

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

StreetCare – Environmental Maintenance Tree Strategy 2009 - 2019



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Introduction

Trees are a significant feature of Havering, a unique component of the urban landscape and as living organisms are vulnerable to pest and disease, vandalism, accidents and development. Many trees are long lived, offering enjoyment and diversity of benefits to residents today and for future generations. To ensure their continuing contribution to the urban landscape it is essential that their needs and requirements are understood and planned for.

In June 1992 the world's largest gathering of world leaders was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. That meeting signalled the fact that environmental concerns have moved up the international political agenda. The central message of the summit is summed up in Article Four of the Rio declaration:

“In order to achieve sustainable development, environmental protection shall constitute an integral part of the development process and cannot be considered in isolation from it.”

This means that international, national and local policy makers have to start re-appraising their policies and practices to ensure that they are sustainable.

Natural resource strategies rarely stand in isolation. For this reason, Havering Council is meeting this challenge by developing a range of strategies and goals in the Living Ambition – a new vision for Havering, including the goal for Environment ,To ensure a clean, safe and green borough and how natural resource assets such as highway trees are managed in the long term.

This Tree Strategy will provide a framework for the maintenance and enhancement of the highway trees in the Borough and define the management approach for the safe and useful life expectancy for Council owned tree stock. It presents the public with a clear strategic aim and reasons why decisions and actions are taken through the policies as laid down in this strategy. Furthermore, it provides a vision for the enhancement of the tree stock that ensures the Borough will maintain a healthy highway tree stock within the considerations of Living Ambition – Aiming for the highest quality of life in London

1. The amenity and environmental value of trees in the urban context.

1.1 The value of trees in the urban context falls into two categories, biological and non-biological.

1.2 Biological

1.2.1. All plants „fix“ carbon in producing carbohydrates. Trees create shade from the leaves which cools the heat absorbing highway surfaces. The leaves can filter some airborne pollution and particulates. Trees provide important habitat for urban wildlife such as birds, invertebrates and some mammals.

1.2.2. A tree lined street signifies the changing seasons in an often otherwise season-less environment.

1.3 Non-biological

1.3.1 The presence of trees makes the harsh “concrete jungle” of the urban environment more acceptable. They create green corridors along the highway and provide a more aesthetically pleasing environment.

1.3.2. Trees are integral and historic component of the urban landscape. They contribute to the local character and define a sense of place.

The sum of all these benefits defines the amenity value of trees.

2. Need for a Strategy

2.1. The Council owns an estimated 20,000 street trees . Setting out how the Council will manage its highway tree stock is both a practical and helpful guide to residents as well as an aid to good service management by the Council. This strategy is also a response to guidance from the Department of Communities and Local Government, Trees in Towns (II) 2007, which promotes good practice for local government.

2.2. There are responsibilities associated with ownership of trees. Some of these are legal duties as in the case of Tree Preservation Orders which are generally for trees within private ownership, others are in the interests of good husbandry and Health and Safety.

2.3. The Council has a duty of care on the trees that it owns and hence seeks to be a responsible manager and maintain trees reasonably within the wide range of pressures and demands it faces.

2.4. A tree strategy will ensure that the management of trees within Havering Borough will be dealt with in a co-ordinated, accountable manner. The overall standard of tree care will improve resulting in a healthier, more sustainable tree stock. The plans and policies laid down in the strategy will increase environmental, economic and social benefits and encourage community involvement in tree management.

3. Strategic Aim

3.1. To preserve, improve and secure no „net loss“ of the Councils highway trees for the current and future generations.

3.1 Objectives

3.1.1. To manage the tree stock in accordance with good arboriculture practice.

3.1.2. To maintain the street trees on a regular cyclical basis using current best practice to reduce the amount of responsive works required.

3.1.3. To increase the stock of trees in aesthetically necessary and sustainable locations by taking advantage of different funding methods to include, specifically, private sponsorship.

3.1.4. To reduce the number of inappropriately planted trees by their phased replacement.

3.1.5. To maintain a general presumption against the removal of trees, allowing felling only in accordance with good arboriculture and streetscape practice.

3.1.6. To inform and educate residents and businesses about the value of trees, and explore ways for greater involvement, consultation and protection from residents and businesses.

3.1.7. To promote and secure high quality tree planting and landscaping within new developments in order to maintain and enhance the Borough's local landscapes.

4. Street Trees

4.1. The Council is considered in law to be the owner of street trees that grow within the adopted highway and in consequence is responsible for them. It is empowered by the Highways Act 1980 to plant and maintain street trees.

4.2. Trees that are planted along the highways are an integral and historic component of the urban landscape and its architecture. They contribute to the local character and define a sense of place. They add aesthetic value by improving the overall appearance of the street scene trees, help filter traffic pollution, provide shade for car parking and habitat for urban wildlife.

5. Street Trees and Highway Management

5.1. There can be a very real conflict between the need to manage the Council's highway infrastructure and the need to manage the Council's trees. From time to time maintenance works undertaken by statutory undertakers (gas, electricity, water etc) or pavement repair by one of the Council's partner contractors is necessary. This construction work is symptomatic of progress, both economical and social and therefore accepted.

5.2 . When works are planned the Tree Officers will provide advice and information on the best way to minimise damage to street trees and to work in co-operation with those involved in construction. Where the needs of the street trees are patently disregarded the council will undertake to take appropriate action to ensure their protection.

6. Cyclical Maintenance Programme

6.1. The existing tree population is a valuable and desirable resource. Tree management encompasses the co-ordination of all maintenance operations to existing trees as well as new tree planting. The Council must balance the need to take a long term view of the future management of the tree stock, as well as addressing short term issues.

6.2. Street trees are inspected annually and pruned on either a three or five year cyclical programme, dependant on size and species. All inspections are carried out by a qualified Tree Officer employed by the Council. During inspections information such as species, size, condition and suitable works are programmed into a tree inventory data base. The information contained in the database is used to keep management and topic records for each individual tree. This information can be used to plot the history of the tree for ongoing management, complaint, insurance queries Asset Management and Whole Life Costing exercises.

6.3. Tree pruning will be undertaken by qualified tree surgeons on a programmed ward-by-ward basis . Proactive, rotational management gives a fair and equitable approach as well as enabling ward members and residents advanced information of tree maintenance works.

6.4 Trees will not be pruned outside of the cyclical pruning programme unless there is a real risk of a health and safety issues or threat of legal action. This ensures a sound approach to management both financially and contractually.

6.5 . In the case of newly planted trees, the maintenance and management of the tree continues for 1 year after planting. This includes regular watering during the summer months and regular inspection of the stakes and ties. These inspections are undertaken outside of the cyclical maintenance survey. Once the initial year has passed the tree is passed to the inspection regime.

Policy 1 : To ensure street trees are inspected by a suitably qualified person on a yearly basis and maintenance works commissioned as necessary.

7. Contract Management

7.1. The Council maintains its trees through the use of a contracted firm of arborists. The tree management contract was let to City Suburban Tree Surgeons Ltd for 5 years, commencing April 1st 2009, with an option to extend for a further 2 years and is the sole contractor for all highway tree work.

7.2. This strategy will underpin the Tree Service with our partners City Suburban Tree Surgeons Ltd.

The Tree Officer will be responsible for the day to day running of the contract and will ensure current best practice is being followed in partnership with City Suburban Tree Surgeons Ltd.

8. Tree Removal

8.1 The Council receives a great many requests to remove trees. For example: installation of vehicle cross-overs, road traffic improvements, subsidence claims and specific removal of some species which are considered a nuisance. However, often it is only once a tree is removed that its value becomes apparent. Even after replanting the amenity lost can rarely be replaced.

8.2 . The highway environment is a finite space for which there is intense competition from other services gas, water, electric etc. Planting opportunities after a tree is removed are becoming increasingly difficult as a new tree pit not only has to contend with the underground pipes and cables but also has to the aerial competition from street lamps, traffic signs, vehicle sightlines etc.

8.3 There will be a resistance to the removal of trees unless there is sound arboriculture or risk related reason to do so. This may be dead, dying, diseased or structural damage. Or when a tree is deemed inappropriate for the location and there are resources available to replant with a more suitable species. Trees in a hazardous condition will be considered as an emergency and removed without notification to safeguard the public and property.

Policy 2 : Requests for tree removal will be refused unless the tree is deemed to be in a hazardous condition or causing significant damage to the highway infrastructure, proven major structural damage to property , or is causing a significant nuisance such as excessive fruit fall, subject to inspection by a qualified Tree Officer.

9. Vehicle Crossovers

9.1 . It is now usual for households to have one or more cars, and with this an expectation for the cars to be parked near to the house. For this reason, requests for a vehicle cross-over are commonplace. In some instances installation of the cross-over is impossible given the presence of a street tree therefore the Council is requested to remove the tree.

9.2 . In line with Policy 2 trees will not normally be removed to accommodate new vehicular access unless there is good arboriculture reason to do so, or the resident requires easier access due to disability. In any case where cross over works are approved by the Council and which approve removal and replacement of street trees, the full cost of all such tree works will be borne by the applicant.

9.3 The existing vehicle crossover policy used by the Area Liaison Officers when dealing with an application that is affected by a highway tree states;

- First check if there is an alternative possible means of access to the property. For example, the property may already have another crossover and the application is requesting a second for “in” and “out” purposes. Or, access to the property from the rear (eg. A service alley) may be possible. This may not be the applicants preferred option, but it does save the tree and so the application is refused and the applicant advised of the alternatives. An alternative is that a sub-standard width crossing be considered. The standard width for a crossing is currently 2.7m (9’). However, in order to save the tree, a reduced width of 2.4m (8’) can be considered, or even 2.1m (7’) in cases of particularly exceptional need, ideally combined as a double crossing with a neighbour.

9.3 . The size of the tree removed will dictate the number of new trees required. i.e. Young = 1 tree, medium = 3 trees, large = 5 trees. The current replacement and 1 year maintenance cost is approximately £150.00 per tree (this figure will be subject to an annual inflation increase).

All trees being replanted will be of extra heavy stock size wherever possible.

Policy 3 : On application for a vehicle cross-over the Tree Officer will be consulted for their view on amenity. If the tree is of high amenity value the application will normally be refused. However, if the applicant has access difficulties due to proven disability, the request will usually be granted.

10. Phased replacement of inappropriate street trees

10.1 . In some situations maintenance and associated problems of a tree are so great that removal and replacement can not only improve the environment for residents, but avoid substantial financial liabilities for the Council.

10.2 . Thoughtful planned removal of trees reaching the end of their safe useful life expectancy and replanting with appropriate replacements will promote a tree population age structure that is sustainable. This long term approach to street tree management will produce long term improvements to the environment, reduce maintenance costs and release resources to improve the street tree resource as a whole.

10.3 . Short and long term benefits to the local community and the Council can be gained through phased removal. Sometimes it will be appropriate to replace over mature street trees requiring frequent expensive maintenance and replace with either younger trees of the same species or more suitable species.

10.4 Identification of trees for phased removal and replacement will be carried out with due consideration to all factors, including proximity to buildings, species choice for replanting and the amenity value trees provide. The phased removal and replanting process will be evaluated objectively.

10.5 In conjunction with the phased removal of trees to as part of the longer term strategy there may be a need to phase the actual removal of the larger trees over two years to reduce the possibility of heave, or a straight fell and removal depending on local circumstances. The phasing of the actual works will result in the crown being removed on the first year and the trunk and stump being ground out to an acceptable level below the surface in the second year.

11. Tree planting, Species Selection and Sponsorship

11.1 There are cases where a tree has been planted which are out of keeping with the main species on the rest of the street. If the opportunity arises the tree may be removed and replaced with the principle species. Replacement of forest type trees with small ornamental species reduces future maintenance costs and nuisance complaints, but there must be a consideration to the contribution that large trees make to the character of the environment.

11.2 . Nurseries are developing specialised trees for planting with the street scene. As a result the list of species available for planting in urban areas is growing. The variety of foliage, colour, form and flower is far more extensive than it has ever been. Havering Council is committed to increasing the number of street trees implementing imaginative species and planting projects.

11.3 There is a general presumption by the public that when the Council removes a tree it will replant with a new tree soon afterwards. However, in order to preserve and improve the existing tree stock, the annual revenue budget will be utilised in maintaining the remaining tree stock. Any planting that is carried out in the street is paid for by one of three methods: Private sponsorship, Capital funded programmes, or Section 106 payments through the planning system. However, long-term future planning should consider this budgetary implication to ensure the percentage of tree cover within Havering is not only maintained but increased and meets the goals for the Environment contained within the Living Ambition – a new vision for Havering and is noted in section 17.

Policy 4 : Priority will be placed on the replacement of over mature tree stock, planting more appropriate species where possible in a more suitable location, while promoting public awareness of tree management and maintenance.

12. Tree Problems

12.1 . People often live in close proximity to trees, particularly in urban areas. Trees can cause inconvenience to residents when they grow near dwellings. A dilemma often occurs when the tree makes an important contribution to the local environment but also causes inconvenience to those living nearby.

12.2 . With any population of trees there are a number of common sources of complaint including overhanging branches, shade, leaf/fruit fall, obstruction and physical damage etc. Many of these problems can be dealt with through the Councils cyclical pruning programme.

12.3 Tree roots disrupting the footway to a small degree is a common problem associated within the urban environment. Many trees are removed each year for various reasons including drought and pollution stress. It is for this reason that the Council is reluctant to remove healthy trees due to minor footway disturbance. StreetCare Area Liaison Officers who inspect the footway can action repair of damage as necessary and may wish to resurface disturbed areas. However, where the disturbance to the footway is significant and deemed dangerous, the final course of action will be removal of the tree.

Policy 5

There will be a presumption against the removal or pruning of trees which are healthy but subject to complaint (e.g. branch and root trespass, loss of TV/satellite signals, alleviation of bird mess, seed fall, honey dew, leaf or fruit fall, loss of light etc) unless the basis of the complaint is an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.

13. Trees and Subsidence

13.1 A common concern for homeowners is potential structural damage by tree roots. This type of damage mostly occurs in areas where the soil type is heavy, shrinkable clay, which is prone to fluctuations in volume caused by changing soil moisture levels. There has been a lot of concern about tree roots and structural damage in recent years. Much of this is unsubstantiated and the incidence of proven tree root related claims against the Council remains low despite the level of tree cover and much of the area having clay soils.

13.2 . Nevertheless, subsidence is a concern to householders and will remain at the forefront in the light of unpredictable and erratic weather patterns as a result of climate change. It presents a potential liability to the Council with high financial consequences.

13.3 . In order to reduce this risk the cyclical pruning schedule will take into consideration the management regime which may result in selective removal of street tree stock, in areas predisposed to building movement, where appropriate.

13.4 . Alleged cases and claims of tree root damage are dealt and co-ordinated by the Councils insurance department. The insurance department will seek advice from the Councils Tree Officer. This will usually involve a site inspection by the Tree Officer taking note of supporting documentation. A short report is passed back to the insurance department who will deal with any further communication between the agents. Any structural reports which are outside the expertise of the Tree Officer will be scrutinised by a Council Structural Engineer for comment to the Council' s insurance department who will co-ordinate the Council' s response on these matters.

13.5 Unwarranted claims based on poorly investigated or inaccurate evidence will be challenged.

13.6 . Vegetation control is usually the first practical step that can be taken to alleviate homeowners concerns and there is increasing pressure to do so. The demands from insurance claims come from closing the gap between retaining the tree, denying liability and having to remove the tree to reduce the Councils liability and costs

13.7 The Council will refer to the London Tree Officers “ Risk Limitation Strategy for Tree Root Claims” – 3rd Edition May 2007 (and subsequent versions when produced) for authoritative advice when dealing with claims.

Policy 6: Respond to investigations for insurance claims within 4 working weeks and to take appropriate action to mitigate risk posed by a street tree as a result of subsidence

14. Privately owned trees

14.1 . A majority of the Boroughs tree stock is located within privately owned property, gardens and communal grounds. These trees form a critical part of the Borough’ s local landscape and make a significant contribution to visual public amenity. This Tree Strategy is not primarily concerned with privately owned trees. The Council’ s policies on these trees are part of its planning and development control policies. This section is included for completeness and gives an overview of how the Council supports the management of these trees.

14.1 Tree Preservation Orders and Trees in Conservation Areas

14.1.1 Havering is fortunate in not only having a large number of woodlands but also a large number of trees or small groups of trees interspersed within the built environment. This is particularly so in Harold Hill, Gidea Park and Emerson Park. Woodlands and trees make an important contribution to visual amenity, biodiversity and in some cases, provide recreation opportunities. Many copses in particular ancient woodland and secondary woodland are protected as either sites of Specific Scientific Interest or of Metropolitan or Local Importance. Tree preservation orders may be made on individual trees, group of trees, areas of trees, hedges or woodlands which contribute to the character of the area and are of public amenity value.

14.1.2 The Council has a statutory duty to protect trees, which make a significant contribution to visual public amenity, and has powers under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 to regulate works to trees and prevent unnecessary felling or inappropriate pruning through the introduction of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO), the processing of tree works applications for TPO trees, and tree works notifications for trees situated within a Conservation Area

(TCA). The Council aims to deal with all applications for consent to carry out tree works within the statutory deadlines, 8 week for trees the subject of a tree preservation orders and 6 weeks for trees situated within a conservation area.

14.2 Trees and Development

14.2.1 . The Council seeks to achieve successful and satisfactory retention of trees within new development in the Borough. Trees can occupy a significant part of a development site and can have a major influence on the design and layout of a new development. Poorly designed schemes in relation to trees may be resented by future occupiers and will place pressure for trees to be pruned or removed. The Council aims therefore to promote the use of good practice and place trees at the front of the design process.

14.2.2 The Council has powers to impose conditions upon the grant of planning permission for development, to ensure that existing trees worthy of retention are protected and not damaged during and/or after construction. The revision of British Standard BS: 5837 2005 *A Guide for Trees In Relation to Construction* has improved the processes for protecting trees on development sites.

14.2.3 From 1 October 2008 the permitted development rights that allow householders to pave their front garden for hardstanding without planning permission have changed. Planning permission is now required to lay traditional impermeable driveways that allow uncontrolled runoff of rainwater from front gardens onto roads, because this can contribute to flooding and pollution of watercourses, all of which can affect trees

If a new driveway or parking area is constructed using permeable surfaces such as permeable concrete block paving, porous asphalt or gravel, or if the water is otherwise able to soak into the ground planning permission will not be needed. The new rules will also apply where existing hardstandings are being replaced. The new rules apply to hard surfaces exceeding 5 square metres in area.

14.2.4 If, due to development work, there are no alternative options other than to remove trees, the amenity value of the tree will be taken into account when deciding the replacement ratio and cost (as shown in 9.3)

14.3 Resurvey and Updating of Existing Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's)

14.3.1 . Local Planning Authorities are advised by Central Government to keep their TPO's under review by making full use of its variation and revocation powers in order to ensure their TPO's are up to date. The reasons why it may become important to vary or revoke a TPO are for example if an order was made before the implementation of later changes to the model order. Some TPO's were made in the 1940's and 1950's with many trees either missing or no longer merit protection. Central Government have also recommended that Local Planning Authorities put in place a programme for reviewing its old area orders. The Council will aim to assess and compile a list of all its area Tree Preservation Orders to help establish a framework and timescale, in view of putting into place a resurvey strategy.

14.4 The Making of New Tree Preservation Orders

14.4.1 . The Council aims to make full use of its powers to introduce new tree preservation orders. The majority of new TPO's are made as a result of planning applications for new development. The Council also receives a number of requests each year from local residents to protect individual or groups of trees which are considered important to the borough. Trees nominated for Tree Preservation Orders will be assessed carefully and consistently using systems to determine their suitability and visual public amenity value, and will be prioritised in order of expediency.

14.5 Enforcement of Unauthorised Tree Works on the Public Highway

18.5.1. It is an offence to prune, remove, or wilfully allow or cause damage to a protected tree, or a tree on the public highway.. The Council will use its relevant statutory powers to enforce and where appropriate prosecute the unauthorised pruning or removal of protected or highway trees.

15. Climate Change

15.1 There is a general consensus amongst experts that temperatures will increase, there will be more dramatic variations in weather events such as floods, storms, warmer drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. Estimates suggest that by 2050 temperatures across the British Isles will have increased by >1.5 degree centigrade. There will be changes in the hydrological regime leading to a greater risk of flood from sea, rivers and surface water drainage.

15.2 Urban areas will warm more than rural ones because buildings absorb heat. The concentration of buildings and urban areas leads to the formation of “urban heat islands”. This is where the night time temperature are higher there is a restriction in winds which disperse pollutants and increased run-off from roads, pavement, and hard stand for cars.

15.3 Trees in urban situations play a significant role in the adaptation of climatic change. They can counter poor air quality by effectively „locking up“ pollutants in the biomass. Trees can be used to shade and cool buildings, and absorb excess rain water.

15.4 . When changes in soil moisture occur below the foundation level of buildings it can lead to subsidence. Tree roots are often blamed for subsidence and therefore removed. A clearer understanding of the mechanism of damage and how it can be prevented is needed particularly if trees are to be sited close to buildings in order to benefit from their shading and cooling functions.

15.5 Many of our most notable tree-lined streets have tree populations that are mature to over-mature. Such trees are vulnerable to climatic variations such as drought, disease and damage. An over-mature population of street trees tends to erode gradually over a number of years as individual trees decline and have to be removed. New trees should be introduced wherever possible between the mature trees to ensure that there will be continuous tree cover in future years.

16. Community Engagement

16.1 . It is important to communicate to the local community why changes and decisions are made, and to provide an opportunity for those to have involvement if they wish to do so. This may be by sponsoring or adopting a tree in their street.

16.2 The Council gets many requests for either a new tree to be planted or to replace a dead specimen. The Subscription Tree Scheme is a positive initiative to enable the expansion of tree stock within the financial constraint of the need to

utilise existing revenue budgets to maintain the remaining tree stock. This situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future.

16.3 However, there are practical and statutory reasons why residents cannot plant trees of their own accord along the highway. The Subscription Tree Scheme offers the resident the opportunity to request a tree is planted at an appropriate location, which may or may not be outside their property. The resident will pay for a tree (from a species list supplied by the Tree Officer – Annexe 3) to be sourced, planted and cared for, for the required 1 year maintenance period by the Council.

16.4 The cost of The Subscription Tree Scheme is not fixed and will respond to any changing circumstances. The current costs and processes will be published each year in the Living magazine

16.5 . Interest groups are able to access external funding for specific projects.

Policy 7 : Every effort will be made to encourage initiatives such as the Subscription Tree Scheme

17. Tree Planting and Replacement Programme

17.1 There has been a gradual decline in the highway tree stock over a number of years , with the limited budget provision being fully utilised in maintaining the remaining trees. However, it would be prudent to seek additional funding to implement a replacement planting programme that would enable tree numbers to increase, and help to meet the Councils Living Ambition –Aiming for the highest quality of life in London, of which the Environment, Cleaner Greener and Safer initiative is an integral element.

Policy 8 : To actively seek a dedicated tree replacement and planting budget

Appendix 1 - Cyclical pruning schedule

The table shows the first 9 months of the year and the number of trees that will be inspected and pruning requirements ascertained, depending on condition, diseases, damage and budget demands. Detailed information regarding each road in the Wards are maintained by the Tree Team

3 & 5 Year Pruning Programme 2009 - 2010

CAC AREA	WARD	3 YR Programme	5YR Programme	Total No.Trees
APRIL '09				
Nth Romford	Havering Park	63	87	150
Nth Romford	Mawneys	39	100	139
Gidea Park	Pettits	50		50
	<i>Totals</i>	<i>152</i>	<i>187</i>	<i>339</i>
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>APRIL</u>	<u>339</u>
MAY '09				
Harold Hill	Gooshays	242	130	372
Harold Hill	Heaton	66	88	154
Emerson Park & Harold Wood	Harold Wood	45		45
	<i>Totals</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>218</i>	<i>571</i>
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>571</u>
JUNE '09				
Elm Pk & Hylands	Elm Park	41	103	144
Elm Pk & Hylands	Hylands	78	146	224
Hornchurch	St. Andrews	28		28
	<i>Totals</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>249</i>	<i>396</i>
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>396</u>
JULY '09				
Hornchurch	Hacton	71	123	194
Hornchurch	St. Andrews	42	258	300
Elm Pk &	Elm Park		37	37

Hylands				
	<i>Totals</i>	113	418	531
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>531</u>
AUGUST '09				
Emerson Park & Harold Wood	Emerson Park	148	262	410
Emerson Park & Harold Wood	Harold Wood		139	139
	<i>Totals</i>	148	401	549
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>AUGUST</u>	<u>549</u>
SEPTEMBER '09				
Gidea Park	Pettits	59	213	272
Gidea Park	Squirrels Heath	54	180	234
	<i>Totals</i>	113	393	506
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	<u>506</u>
OCTOBER '09				
Upminster	Cranham	89	310	399
Upminster	Upminster	80	326	406
	<i>Totals</i>	169	636	805
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>OCTOBER</u>	<u>805</u>
NOVEMBER '09				
South Hornchurch & Rainham	Rainham & Wennington	53	90	143
South Hornchurch & Rainham	South Hornchurch	74	90	164
Elm Park & Hylands	Elm Park	80		80
	<i>Totals</i>	207	180	387
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>NOVEMBER</u>	<u>387</u>
DECEMBER '09				
Romford	Brooklands	151	91	242
Romford	Romford Town	228	105	333
	<i>Totals</i>	379	196	575
		<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>DECEMBER</u>	<u>575</u>

Appendix 2 - Tree Strategy Policies

Policy 1

To ensure street trees are inspected by a suitably qualified person on a yearly basis and maintenance works commissioned as necessary

Policy 2

Requests for tree removal will be refused unless the tree is deemed to be in a hazardous condition or causing significant damage to the highway infrastructure, proven major structural damage to property , or is causing a significant nuisance such as excessive fruit fall, subject to inspection by a qualified Tree Officer.

Policy 3

On application for a vehicle cross-over the Tree Officer will be consulted for their view on amenity. If the tree is of high amenity value the application will normally be refused.

However, if the applicant has access difficulties due to disability, the request will usually be granted.

Policy 4

Priority will be placed on the replacement of over mature tree stock, planting more appropriate species where possible in a more suitable location, while promoting public awareness of tree management and maintenance.

Policy 5

There will be a presumption against the removal or pruning of trees which are healthy but subject to complaint (e.g. branch and root trespass, loss of TV/satellite signals, alleviation of bird mess, seed fall, honey dew, leaf or fruit fall, loss of light etc) unless the basis of the complaint is an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.

Policy 6

Respond to investigations for insurance claims within 4 working weeks and to take appropriate action to mitigate risk posed by a street tree as a result of subsidence

Policy 7

Every effort will be made to encourage initiatives such as The Subscription Tree Scheme

Policy 8

To actively seek a dedicated tree replacement and planting budget

Appendix 3 - Subscription Tree Species

1. Acer ginnala ‘Amur Maple’

- Its common name derives from the Amur River, which divides China and Russia. One of the very best trees for autumn colour, when its foliage turns a stunning red, it is also very early into leaf in spring and produces yellow-white fragrant flowers in May. This is a small to medium tree with a rounded habit.
Mature height: 5 – 10m

2. Alnus glutinosa ‘Common Alder’

- Medium tree with a conical habit producing yellow catkins in March. Its natural habitat is boggy land and river banks. Very good for urban plantings. It thrives in all soils and tolerates air pollution. Being a native tree, it is a wonderful host to a wide range of wildlife.
Mature height: 15 – 20m

3. Alnus incana Aurea ‘Alder’

- Unlike the species, this is a slow grower. The young shoots and leaves are yellow, while the catkins have a distinctive red tinge. The bark turns orange during the winter. Good as a street tree and for parks and gardens. It does best in moist soil and semi shaded areas.
Mature height: 10 – 15m

4. Betula pendula ‘Silver Birch’

- The Silver Birch is known as the “Lady of the Woods” – so called because of its slender and graceful appearance. A medium tree with a conical, but semi weeping habit, the bark is white with horizontal lines and large, diamond shaped cracks as the tree matures. It grows well on most soils.
Mature height: 15 – 20m

5. Betula albosinensis Fascination ‘Silver Birch’

- The dark green leaves, which are large for a birch, appear in April, along with a showy display of yellow catkins. It has an outstanding stem colour – orange peeling to pink and cream. This is a medium to large tree, becoming oval as it matures. It grows well on most soils.
Mature height: 10 – 15m

6. Corylus colurna ‘Turkish Hazel’

- A splendid and truly beautiful tree from south east Europe and west Asia. A large and imposing tree, rather columnar when young before broadening to a symmetrical pyramid on maturity. Notable for its textured, corky bark, it produces long yellow catkins in early spring and clusters of fringed nuts in autumn. It thrives in all soils.
- **ONLY SUITABLE FOR WIDE VERGES** – Mature height: 20m+

7. Crataegus laevigata Paul’s Scarlet ‘Hawthorn’

- It becomes smothered in double, red flowers in May. A good choice for urban planting and tolerant of air pollution. It does well in most soils, including very dry and wet soils.
Mature height: 10m

8. *Crataegus monogyna Stricta* ‘Hawthorn’

- A tough Hawthorn, ideal for exposed situations. Very different from other Hawthorns in that it has a columnar habit with ascending branches, making it a very good street tree and ideal for restricted areas. A good choice for urban planting and tolerant of air pollution. It does well in most soils, including very dry and wet soils.
Mature height: 10m

9. *Crataegus x prunifolia Splendens* ‘Hawthorn’

- A Hawthorn that looks particularly good in its autumn foliage. Red and gold autumn foliage is a striking feature of this small tree with a pyramidal habit. It also has characteristic white flowers and shiny, leathery, oval leaves. Tolerant of air pollution and it does well in most soils, including very dry and wet soils.
Mature height: 10m

10. *Prunus dulcis* ‘Common Almond’

- The Almond is one of the finest spring flowering trees. Well worth growing for its pink single and double flowers, which can reach up to 5cm across. A lovely subject for parks and gardens.
Mature height: 5 – 10m

11. *Prunus x hillieri Spire* ‘Ornamental Cherry’

- An outstanding columnar cultivar. This ranks as one of the finest of small street trees and it is also excellent in gardens and parks. With its tight, upright habit and profusion of pink flowers, it is ideal for most sites where space is limited. Rather slow growing.
Mature height: 5 – 10m

12. *Prunus Pandora* ‘Ornamental Cherry’

- A splendid Flowering Cherry – very free flowering! Pandora makes only one small tree, but its ascending branches, which give its broadly columnar habit, become smothered by pale pink blossom in March and early April. The bronze red leaves become even more attractive in autumn. Very good for streets and gardens.
Mature height: 5 – 10m

13. *Prunus Royal Burgundy* ‘Ornamental Cherry’

- A really wonderful small tree of rounded form, which is delightful in parks and gardens. Its double shell pink flowers are set against beautiful, wine red foliage to create an eye-catching effect. Lovely in any landscape.
Mature height: 5 – 10m

14. *Prunus x schmittii* ‘Ornamental Cherry’

- This Cherry requires virtually no pruning. Remarkable for its polished, red-brown bark, this fast growing and conical tree is medium to large. It shows fine autumn colour.
Mature height: 10 – 15m

15. *Sorbus aria Lutescens* ‘Whitebeam’

- This Whitebeam is outstandingly attractive in spring. The young leaves emerge silvery-white from purple shoots in spring, before hardening to grey-green in summer. This is a small, compact, rounded tree, producing white flowers in April and May, and, in good years, orange-red cherry fruits in autumn. Very good for streets, gardens and parks.
Mature height: 10m

16. *Sorbus x arnoldia* Schouten 'Rowan'

- A reliable, low maintenance Rowan. This is a great choice for streets and urban plantings. It is a small tree with a dense oval crown. It has most attractive, green, feathery foliage and golden yellow berries from August onwards.
Mature height: 10m

17. *Sorbus commixta* Embley 'Rowan'

- One of the finest of all Rowans. This small, columnar tree has foliage which colours later in autumn and lasts longer than other Rowans. This is complimented by glistening, orange-red berries, which are large. Very good for streets, avenues and urban plantings.
Mature height: 10m

18. *Sorbus intermedia* 'Swedish Whitebeam'

- This tree is widely planted as a street tree in northern Europe. A medium size tree with well formed, rounded crown, its single dark green leaves have silvery-grey undersides. White flowers in May give way to orange-red fruits, produced in small bunches. It is wind resistant and tolerant of calcareous soils and air pollution, making this a really tough tree. It is recommended for streets and avenues.
Mature height: 10 – 15m

19. *Tilia x euchlora* 'Caucasian Lime'

- This is a medium to large tree, and as aphids are not attracted to its dark green foliage, the associated 'stickiness' is not a problem. At its best when juvenile when it keeps a broadly pyramidal habit. At maturity it becomes densely twiggy and loses its shape. Suitable for urban planting.
- **ONLY SUITABLE FOR WIDE VERGES** – Mature height: 15 – 20m

20. *Ulmus carpinifolia* Wredei Aurea 'Elm'

- Rather slow growing Elm. A tree of medium size and oval habit, it tolerates air pollution and salt-laden coastal winds. Its luminescent yellow foliage is particularly striking if planted in a semi shaded area or against a dark backdrop.
Mature height: 5 – 10m

Appendix 4 – Equality Impact Assessment

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT TEMPLATE

Part ‘B’

This section should be used to *formally* record the findings and results of your assessment. This section will normally be made available to the public.

Title of Policy/ Function	Tree Strategy – StreetCare Environmental Maintenance		
Name of Author	John Gross		
Date of creation/review	12 / 01 / 2009	Version No.	1
PLEASE OUTLINE THE RESULTS OF YOUR IMPACT ASSESSMENT BELOW			
B1	What are the aims and proposed outcomes of your policy/function?		
To manage and maintain a healthy highway tree stock			
B2	What research has been undertaken?		
None			
B3	What consultation has taken place? (<i>who has been consulted, and by what method?</i>)		
(a)	Internally within the Authority		
StreetCare Arboricultural Team and Area Liaison Officers			
(b)	Externally		

B4	What feedback was received?
None	
B5	What amendments, if any, have been incorporated into the policy/function to reflect that feedback?
None	
B6	If changes were recommended but <i>not</i> incorporated, what justification is there for this?
N/A	
B7	What monitoring arrangements are to be put in place (or already exist) to monitor the <i>actual</i> impact of this policy/function? What data is to be collected?

Please consider the six diversity strands in answering the following questions:

B8	Does your analysis show different outcomes for different groups. If yes, indicate which groups and which aspects of the policy/function contribute to inequality
NONE	
B9	Are these differences justified (e.g. are there legislative or other constraints)? If they are, explain in what way
N/A	
B10	What actions need to be taken as a result of this Equality Impact Assessment to address any detrimental impacts or meet previously unidentified need? Include dates by which action will be taken. Attach an action plan if necessary
NONE	

B11	When will you evaluate the impact of the action taken? Give review dates
N/A	

AUTHOR SIGN OFF	
NAME	JOHN GROSS
POSITION	STREETCARE GROUP MANAGER
DATE	12 / 01 / 2009

HEAD OF SERVICE SIGN OFF	
NAME	BOB WENMAN
POSITION	HEAD OF STREETCARE
DATE	

