

Hartlepool Borough Council

Hartlepool

Tree Strategy



2011 - 2016



Background and Summary

In November 2005 Hartlepool Borough Council adopted 'A Strategy for Trees in Hartlepool' which provided a position statement based on what was known to date and set out a number of aims and objectives with regard to the borough's trees. A review of the action plan which formed part of that strategy can be found at appendix 1.

Since the adoption of the 2005 strategy there have been significant developments in the guidance and research relating to trees at a national level. Additionally, many of the key actions contained in the 2005 strategy have been successfully implemented.

This new 'Hartlepool Tree Strategy' aims to build on the achievements of the previous strategy. It sets out Hartlepool Borough Council's guiding principles on tree related issues and advocates a more integrated and planned approach to the management of the borough's publicly owned trees.

An action plan, which forms section 4 of this strategy, has been prepared setting out what we hope to achieve between 2011 and 2016.



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1. Introduction

Hartlepool Borough Council aims to improve the quality of life for people in the town, and trees can make a significant positive contribution to that quality of life. We want our town to have a plentiful, healthy and attractive tree population that is managed and maintained to a high standard for the benefit of all.

Through its management of publicly owned trees, and through its control of privately owned trees in conservation areas or with tree preservation orders, the Council has considerable influence over the contribution that trees make to the urban landscape of the borough.

By adopting this updated tree strategy Hartlepool Borough Council further demonstrates its commitment to caring for the trees under its management and increasing the number of trees in public places. Additionally, the Council will continue to use its influence to ensure that privately owned trees are well looked after and that the planting of more trees on private land is encouraged.

1.1 The Benefits that Trees Provide

Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. They have a vital role to play in the sustainability and liveability of our town. Some of these benefits are outlined in the following section.

1.1.1 Adapting to Climate Change

Trees have an important role in helping society adapt to climate change, particularly in the urban environment. They provide shelter, cooling shade and can help slow the rate of rainwater runoff.

A recent report by the Forestry Commission, entitled 'Combating Climate Change – A Role for UK Forests', recommends that tree and woodland planting should be targeted to places where people live, especially the most vulnerable members of society, and to places where people gather (such as town and local centres) which currently have low tree cover. ¹

Trees also remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, a greenhouse gas which is impacting on the Earth's climate. ²



1.1.2 Improving Air Quality

Trees are known to have a beneficial effect on air quality by absorbing pollutants and trapping airborne particles. This is particularly important with regard to the smaller dust particles which are often a causal factor in respiratory complaints such as asthma.³

1.1.3 Enhancing Wildlife and Biodiversity

Large areas of our country were once covered by trees and as a result much of our native wildlife is adapted to a habitat with trees in it. For example, trees such as Willow and Oak can have over 400 different species of insect associated with them.⁴



Most of the garden birds that we see around us are actually species of the woodland edge and are therefore at home in an environment with trees and shrubs.

Trees in streets can also provide natural links with parks and open spaces, allowing for the movement of wildlife between areas.

1.1.4 Improving Health and Wellbeing

The popular belief that people feel better in green, leafy surroundings is now supported by a growing amount of scientific evidence. A well treed urban landscape is more sheltered, more stimulating, and more likely to encourage local journeys on foot or by bike.^{5, 6, 7}



Hospital patients with a view of greenery have been shown to recover more rapidly and require less pain killing medication than those who only have a treeless view of buildings.⁸

The dappled shade of trees can help to reduce heat-induced stress amongst people and animals, and summer shade is seen as particularly important in car parks, school grounds and around retirement homes.

1.1.5 Enhancing the Local Economy

An environment that is aesthetically pleasing is increasingly recognised as an important requirement for successful

modern businesses. A tree-rich urban landscape will be more successful in attracting new business and inward investment.⁹

Residential neighbourhoods that have a green and leafy character will generally exhibit higher house prices. Studies in North America, and more recently in the UK, have shown that average house prices are between 5% and 18% higher where property is associated with mature trees.^{10, 11}



1.1.6 A Better Quality Urban Environment

The presence of high quality, well managed trees and woodlands can dramatically enhance the appearance of an urban environment. This in turn has a significant bearing on peoples' perceptions, both of their surroundings and their quality of life.¹²

A good quality public realm can encourage fuller use of an area and positively influence the behaviour of people. Careful attention to the design quality and attractiveness of streets and public areas will increase their safety and use, and will promote greater respect toward the local environment.¹³

It is worth remembering that many of the most significant trees in our town were planted around a century ago, providing a living legacy for everyone to enjoy and benefit from today. The trees that we plant now will greatly improve the local environment for our children, and their children.

1.2 Problems with Trees

It is true to say that the close proximity of trees, people and built structures will occasionally result in inconvenience. Problems may include the obstruction of light into homes, leaf litter, sap drip, interference with highway sight lines and direct or indirect damage to structures. The majority of tree related problems can however be mitigated by appropriate maintenance.

Additionally, many of the future nuisance issues and maintenance costs associated with trees can be minimised by following the principle of planting the right tree in the right place. It is essential that careful consideration is given to the location of new trees and the species selected.

Ensuring public safety and avoiding injury to people or damage to property are paramount, but these objectives can be achieved through a sensible and pragmatic approach that pays due consideration to the benefits of trees.





2. Aim and Objectives

The overall aim of the Hartlepool Tree Strategy is to enhance the role and status of trees in the borough and to ensure the sustainability of its tree population.

This aim can be realised by achieving the following objectives:

1. Retain and protect the borough's existing trees.
2. Maintain the borough's publicly owned trees using good arboricultural management and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public through the assessment and management of risk associated with trees.
3. Increase the number of trees in the borough.

In response to the overall aim and objectives, a comprehensive action plan* has been created and forms section 4 of this strategy.



* Relevant Objectives and Actions from the Action Plan are referenced throughout the following text



3. Hartlepool's Trees

Tree cover in Hartlepool is sparse when compared to other areas of the country¹⁴; this is due partly to historical land clearance for shipbuilding and agriculture, partly to the challenging coastal environment, and partly to the rapid expansion of the town since the early 1800s. That said, there are examples where trees have transformed the image of an area, notable in this respect are the tree-lined verges along the main approaches which provide a very attractive introduction to the town by road.

A condition survey of all publicly owned trees was conducted between 2004 and 2007 for the purposes of identifying where trees may pose a risk to the public or property, but also assessed the general health of the trees and made recommendations for their future management. A programme of remedial tree works was subsequently undertaken which addressed the recommendations of the survey.

The survey found that the borough's publicly owned trees were generally in good condition, due largely to a combination of the facts that most of the trees are relatively young and are of hardy species.

The survey also identified certain areas where improvements in tree management could be made. For example it was recommended that, due to their propensity to become brittle as they mature and therefore their potential to become a safety concern, the Hybrid

Poplar trees that form the majority of the planting on Belle Vue Way should undergo a programme of phased replacement.

Recent conservation area appraisals carried out by the North of England Civic Trust have highlighted the significant positive contribution that trees make to the character of a number of the conservation areas in the town. The majority of these trees are located in private gardens; however the Council has some influence over these trees through the provisions of the Town and Country Planning Act.

An extensive programme of new tree planting was carried out in the north of Hartlepool during the 2008/2009 and 2009/2010 planting seasons. This has included the planting of around 300 new trees of a variety of species in streets, on highway verges, in public open spaces and on recreation grounds. In time these new trees will make a considerable positive contribution to local amenity, and will help improve the public's perception of the area.

Hartlepool's tree population has developed over many years and will continue to change. Some trees will be lost, while more are planted in a continual cycle of regeneration. Given the benefits that trees provide we must ensure that the borough's trees are afforded the status they deserve, and that their future is secured for generations to come.

3.1 Publicly Owned Trees

For the purposes of this tree strategy, the publicly owned trees in the borough include all those that are managed by the Council and comprise trees in streets, on highway verges, in public open spaces, parks, community woodlands, cemeteries, schools, and council owned properties.



3.1.1 Trees as a Public Asset

There is, at the moment in Hartlepool, no Council budget for trees. The cost of carrying out tree maintenance works and of planting new trees is usually met on an ad-hoc basis through the budget of the relevant 'tree-owning' department, through the neighbourhoods' minor works budgets, or through neighbourhood action plan budgets.

The recent report published by the Department of Communities and Local Government, entitled 'Trees in Towns II' recommends that local authorities set tree management budgets that are commensurate with the value of the resource. This is a new approach to tree

management, but one that deserves special attention due to the importance being attached to trees in respect of climate change adaptation in urban areas, and also their potential for creating substantial liabilities if they are not managed and maintained adequately.

The Council will investigate the feasibility of an overall budget for publicly owned trees which is related to the value of the asset. The results of that investigation will be reported to the appropriate committee for consideration. Obj. 2.4 & 2.5

3.1.2 Tree Management and Responsibilities

Hartlepool Borough Council as a land owner has a duty under various Acts of Parliament to ensure that its trees do not pose an unacceptable risk to people or property, but also a responsibility to preserve and enhance an attractive environment for the town's residents and visitors.



The management of Hartlepool's publicly owned trees has typically followed a

reactive system. This approach means that the towns publicly owned trees have not received systematic planned inspections and routine maintenance to ensure they are effectively and sustainably managed.



In addition to this reactive approach, responsibility for the borough's trees is divided between a number of different departments and sections. In combination these factors can on occasion lead to inefficient tree management. A more integrated approach to tree management that embraces all aspects of the Council's tree-related activities in a coherent and coordinated tree programme should produce an enhanced level of service provision.

In order to address the above issues, the Council will undertake to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to all aspects of its tree-related activities, including the implementation of a planned cyclical tree inspection and maintenance regime. ^{Obj. 2. 2}

A database of all publicly owned trees is recorded on the council's corporate Geographic Information System (G.I.S.).

The Council will undertake to develop the use of the corporate G.I.S. to monitor and record Council tree management works, including new tree planting and works to existing trees, to ensure that the objectives of the tree strategy are met. ^{Obj. 2.1}

3.1.3 Remedial Tree Works

Trees are living organisms and are constantly, albeit generally quite slowly, growing and changing. As such, in some circumstances within urban areas, they will require careful management. This may include pruning works, and in some cases removal, with the overall aim of maintaining tree cover in a healthy and safe condition.

Trees of amenity value will not be felled unless there is a very clear justification for the work and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. That said there will be circumstances where due to their condition it is necessary to remove individual trees. Where practical and appropriate however, the Council will undertake to replant with a new tree in the same location or nearby. ^{Obj.2.3}

The Council will not usually prune trees to improve television reception or to remove seasonal nuisances such as fallen leaves.

Where there are implications for biodiversity, trees are assessed by the Council's Ecologist prior to pruning or felling to ensure that there are no breeding birds, roosting bats or other wildlife likely to be harmed.

All maintenance work on publicly owned trees is undertaken by trained and qualified arborists located in the Grounds Maintenance section, and is carried out in accordance with the current BS3998 'Recommendations for tree work'.

3.1.4 Tree Planting on Public Land

In order to maintain and enhance an abundant and healthy tree population it is necessary to have an ongoing programme of new and replacement planting.

New tree planting is selected for its appropriateness of scale and proportion to the surroundings and for its aesthetic contribution. Factors such as robustness, form, flower, leaf density, rooting habit and propensity to harbour aphids are all considered. In addition to this, a particular consideration when selecting trees for planting in Hartlepool is their ability to tolerate the coastal environment.



The Council will identify further opportunities for tree planting in streets, on highway verge, in public open space, parks, cemeteries and other public land,

and will undertake to annually plant more trees than are removed. Additionally, the Council will endeavour to meet residents' requests for new tree planting where appropriate and where funds permit. ^{Obj. 3.1 & 3.5}

There are some areas within the borough where trees have been too densely planted, and/or with an inappropriate choice of species. We should view these problem trees as challenges to be resolved, rather than as reasons to avoid tree planting altogether. In addressing these problem areas, the Council will undertake to implement where appropriate a programme of thinning or replacement. These programmes will be phased over a number of years, and will provide a more suitable variety of tree species, at improved spacing, ensuring that the considerable amenity that these areas afford is not lost, but enhanced. ^{Obj. 2.2, 2.3 & 2.6}

Crime and the fear of crime is a key consideration in the design and layout of tree planting in the public realm. When planting new trees the Council will ensure that they are appropriately spaced and that crowns are maintained at an appropriate height so as not to hinder natural surveillance and to avoid the creation of dark oppressive areas where concealment is possible.

Tree planting is undertaken between November and March on publicly owned or maintained land and is carried out in accordance with BS4043:1989 'Recommendations for transplanting root-balled trees' by trained and qualified Grounds Maintenance staff.

A number of public participation tree planting events are held annually throughout the planting season and are coordinated by the Council's Countryside Wardens. Details of these tree planting events are publicised through the 'Wild About Hartlepool' annual programme of countryside events.

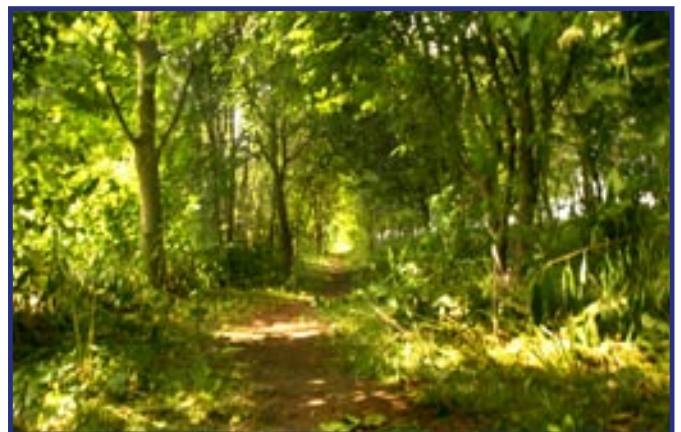


3.1.5 Public Woodlands

Many people value woodlands for, amongst other things, the sense of tranquillity and enclosure which they

create, however this can also sometimes lead to fears about personal safety. These fears however, can often be mitigated by well designed and managed woodlands which include open structure, good sightlines and waymarking.

There are a number of public woodlands within the borough, such as Family Wood near to the Burn Valley, which are managed by the Council's Countryside Wardens. Comprehensive management plans are being drawn up for each of these woodland sites, which as they are implemented, will enhance the value of these sites for wildlife, recreation and visual amenity. ^{Obj. 2.6}



3.2 Privately Owned Trees

Much of Hartlepool's mature tree cover is located on privately owned land, particularly gardens. Although trees may be on private property, their size and prominence often means that they contribute significantly to the quality and amenity of the wider environment.

General tree related advice and guidance is available from the Council's Arboricultural Officers for tree owners or those considering planting a tree or trees on private land. A number of leaflets and advice notes have been produced and are available from the Council's website and from reception areas at main Council buildings, these will be regularly reviewed and where necessary updated and re-issued to take account of developments in guidance and research in relation to trees.

Obj 3.6 & 3.7

A 'Big Tree Giveaway' event was conducted by Pride in Hartlepool during December 2009 which provided free trees to community groups, schools and individuals. Where funds permit, similar initiatives will be undertaken in the future.

Obj. 3.5

3.2.1 Trees in Gardens

The Town and Country Planning Act enables the Council to designate Conservation Areas within which trees are protected, to make Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), and to control development

activity through the use of planning conditions, section 106 agreements, or both, in accordance with policies contained in the Hartlepool Local Plan. Through these means, the Council has considerable influence over trees in private ownership. There are currently approximately 162 TPOs in force in Hartlepool, and 8 Conservation Areas.



The Council will continue to make TPOs to protect privately owned trees of high amenity value from unnecessary felling or disfigurement and will make use of its planning powers to ensure that all works undertaken on protected trees is done in accordance with BS3998:1989 'Recommendations for tree work' Obj. 1.1, 1.2 & 1.3

Much progress has recently been made on the electronic recording of the locations of TPOs and the locations of the individual trees covered by those Orders using the Council's corporate G.I.S. The Council will continue to develop the use of the corporate G.I.S. in maintaining records of TPOs within the borough. Obj. 1.5

3.2.2 Privately Owned Woodlands

There are a number of privately owned woodlands in the borough, many of which have public access with public rights of way running through them. Some of these woodlands, such as The Howls, Thorpe Bulmer Dene and Close Wood are, or have elements of, ancient semi-natural woodland which means that there has been continuous woodland on that site since at least 1600 AD, making these woods one of the most valuable natural habitat types in the UK.

All areas of woodland are statutorily protected through the requirement to first obtain a felling licence from the Forestry Commission prior to carrying out any tree felling operations.

The council will undertake to use its statutory powers and influence where appropriate to encourage the take up of grants for the planting of new areas of woodland and the management of existing areas, in order to increase and enhance woodland cover within the borough. ^{Obj. 3.4}

3.3 Trees and Development

There is a statutory duty for a local planning authority (in Hartlepool that is Hartlepool Borough Council) to ensure, wherever appropriate, that in granting planning permission for any development, adequate provision is made for the preservation or planting of trees.

Hartlepool Borough Council has produced a Supplementary Planning Document entitled

'Trees and Development Guidelines' which forms part of the Hartlepool Local Plan. The purpose of the guide is to provide information to those involved in development on the standards that Hartlepool Borough Council will expect from new development proposals. The guide seeks to ensure that trees are afforded due consideration in the planning process so that they can be successfully integrated into new developments. ^{Obj. 1.4, 3.2 & 3.3}



The retention of existing trees within new developments provides an immediate sense of maturity, to the benefit of a site and its surroundings, raising the overall quality of schemes and enhancing property values. However, where trees are damaged and subsequently decline and die, or where inappropriate design leads to conflict, trees can become a constant source of complaint and ultimately any positive benefits are lost.

In order to effectively protect existing trees on development sites, the Council will ensure that all development and construction work impacting on trees is carried out in accordance with its 'Trees and Development Guidelines' and with

BS5837:2005 'Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations'. Where developments affect existing trees, the Council recommend that the developer seek the advice of a suitably qualified arboriculturalist.

In addition to the retention of existing trees, new tree planting should be recognised from the outset as an integral part of any development scheme, and should be purposefully designed to complement the proposed features of the development. On sites that have no trees whatsoever, it is particularly important to plan for the planting of trees as part of the development. Obj. 3.2 & 3.3

3.4 Highways and Utilities Maintenance Works that Affect Trees

Modern society expects many services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage, telecommunication and cable television, each of which requires an extensive distribution network, both above and below ground. The space available for both trees and apparatus is often very restricted, and they are frequently forced to share the available space. Where they are in close proximity, there is the potential for either to be subject to damage.

In order to reduce this potential, the Council will ensure all work for utility services affecting trees will be undertaken in accordance with the guidelines published by the National Joint Utilities Group (NJUG) Volume 4 'Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance

of utility apparatus in proximity to trees'. When granting consents for new development the Council will use planning conditions to ensure the location of new services to developments do not damage existing trees or preclude the planting of new trees. Obj. 1.4 & 3.3





4. Action Plan 2011 – 2016

A new action plan has been prepared to support this tree strategy. It sets out what we hope to achieve between 2011 and 2016. It identifies the key actions necessary to meet the objectives of the tree strategy and the service areas with responsibility for implementation of each key action.

A review of progress in implementing the action plan and an assessment of its ongoing relevance will be conducted every two years. If necessary, elements of the tree strategy may be revised to reflect the results of the review. ^{obj. 2.7}

Action Plan 2011 – 2016

Objective 1

Retain and protect the borough's existing trees

Key to Service Area Abbreviations	
LP&C	Landscape Planning & Conservation team
P&C	Parks & Countryside team
EE	Environment Education team
DC	Development Control team
NM	Neighbourhood Managers
LD	Legal Division
HT&T	Highways, Traffic & Transportation team
U&PP	Urban & Planning Policy team

Action	By Whom	By When
1. Protect privately owned trees of amenity value using Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate	LP&C DC LD	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
2. Keep the borough's Tree Preservation Orders under review and revoke and remake Orders as necessary	LP&C LD	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
3. Make full use of the Council's powers of enforcement with regard to TPO's, trees in conservation areas and planning obligations with regard to trees by responding to complaints and proactively monitoring outcomes	LP&C DC LD	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
4. Ensure that, through effective engagement in the planning process, existing trees are retained on development sites where appropriate and that they are adequately protected	LP&C DC	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
5. Explore the potential to further develop the use of the corporate G.I.S. for the administration of Tree Preservation Orders	LP&C	2016

Action Plan 2011 – 2016

Objective 2

Maintain the borough's publicly owned trees using good arboricultural management and ensure the safety and wellbeing of the public through the assessment and management of risk associated with trees

Action	By Whom	By When
1. Develop the use of the corporate G.I.S for the management of all publicly owned trees	LP&C HT&T P&C	2013
2. Develop and implement an integrated programme of cyclical inspection and maintenance of all publicly owned trees	LP&C HT&T P&C	2013 Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
3. Ensure that, wherever practical and appropriate, publicly owned trees that must be felled are replaced with a new tree in the same location or nearby	NM LP&C HT&T P&C	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
4. Carry out a quantitative assessment of, and using a recognised valuation method place a value on, the boroughs publicly owned tree resource	LP&C	2016
5. Investigate the feasibility of a Council tree budget and report the findings to the appropriate committee	HT&T LP&C	2016
6. Prepare management plans for all publicly owned woodlands	P&C LP&C	2013
7. Conduct a biennial assessment of the tree strategy and report the findings to the appropriate committee	LP&C	2013 Ongoing



Action Plan 2011 – 2016

Objective 3

Increase the number of trees in the borough

Action	By Whom	By When
1. Prepare potential future tree planting plans for the borough and pursue their implementation	LP&C NM HT&T P&C EE	2014
2. Through effective engagement in the planning process require tree planting wherever it is appropriate in relation to new developments	UP&P DC LP&C	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
3. Through effective engagement in the planning process encourage tree planting in association with new highway infrastructure	UP&P DC LP&C	Ongoing
4. Encourage and assist land owners to take up grant aid for tree planting and woodland establishment and management, and monitor the level of take-up	LP&C UP&P	Ongoing To be reported biennially. See obj. 2.7
5. Seek residents support and encourage suggestions for further tree planting through relevant neighbourhood forums	NM LP&C	Ongoing
6. Review and update tree related information on the Council's website	LP&C	Ongoing
7. Review annually and where necessary re-issue tree related information leaflets	LP&C	2016





Appendix 1

Review of Action Plan 2005 - 2010

This section contains a review of the action plan included in the previous 'Strategy for Trees in Hartlepool', which was adopted by Cabinet in November 2005.

Key to Partners Abbreviations:

LP&C	Landscape Planning & Conservation team
TVBAP	Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan

ACTION PLAN 2005 – 2010

Objective 1. Protection and care of existing tree population

Action	Partners	By When
1. Where possible, survey and assess all woodlands (private and public) within the borough including condition and wildlife value.	LP&C Tees Forest TVBAP	2007

Outcome

All woodlands in the borough were identified and recorded on G.I.S. All publicly owned woodlands were surveyed with regard to their condition and wildlife value. This work was completed in 2008.

2. Create an inventory of important hedgerows using the 1997 Hedgerow Regulations.	LP&C Volunteers	2005 ongoing
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Outcome

A survey of a sample of rural hedgerows in the Borough was carried out during 2007. The findings of the survey showed that a small number of hedges may meet the important hedge criteria, but that generally Hartlepool's hedges were in a state of neglect. (see also outcome 4.2)

3. Produce Supplementary Planning Guidance for hedgerows.	LP&C Urban Policy	2007
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Outcome

This action was not completed as there is no longer a requirement to produce a supplementary planning guidance document for hedgerows. The current national policy is not to duplicate existing legislation or planning guidance.

4. Undertake a review of existing TPOs and revoke/ remake as appropriate.	LP&C Legal	2008
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Outcome

An evaluation of all TPOs was carried out during 2006. A number of TPOs were found to be either never made, not confirmed, or no longer accurate. Following this evaluation, all TPOs with an 'area' classification were reviewed during 2007/2008; these were revoked and remade where applicable. Those TPOs that were either never made or not confirmed were deleted from the list. A continuing programme of review of TPOs is underway; this is an ongoing task in order to keep the boroughs TPOs up to date.

In addition to this a database of all current TPOs was created using the corporate GIS system, and all TPOs were entered onto the Planning Electronic Document Record Management System (EDRMS)

5. Identify high amenity value trees, not currently on TPOs and place on TPOs as appropriate.	LP&C Legal	2005 ongoing
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Outcome

The current system regarding the placing of TPO's on trees is re-active rather than pro-active. To pursue a pro-active system would be heavily reliant on wide officer resources not just in surveying areas for trees but also the preparation of legal documents to serve orders.

Such a system based on rolling surveys of tree stock across the town would not necessarily mean an ability to protect those trees most in danger but, if carried out systematically would result in some trees, which possibly could have been left un-protected being covered by a TPO unnecessarily. It is felt that such a rolling programme, which in itself would take some years to complete, would not be an expedient use of officer time.

The current system of working with owners and being aware of developments within the town which may threaten trees has resulted in a number of TPO's which provide a good level of protection across the town.

ACTION PLAN 2005 – 2010

**Objective 2.
Ensure Public Safety Through Risk Assessment**

Action	Partners	By When
1. Complete a full survey and inventory of all council owned trees and transfer to GIS.	All depts.	2006

Outcome

A survey of all publicly owned trees i.e. those in highways, open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, cemeteries, was completed in 2005, and a condition survey of all trees in schools was completed in 2007. The results of the survey were transferred to G.I.S in 2007, with the exception of Parks trees. A further survey of trees in parks, recreation grounds and cemeteries was completed in 2008 and the results transferred to G.I.S.

Generally the boroughs publicly owned trees were found to be in good condition. Where trees were identified as being either dead dying or dangerous, then a programme of remedial works was undertaken.

2. Identify immediate problems and prepare an emergency work programme for each client dept.	LP&C All depts.	2005
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Outcome

All identified priority 1 (i.e. immediate attention) tree works were completed for Highways trees in 2007. All identified priority 1 tree works for Parks trees were completed during winter 2008/2009

3. Prepare management plans for Council-owned trees including cyclical maintenance.	LP&C Relevant depts.	2006
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Outcome

This action has not yet been completed, but remains an important part of the updated tree strategy, and has been included in the new action plan. ^(obj. 2.2)

ACTION PLAN 2005 – 2010

Objective 3. Encourage planting of new trees

Action	Partners	By When
1. Prepare a planting strategy for the Authority with action plans agreed with each department	LP&C All depts.	2006 ongoing

Outcome

This action has not been completed, but remains an important part of the updated tree strategy, and has been included in the new action plan. ^(obj. 3.1)

2. Investigate potential funding sources for additional tree planting	LP&C All depts.	2005 ongoing
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Outcome

A number of funding sources have been identified, these include Pride in Hartlepool, minor works budgets, Neighbourhood Action Plan budgets, tree appeal, woodland trust and forestry commission grants.

3. Seek funding for replacement of Poplar trees on Belle Vue Way	LP&C Highways	2005 ongoing
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Outcome

As the replacement of these trees is to be phased over up to thirty years, these costs could be met from the minor works budget for the central area.

4. Investigate council-owned land for opportunities for new planting to contribute to Tees Forest targets	Land & Property LP&C Community Services Tees Forest	ongoing
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Outcome

A number of areas of HBC owned land have been assessed for opportunities for new woodland planting, some of which have been planted with trees.

5. Encourage the take-up of forestry grants for new planting on private land	Community Services Tees Forest	ongoing
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Outcome

A small number of forestry grants were taken up in Hartlepool during the period 2005 – 2010, these included woodland planting at Amerston Hall, North Hart Farm and Middle Warren totalling approximately 25 ha. of new woodland. This action is to be continued as part of the new action plan.

ACTION PLAN 2005 – 2010

Objective 4. Increase ownership and understanding of trees

Action	Partners	By When
1. Produce a public leaflet on Hartlepool's trees, incorporating a summary of the tree strategy	LP&C	2006

Outcome

A leaflet entitled 'Right Tree, Right Place' was produced in 2007. The leaflet has been distributed widely and is still available for download on the Council's website and at reception areas in all main Council buildings.

2. Publicise and implement Biodiversity Action Plan targets relevant to trees, woodland and hedgerows	LP&C TVBAP	2006 ongoing
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Outcome

Local Biodiversity Action Plans have now been drawn up for hedgerows and broad leaved woodland and are to be implemented by the Tees Valley BAP partners

3. Identify and promote veteran and other notable trees	LP&C Tees Forest	2006
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Outcome

A scheme to identify and promote veteran and other notable trees was run across the Tees Valley in 2007, including events in Hartlepool. Three notable trees were identified in Hartlepool, which were: a large Hungarian Oak in Ward Jackson Park; a large Willow in Ward Jackson Park (now removed) and an ancient Rowan in The Howls.

4. Organise and publicise events to promote interest in trees	LP&C Community Services	2004 ongoing
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Outcome

The Hartlepool Countryside Events programme includes a variety of events related to trees on an annual basis.

A leaflet promoting the Countryside events programme entitled 'Wild About Hartlepool' is available for download from the Council's website, and printed copies are available at main Council buildings.

5. Develop a recycling and/or marketing strategy for tree products resulting from arboricultural work.	All depts.	2006
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Outcome

Some arisings are chipped and spread on site, some are taken to Stranton Nursery and composted, some large sections are re-used either on the site or other sites as informal furniture, in some cases tall stumps have been left in-situ and are carved into art features.

6. Where required, provide in-house training for all Council employees whose work may involve them in dealing, directly or indirectly, with trees.	All depts.	2006
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Outcome

No formal training sessions have been conducted during the period, however the

Council's Arboricultural Officers regularly provide advice and guidance where required.

7. Investigate the feasibility of a tree warden scheme.	LP&C Community Services	2005
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Outcome

The potential for a tree warden scheme for Hartlepool was considered by LP&C but thought not to be practical. This is because any added value would be limited and would not justify the officer time required to run the scheme. The possibility of a Tees Valley wide tree warden scheme was considered as part of the veteran tree project administered by Tees Forest but was not pursued following the demise of the Tees Forest.

8. Distribute arboricultural guidance leaflets on tree management to relevant officers and the public.	LP&C	2006 ongoing
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Outcome

A leaflet entitled 'Right Tree, Right Place' was produced in 2007. The leaflet has been distributed widely and is still available at reception areas in all main Council buildings.

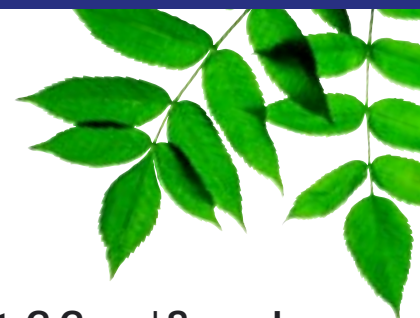
Additionally, a leaflet entitled 'Trees and Development' was produced in 2007; this was also distributed widely and is still available at reception areas in all main Council buildings. Copies are also included with formal and informal planning advice.



Appendix 2

References

1. **Read D.J., Freer-Smith, P.H., Morison, J.I.L., Hanley, N., West, C.C. and Snowdon P.** (eds). (2009). Combating Climate Change - A Role for UK Forests. An Assessment of the potential of the UK's trees and woodlands to mitigate and adapt to climate change. The synthesis report. The Stationary Office, Edinburgh
2. **Stewart, H., Owen, S., Donovan, R., Mackenzie, R., Hewitt, N., Skiba, U., & Fowler, D.**, (2003). Trees and Sustainable Air Quality: Using Trees to Improve Air Quality in Cities, Lancaster University, Lancaster
3. **Broadmeadow, M.S.J. & Freer-Smith, P.H.** (1996) Urban Woodland and Benefits for Local Air Quality. Research for Amenity Trees No. 5
4. **Kennedy, C. E. J. & Southwood, T. R. E.** (1984) The number of insects associated with British Trees: a Re-analysis; Journal of Animal Ecology 53:455-479
5. **National Urban Forestry Unit** (1999) Trees and Healthy Living, National Conference, Wolverhampton, UK
6. **Ulrich, R.S. Simmons, R.F., Losito, B.D., Fiority, E., Miles, M.A., & Zieson, M.** (1991) Stress Recovery During Exposure to Natural and Urban Environments, Journal of Environmental Psychology 11:201-320
7. **Mudrak, L.Y.** (1982) In the Environmental Benefits Of Vegetation at a Global Local and Personal Level: A Review of Literature, Green Releaf, Horticultural Trades Association and Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew
8. **Ulrich, R.S.** (1984) View through a window may influence recovery from surgery. Science Journal 224:420-421
9. **Wolf, K.L.** (2005) Business District Streetscapes, Trees, and Consumer Response. Journal of Forestry. Vol. 103 No. 8
10. **CABE Space** (2005) Does money grow on trees? Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, London
11. **Anderson, L.M. & Cordell, H.K.** (1998) Influence of trees on Residential Property Values in Athens, Georgia: A survey based on Actual Sales Prices. Landscape and Urban Planning 15: 153-164
12. **DCLG** (2007) How to improve residential areas
13. **ODPM** (2004) Safer Places: The Planning System and Crime Prevention
14. **DCLG** (2008) Trees in Towns II: A new survey of urban trees in England and their condition and management (Table 2.16)



Appendix 3

Policies

Local

- Hartlepool Local Plan 2006
- Hartlepool Core Strategy Preferred Options 2010
- Hartlepool's Ambition: Community Strategy and Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy 2008 - 2020
- Hartlepool Energy Strategy
- Hartlepool Climate Change Strategy

Regional

- Tees Valley Structure Plan
- Tees Valley Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Tees Valley Biodiversity Action Plan

National

- Securing the Future 2005
- Living Spaces; Cleaner, Safer, Greener
- Biodiversity, The UK Action Plan
- A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests 2007

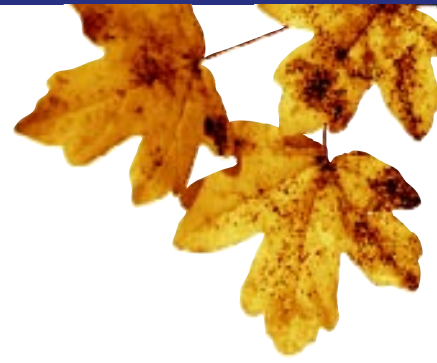
International

- Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (UNCED), Rio De Janeiro, June 1992
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Kyoto Protocol 1997)
- A Sustainable Europe for a Better World
- World Summit on Sustainable Development 2002

Law

- Town and Country Planning Act 1990
- Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
- Planning and Compensation Act 1991
- Environment Act 1995

- Town and Country Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999
- Wildlife and Countryside Act
- Occupiers' Liability Acts 1957 & 1984
- Highways Act 1980
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976
- Climate Change Act 2008



Technical Guidance

- BS5837:2005 'Trees in relation to construction – Recommendations'
- BS3998:1989 'Recommendations for tree work'
- BS4043:1989 'Recommendations for planting root-balled trees'
- Tree Preservation Orders: A Guide to the Law and Good Practise
- LTOA Joint Mitigation Protocol
- Manual for Streets
- NJUG Volume 4 'Guidelines for the planning, installation and maintenance of utility apparatus in proximity to trees'
- Well-maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance
- The Network Maintenance Manual (Highways Agency 2007)
- SIM 01/2007/05 Management of risk from falling trees. HSE
- Hazards from trees: A general guide. Forestry Commission

Further Reading

- Trees in Towns II. C. Britt & M. Johnston. DCLG
- Tree Roots in the Built Environment. J. Roberts, N. Jackson, M. Smith. DCLG
- Principles of Tree Hazard Assessment and Management. D. Lonsdale. DCLG
- The Law of Trees, Forests and Hedgerows. C. Mynors
- Combating Climate Change: A Role for UK Forests. The Synthesis Report. Forestry Commission
- No Trees, No Future: Trees in the Urban Realm. Trees and Design Action Group
- Trees Matter: Bringing lasting benefits to people in towns. National Urban Forestry Unit
- Trees & Woods in Towns & Cities: How to develop local strategies for urban forestry. National Urban Forestry Unit
- Protected trees: A guide to tree preservation procedures. DCLG
- Living Places: Cleaner, Safer, Greener. ODPM
- Grange Conservation Area Character Appraisal. North of England Civic Trust
- Greatham Conservation Area Character Appraisal. North of England Civic Trust
- Park Conservation Area Character Appraisal. North of England Civic Trust

Tree related information produced by Hartlepool Borough Council

- Trees and Development Guidelines. 2006 Edition
- Right Tree, Right Place. A guide to planting and maintaining trees in Hartlepool
- Trees and Development. A leaflet which provides a summary of the Trees and Development Guidelines 2006 Edition
- Problems with neighbouring trees
- Cypress hedges
- Discharge of landscaping conditions
- Dangerous trees (exemption from legal protection)



Useful Websites

Department for Communities and Local Government;
www.communities.gov.uk

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE);
www.cabe.org

Natural England;
www.naturalengland.org.uk

Woodland Trust;
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk

Forestry Commission;
www.forestry.gov.uk

International Society of Arboriculture;
www.isa-arbor.co.uk

NHS Forest;
www.nhsforest.org

Royal Forestry Society;
www.rfs.org.uk

Arboricultural Association;
www.trees.org.uk

The Tree Council;
www.treecouncil.org.uk

Trees for Cities;
www.treesforcities.org.uk

Tree Appeal;
www.treeappeal.com

BTCV;
www.btcv.org.uk

The Big Tree Plant;
www.direct.gov.uk/thebigtreeplant



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