th October 2020** – The Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny) attended the Centre for Public Scrutiny and Local Government Association Scrutinising Climate Action Webinar on18th September. **Next Step** The remit for strategy development has not been established. In absence of this it is recommended that Members review examples of climate change studies conducted at other local authorities.
Waste Strategy	Councillor Ms A Dickinson Councillor D A Giles Councillor Mrs S Smith Councillor Mrs S R Wilson	Neil Sloper	Study has not commenced.
Lifelong Health – Part Two	Councillor S J Criswell Councillor Mrs A Dickinson Councillor K P Gulson Councillor Mrs S Smith Councillor Mrs J Tavener Councillor Mrs S R Wilson	Oliver Morley	**12th September 2019** – The Panel received the final report of Part One and agreed to continue the study under the guise of 'Part Two'.

	• Identify ways of developing better health outcomes for residents. • Identify the benefits of a whole system approach for the Council.		**14th October 2019** – The Task and Finish Group met with Liz Robin, Public Health. **10th December 2019** – Following the presentation of the Part One report to Cabinet and the meeting with the Director of Public Health, the Task and Finish Group met to refocus the scope of the study. The study will now focus primarily on collaboration with Parish & Town Councils and community groups in order to improve residents' physical activity and well-being. **13th January 2020** – The Task and Finish Group received a presentation from Active Lifestyles and assessed the interaction the service has with Parish & Town Councils and community groups. **28th January 2020** – Alyce Barber, Community Development Officer, attended and informed Members of her work with projects that helps build social contact, builds support networks and addresses mental health issues. Members will also discuss the evidence that links an individual's mental health with physical health.

| | | | 12th February 2020 – The Task and Finish Group received and discussed a number of case studies.

Next Step – The Group will conduct an evidence review in November 2020. |

Completed

Topic	Membership & Scope	Lead Officer	Progress
Healthy Open Spaces and Play Strategy	Councillor Mrs A Dickinson Councillor K P Gulson Councillor Mrs S Smith Councillor Mrs J Tavener Councillor Mrs S R Wilson	Helen Lack	11th March 2020 – A meeting took place with Working Group Members, the relevant Executive Councillors, Helen Lack and Sarah Wheale-Smith of PleydellSmithyman so that Members could give their views on the draft Strategy. 29th July 2020 – A second meeting took place with Working Group Members, Helen Lack and Sarah Wheale-Smith of PleydellSmithyman. Members were shown the executive summary and a full draft of the Strategy. 8th October 2020 – The Healthy Open Spaces Strategy was presented to Overview and Scrutiny. 22nd October 2020 – The Cabinet endorsed the Healthy Open Spaces Strategy and 10 year action plan.