

## STREET TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY STATEMENT

Street tree maintenance includes the inspection, pruning, removal and replacement of trees.

### Pruning

Pruning is carried out in accordance with good arboricultural practice to:

- alleviate, as far as it is practical, any loss of daylight to dwellings and associated problems
- clear foliage to a sufficient height on the carriageway side to allow vehicles of statutory height to pass
- reduce, where possible, shadow caused by trees obscuring street lighting
- keep trees in a safe and healthy condition
- enable trees to grow into the desired shape and form
- reduce the risk of tree-related subsidence damage to buildings by limiting trees' foliage area and subsequent water demand.

All street trees are subject to a planned management programme and are inspected and **if necessary** maintained at least once every 3½ years. Larger growing trees, such as London Planes and Limes, close to houses are pruned to control their size and growth every 3 years. Other street trees are pruned as necessary on instruction by the Arboricultural Officer.

### Removal Policy

Street trees should only be removed for the following reasons:

- if the tree is dead, dying, diseased, dangerous or otherwise in a poor condition
- as a result of an approved highway improvement scheme
- as a result of an insurance claim where evidence has been presented implicating a tree and no other practical steps are available to resolve the problems.

## **STREET TREE PLANTING POLICY STATEMENT**

The council recognises the value of street trees in the urban environment and is committed to a programme of planting to provide trees for the future. Trees should be planted wherever possible in accordance with the criteria and guidelines listed below.

### Planting Location

Trees should normally be located:

- so that they do not unduly obstruct the footpath or pavement (normally the footpath should be at least 1.8 metres wide)
- along the line of party walls so that they do not stand directly before windows or gates
- so that they are spaced not less than 8 metres apart along the street
- so that they do not obstruct or interfere with street lights, road signs and other equipment, such as 'pay and display' ticket machines, cycle racks and bus shelters
- so that they do not foul or otherwise interfere with underground services or structures
- so that they do not obstruct sight-lines for road users at junctions, pedestrian crossings and traffic lights
- so that they do not obstruct vehicle entrances, crossovers and garages.

### Policy on Species

In general, trees should be of a size and species appropriate to the street scene and site conditions. Due to the varied nature of the streets and planting sites in the borough it is not practical to give a list of 'suitable' species. Some species may be appropriate for one site but not another. The following factors should be taken into consideration, which may limit the choice of species on any given site.

- Trees should be of such size that they do not cause undue light restriction, encroachment or subsidence problems.
- Trees with excessively large, sticky or prolific fruits should be avoided wherever they are likely to cause a nuisance.
- Trees with poisonous fruits, bark or wood should be avoided.

- Hazardous trees, such as those with large spines on the trunk, or which are known to shed branches easily should be avoided.

Residents often express preferences for certain species and their views will be considered provided they meet the requirements listed above. However, the final decision on the choice of species is made by LBHF's Director of Environment Services, in consultation with the Arboricultural Officer.

### Consultation

The majority of residents welcome new trees, which is apparent from the large number of planting requests LBHF receives every year. However, sometimes individuals are opposed to trees in the vicinity of their property for various reasons. All new planting schemes should involve prior consultation with local residents, businesses and other relevant stakeholders.

### Planting Priorities

Except when funding for planting has been allocated to specific projects, it will normally be allocated according to the criteria set out in order of priority below:

1. replacement of dead trees and existing tree stock
2. requests from residents – individual requests will be prioritised according to the number of trees already on the street (including those in front gardens and on adjacent land); the fewer trees visible from the highway, the higher priority the street would be for planting
3. streets without trees – new planting schemes will be prioritised according to the guidelines above and the relative amenity importance of each street.