Tree Management Strategy

2023 - 2027

March 2023

Foreword

The London Borough of Bromley is proud to be home to the largest number of street and park trees in London, and to two thirds of London's woodlands – much of which resides in our 552 hectares of council managed woodland and conservation sites. As managers of the largest local tree resource, in the world's greatest urban forest, we acknowledge the importance of managing our trees well. In this strategy, we set out policies that will enable us all to receive the benefits of the borough's trees through the contributions they make to our environment, health, economy, and wellbeing.

In recognition of the advantages that trees provide, we have been pleased to invest over £1.35m in our treemendous tree planting programme which will see 5000 additional street trees planted in the next few years to the benefit of those who live, work, study and visit in the borough.

Cllr Aisha Cuthbert

Portfolio Holder for Sustainability, Green Services and Open Spaces

Introduction

A Tree Management Strategy is recommended to clearly set out the Council's approach to discharging its statutory responsibilities in relation to the management of trees in public spaces, whilst also harnessing the benefits that good tree management can have for residents.

This Tree Management Strategy will:

- Promote awareness of the value of trees in our environment
- Interpret the London-wide policy framework on the management of trees set by the Countryside Commission
- Give direction and guidance to local initiatives; both public and private.

Legal responsibilities

Statutory obligations dictate how the Council should manage trees that are within areas of its control. There responsibilities are principally set out in the follow statutes:

- Highways Act 1980
- Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 & 1984
- Environment Act 2021

Additionally, the New Roads and Streetworks Act 1991, Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 govern how tree works should be implemented.

The Town and Country Planning Act places responsibilities on the Council to assess the impact of tree loss within the borough; where the loss is likely to have a significant impact upon the local and wider landscape the Local Authority must consider protecting trees through the Tree Preservation Order (TPO) process.

Furthermore, there is a range of case and common law precedent that should be observed in policy and practice. For example, according to the tort of nuisance and negligence, the tree owner owes a duty of care in common to all who might be injured if a tree fails, either in whole or in part. Consequently, the Local Authority must take reasonable care to avoid acts or omissions which cause a foreseeable risk of injury to people or property.

Policy framework for the management of trees

There are national, regional, and local policies which are relevant to the management of trees in the borough. A non-exhaustive list of these policies is set out below; these policies have guided the aims, objectives and policies set out in this Strategy.

National	National Planning Policy Framework
	Common Sense Risk Management of Trees – Guidance on Trees and Public Safety in the UK for Owners, Managers and Advisors (National Tree Safety Group)
	Natural Environment White Paper
	The England Trees Action Plan 2021 - 2024
Regional	London Plan
	Green Infrastructure and Open Environments: Preparing Borough Tree and Woodland Strategies – supplementary planning guidance
	Mayor's Biodiversity Strategy – Connecting with London's Nature
	Mayor's London Environment Strategy 2018
	London Biodiversity Action Plan
Local	Bromley Local Plan Bromley Biodiversity Plan

About the borough's trees

The Council is responsible for managing the borough's publicly owned tree stock which includes a diverse and resilient combination of species, aged between one year and an estimated >1000 years. Trees are located across the borough in a variety of locations types proving a myriad of environmental benefits and niches.

The publicly owned tree stock comprises of **60,412** registered trees, including:

- 34,446 street trees
- 25,609 park trees
- 357 school trees

Additionally, the Council manages hundreds of thousands of trees across 552 hectares of publicly owned woodland and conservation sites.

The Benefits of Trees

The many benefits of street trees in an urban environment are well documented in numerous reports and industry journals, and there is a growing recognition of the wider benefits that trees can have for society.

However, street trees are under threat. A report by the London Assembly Environment Committee, 'Chainsaw Massacre' highlighted the net loss of street trees in London, with more trees being removed than were being replaced or newly planted.

It is therefore becoming increasingly important to ascribe a monetary value in the context of ecosystem services (through methodologies such as CAVAT) to trees to inform their value in policy making budget allocation and infrastructure planning. Having regard to cost benefit ratios for trees can be a good tool for planning and incorporating trees in the urban environment.

Trees represent value for money in the following areas:

1. **Environmental Benefits**
   - Trees reduce the urban heat island effect by absorbing radiation which would otherwise be stored and emitted by buildings and highways increasing local temperatures.
   - Trees sequester carbon, aiding climate adaptation
   - Trees capture and absorb particulate and noise pollution adjacent to busy roads.
   - Trees provide shade from the sun and create cooler places for people to enjoy during periods of higher temperatures.
   - Trees intercept rainwater, helping to prevent localised flooding
   - Trees are essential for biodiversity, supporting wildlife

2. **Economic Benefits**
   - Trees can contribute to the attractiveness of an area an increase the value of properties
   - A green environment makes for a more productive working environment
   - Trees help to create welcoming town centres which can extend visit duration
   - Trees help regulate local temperature extremes, reducing the cost of human intervention
   - Trees are a good indicator of the strength of an urban ecosystem

3. **Health and Wellbeing Benefits**
   - Trees support improved air quality as they remove pollutants, helping to reduce associated health risks
   - Trees have direct links to improved mental health and our sense of wellbeing
   - Trees provide shade, reducing the impact of direct sunlight on our health
   - Trees support inviting environments for exercise

- By keeping areas cool (through reduced urban heat island effect), trees can support a decrease in heat associated health problems.

4. **Social Benefits**
   - Trees support good placemaking and community
   - Trees are an educational resource
   - Trees provide seasonal interest
   - Trees are a cultural and historic link to many areas in the borough

Aims and Objectives

The aim of this Tree Management Strategy is:

to ensure that trees are planted, preserved, and managed in accordance with good arboriculture practice, with regard to their contribution to amenity and the landscape, for the benefit of both current and future generations.

We will achieve this aim by setting policies that will enable us to achieve the following objectives:

Strategic Objective 1: To manage the existing tree stock in accordance with good arboricultural practice

Strategic Objective 2: To maintain a presumption against the removal of trees, allowing felling only in accordance with good arboricultural practice, and ensuring appropriate replacement planting that is desirable, aesthetically necessary, and sustainable.

Strategic Objective 3: To recognise the relationship between trees and the built environment by promoting the 'right tree, right place' philosophy for new and replacement planting.

Strategic Objective 4: To ensure the protection of trees, particularly those subject to TPOs and in Conservation Areas, and to ensure trees on development sites are either retained or that high quality replacement planting is specified and delivered. To initiate prosecution where authorised tree works take place or to take enforcement action where there has been a breach of planning permission and it is expedient to do so.

Strategic Objective 5: To promote the value of trees to residents, businesses and developers through good management and education, and explore ways for greater involvement, consultation and protection of trees and woodlands.

Bromley's Tree Management Strategy: Policies

This Tree Management Strategy sets out 25 policies that will inform decision making and the tree management approach in the London Borough of Bromley between 2023 – 2027.

<u>Tree Maintenance, Removal and Planting</u>

Policy 1	**Tree Removal** Trees will only be removed where there is a risk to public safety, damage to property or removal is in line with good arboricultural practice.
Policy description	Publicly owned trees are a valuable resource, therefore there will be a presumption against the removal of trees wherever possible. However, there are some circumstances where it will be necessary to remove trees, and these are: • Where in the professional opinion of the Council's tree team, it is necessary to secure public safety • To mitigate building subsidence • To abate an actionable nuisance • To reduce the risk of the spread of pests and/or disease • Where the highway and/or footway condition makes retention unsustainable • Where removal is in accordance with good arboricultural practice.
Implementation	To comply with duties under section 115 of the Environment Act 2021, the Council will take steps to consult on any proposed tree removal that is not covered by an exemption under the Act. In most cases this will be by placing a notice on the tree at least 10 working days in advance of the felling date. There are two types of notice: • A notice stating removal on the grounds of public safety • A notice stating removal in order to abate an actionable nuisance Where more than one tree is to be removed in one location for any reason, in addition to affixing the notice, officers will notify the relevant Ward Councillors, Residents Association or Stakeholder/Partnership Groups by email.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2

Policy 2	**Criteria for Tree Pruning**
	The Council will apply criteria to determine when trees will be pruned, with pruning action taken only where: • There is a risk to public safety • It is necessary to abate an actionable nuisance • It is necessary to mitigate the risk of building subsidence • It is in accordance with good arboricultural practice.
Policy description	To ensure delivery of an impartial and judicious service that allocates resources fairly, the Council will only prune trees in accordance with this policy. Where trees are pruned for public safety, this is to ensure statutory clearance over the highway, footway, cycle lanes and public rights of way. Where a tree is pruned to abate an actionable nuisance, this is where trees come into conflict with buildings. Trees may be pruned to mitigate the risk of public subsidence; this is where risk trees have been identified on shrinkable clay soil and been included in the Council's Insurance Mitigation Pruning Programme.
Implementation	The Council has a cyclical programme of tree inspections through which remedial works are identified; remedial works may also be identified as part of the 24-hour emergency response service, or in response to reports received from residents.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1

Policy 3	**Managing Expectations**
	The Council will manage expectations about where tree removal or pruning will not be undertaken by identifying examples that fall beyond the reach of Policies 1 and 2 and therefore beyond the responsibility of the Council.
Policy description	The Council will not remove or prune trees where requests are based on the following issues: • Branches overhanging properties. Residents have the right to exercise their right under common law to prune back branches to their property boundary, withal arising disposed of by the resident. Pruning should be carried out following discussion with one of the Council's Tree

	Officers and completed to the standard set out in BS3998:2010 Tree Work.
	• Tree size, where a tree is judged to be overly large.
	• Interference with satellite, TV or other media reception. There is no legal right to television reception and there are no legal obligations on landowners to remove or prune trees to improve reception. When positioning a new satellite receiver, it is recommended residents carefully consider existing trees and their potential for growth the avoid issues in the future.
	• Branches or limbs in physical contact with telephone wires. Telephone wires are plastic coated and faults in the line are rarely caused by contact with branches. Residents are encouraged to contact their service provider to report and resolve any faults or interference experienced with their telephone line.
	• Excessive leaf or fruit fall. Seasonal leaf and/or fruit fall should be expected and is not a reason to require pruning or removal of trees. The Council will not clear leaves or fruit from private properties but does manage leaf/fruit fall on Council owned footways and highways.
	• Problems associated with pollen.
	• Excreta caused by insects or birds. Honeydew (aphid excreta) and bird droppings are not recognised in law as a 'legal nuisance' and therefore does not justify removal or pruning of a tree. Hazards on the footway can be addressed by reporting these through Fix My Street. Residents can manage this problem through regular car washing, covering their cars or parking in alternative locations.
	• Obstruction of view. There are no rights associated with maintaining trees in accordance with maintaining views in British law.
	• Lack of light: there is no right to light or shade in British law.
Implementation	The Council will respond to requests for tree removal or pruning where there do not meet the requirements set out under Polices 1 and 2 and explain the reasons why no action will be taken.

Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2

Policy 4	**Tree Planting** For every tree removed, the Council will plant at least one new tree.
Policy description	Where under Policy 1, it is necessary to removal a tree, the Council will ensure a replacement tree is planted. The tree will be planted in the same location if it remains viable in accordance with good arboricultural practice. In the event that the location is no longer viable, an alternative location shall be selected.
Implementation	When the decision to remove a tree is made, a request on the Council's asset management database will be made for a replacement tree of a species suitable for the identified planting location. Subject to the availability of resources, the replacement trees will be planted within the following two planting seasons. Subject to resources, the Council will encourage suitable tree planting initiatives that increase the Council owned tree stock. The Council will provide advice and information to support projects that seek to increase tree cover in the borough on both public and privately owned sites. The Council will continue to manage the Adopt a Tree and Memorial Tree initiatives which are funded privately, on a cost neutral basis. In selecting trees for planting, the Council will ensure that due consideration is given to the relationship between the species and location (right tree, right place). The objective of tree planting is to ensure that it is appropriate, sustainable, considered and permits the long-term survival of those trees planted so that they fulfil their growth potential and make the maximum contribution possible without causing many of the problems traditionally associated with planting trees in urban areas.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2, SO3

Policy 5	**Managing Trees and Subsidence** The Council will manage its tree stock to minimise the risk of tree-related subsidence, with due regard to the health and sustainability of the trees. Location and species for new tree planting will be selected to minimise the risk of future tree-related subsidence.
Policy description	The Council will manage and process subsidence related claims in accordance with the principles of the London Tree Officers Association's Risk Limitation Strategy and the Joint Mitigation Protocol.
Implementation	The Council will retain trees on shrinkable clay subsoil, where sustainable, in order to maintain the value of the amenity. The Council will continue to manage a programme of pruning as a mitigation measure against subsidence damage, with all regrowth on all risk trees[1] removed on either a biennial or triennial basis to manage water demand, with frequency dependent on the level of risk. The Arboriculture Manager or their delegate will oversee subsidence generated claims directed at Council owned trees. If necessary, the Council will selectively remove risk street trees, with replacement where appropriate. The Planning Tree Team will deal with subsidence generated Conservation Area notifications and Tree Preservation Order applications. The Council will challenge unwanted claims based on poorly investigated and inaccurate evidence, or where in the case of preserved trees where the Town & County Planning (Trees) Regulations 1999 can provide relief from the claim.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2, SO3, SO4

Policy 6	**Damage to Council Trees: Prosecution and Compensation** The Council reserves the right to prosecute and seek the maximum penalty for anyone found to be: • damaging or pruning its trees without permission • disposing of tree waste illegally

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[1] Risk trees are those in areas pre-disposed to building movement

Policy description	N/A
Implementation	The Council will use the CAVAT system to value its trees and will use this information to assist in the management of its tree stock. Any individual or organisation that undertakes actions to damage or remove Council owned or protected tree(s) will be pursued for compensation for the full amenity value of the tree as calculated by CAVAT.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO4

Street Trees

Policy 7	**Excavation and Utility Companies** When undertaking excavation works near to street trees, workers must adhere to the guidelines as set out in the revised National Joint Utility Guidelines: Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees (NJUG 4, 2007) unless otherwise formally agreed in writing with one of the Council's Tree Officers.
Policy description	N/A
Implementation	Ongoing maintenance of the highway, utilities, service routes and street furniture is essential to ensuring that public infrastructure continue to operate effectively. However, this work has the potential to disturb the borough's trees as work often requires excavation and construction within the root zone of trees, hence workers must comply with the National Joint Utility Guidelines to minimise impact on trees.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO4

Policy 8	**Vehicular Crossover Applications** The Council will consider tree removal for vehicle cross-over applications only where the outcome is supported by good arboricultural practice. The applicant will be expected to fund the removal of the tree and pay compensation for its loss, which will be calculated using the CAVAT[2] valuation methodology.

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[2] Capital Asset Valuation for Amenity Trees

Policy description	In accordance with the Vehicular Crossover Policy, the Council retains the right to reject a Cross Over Application of the construction necessitates the removal of a healthy, established tree.
Implementation	If the Council agrees to the removal of a tree for a Vehicular Crossover Application, the applicant will be required to pay for: • The cost of the removal of the tree • The cost of planting a suitable replacement tree (under Policy 4) and compensation for the loss of the tree The Council will not approve the removal of trees in Conservation Areas or trees protection by a TPO for a vehicular crossover, except in exceptional circumstances.
Strategic Objective delivery	S01, SO2, SO3, SO4

Policy 9	**Phased Removal of Street Trees** Where trees are in conflict with the footway, highway or properties, the Council will seek to remove individual specimens which cannot continue to be maintained sustainably.
Policy description	The Council accepts that there have been instances of poor species selection in the past – for example, Norway Maples with a shallow root system have been planted directly into the footway. On reaching maturity, some of these trees have caused considerable damage to footway or highway surfacing, and/or properties.
Implementation	Because of the number of instances and costs associated with removal, the Council will implement a phased removal programme, prioritised according to risk and with trees considered on a case-by-case basis. Replacement trees will be planted in the following two planting seasons.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2, SO3

Trees in Parks and Open Spaces

Policy 10	**Encouraging biodiversity in parks and green spaces** The Council will seek to maintain a diverse range of species in age structure and will promote planting of native species and of local provenance where possible, with reference to the park's character and Open Space Management Plan.
Policy description	The Council recognises that encouraging a varied age structure in its tree stock to benefit biodiversity. Over-mature trees and those with dead wood and cavities provide valuable wildlife habitats particularly for bats, birds and invertebrates. The borough's woodlands are also particularly important, containing a substantial number of veteran trees which support many insects, many of which are rare.
Implementation	The Council will achieve this policy aim through: • Planting • Thinning • Retaining over-mature and veteran trees and selecting specimens for succession Veteran and ancient trees will be retained unless they present an unreasonable risk to public safety.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2, SO3

Trees in Woodlands and Conservation Sites

Policy 11	**Woodland Cover** The Council will protect and enhance the Council owned woodland, and as a minimum will maintain the total woodland cover at the existing level.
Policy description	Bromley contains 2,181 hectares of woodland for which the Council owns 552 hectares. These are largely mixed broadleaf with areas of coppice and some small areas of conifer plantation. Through continued professional management, stewardship programmes and grant funding, the Council recognises its privileged position as a custodian of this vital resource and will work to ensure its protection and seek to increase woodland

	quality, as well as woodland cover, when opportunities arise. The Council recognises the importance of maximising biodiversity in all its woodland sites.
Implementation	All planting in woodlands shall be, where possible, of native species and of local provenance. Any new planting will be consistent with woodland management plans and will support minimisation of the risks associated with imported pests and diseases. The Council will develop woodland management plans for each of its woodlands and will encourage the development of Woodland Management Plans for privately owned woodlands and those owned by other public bodies.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2

Trees in Local Authority Owned and Controlled Education Sites

Policy 12	**Tree Management at Local Authority Owned and Controlled Education Sites** The Council will survey trees on Local Authority owned and controlled education sites, supporting their use as an educational resource.
Policy description	This policy applies to local authority owned and controlled education sites but not to academies or free schools. Trees have become increasingly important as a learning resource for children, with this reflected in the growing number o schools offering Forest School programmes and using their sites as outdoor classrooms.
Implementation	The Council will survey trees on local authority owned and controlled education sites with condition reports provided on a biennial basis, and remedial works undertaken as required. Remedial works will be paid from the Local Authority controlled education sites devolved budgets. The Council will provide advice to these education sites on the management of trees, planting of trees and use of trees as an educational resource as requested. The number of trees and diversity of species and age structure will be maintained or increased on Local Authority owned and

| | controlled education sites. New planting will be promoted, particularly of native species.

The Council will seek to encourage biodiversity by applying the principles set out in Policy 21. |
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| Strategic Objective delivery | SO1, SO5 |

Tree Management (General)

| Policy 13 | **Tree Inspection Programme**

The Council will adopt a new tree inspection programme as part of its risk management approach for trees. |
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| Policy description | The Council will deliver a cyclical programme of trees inspections on all trees within public ownership. |
| Implementation | The frequency of inspection will be determined by the level of risk posed by a specific tree, however as a minimum, the following frequencies will be observed for a full asset survey:

- Street trees: every three years
- Park trees: every three years
- Trees on LA education sites: every two years
- Trees in woodlands and Conservation Sites: every five years
- Trees in Public Rights of Way: every five years.

Additional Dead, Dying or Dangerous Tree Surveys may also be conducted more regularly for park trees and trees in woodlands and on Conservation Sites, with frequency determined by risk area. |
| Strategic Objective delivery | SO1 |

Policy 14	**Programme of Tree Maintenance** The Council will manage a proactive programme of tree maintenance.
Policy description	Following inspection under Policy 12, the Council will ensure that all necessary remedial works for pruning, and felling are undertaken in accordance with Policy 1 and Policy 2.
Implementation	The Council will establish a programme of tree maintenance with works prioritised in accordance with risk. The Council will assign a target date for the completion of works which will also be determined according to the level of risk.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2

Policy 15	**Emergency Works** The Council will provide a 24 hour call out service to respond to emergencies related to trees on Council owned land and highways.
Policy description	The Council has a duty under the Highways Act 1980 to ensure that all the roads in the borough are always free from hazards.
Implementation	The Council will provide a 24-hour emergency call out service to clear fallen trees from highway and public land. The Council will aim to respond to emergency calls within 1 hour. In the event of extreme weather, the Council will resource as far as reasonably practicable and target the emergency response call out service to manage multiple emergencies and manage post storm clear up operations efficiently.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1

Trees in Private Ownership

Policy 16	**Management of Trees on Private Land** The Council will encourage best practice in the management of trees on private land.
Policy description	Private tree owners have a duty of care under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 &1984 to minimise the risk to people and property resulting from trees on their land.
Implementation	The Council will promote good arboricultural practice and inform residents about their duty of care through its website and Customer Service Centre.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO4, SO5

Policy 17	**Dangerous Trees on Private Land** The Council may serve notice on the owner of a private tree if it considers the tree to present an unreasonable risk to the public. If remedial work is not undertaken to the satisfaction of the Council, the Council can undertake the necessary works to mitigate the risk and will recover costs from the tree owner.
Policy description	Occasionally, there may be reasons why owners do not make dangerous trees safe (e.g., owners may not be traceable, may refuse, or may be unable to pay) and the Council may decide to take action against the tree owner.
Implementation	As a last resort, the Council may use its discretionary powers under the Highways Act 1980 (section 154) and Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 (sections 23 and 24 – Dangerous Trees) to take the minimum action necessary to remove immediate danger to the public caused by the tree on private land. As these powers are discretionary, the Council will only guarantee action if a tree in private ownership is likely to impact the highway or Council owned property. All other instances will be assessed on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with the relevant tree risk management strategies.

	The Council may seek to recover its costs once works have been completed and this can include an administration fee. If the owner is untraceable or uncontactable, a land charge will be entered against the property for future payment.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO4

Policy 18	**Protecting Privately Owned Trees** The Council will make use of Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) and Conservation Area legislation to ensure that trees of high amenity value are protected.
Policy description	N/A
Implementation	<u>TPOs</u> Anyone wishing to remove or prune a tree under a TPO is required by law to make a formal application to the Planning Authority. Applications that are incomplete or do not include sufficient information will not be registered. Once and application has been registered it will be assessed and a decision notice will be issued within eight weeks. Tree owners carrying out permitted development to their property adjacent to protected trees may also require permission before starting work. This is especially likely of the development is likely to lead to the severing of roots or branches. The Council will maintain an electronic copy of TPOs and will regularly review and update them, recognising that many are old and require review. <u>Conservation Areas</u> Any person wishing to remove or undertake works to a tree within a Conservation Area is required to give six weeks' notice to the Planning Authority. The Council will register, assess, and respond to all notifications within six weeks. The Council may: • Allow the proposed works • Negotiate to agree alternative works • Serve a TPO to prevent the proposed works. If a response is not received within six weeks, the applicant should contact the Council before proceeding.

Strategic Objective delivery	SO4

Policy 19	**Trees and Development** Planning applications for new development will require compliance with planning policy which seeks to retain existing trees within a development site and promote the planting of new trees where possible.
Policy description	The Council requires that all development applications that affect trees provide the following information to the standards detailed in BS 5837:2012 – Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction during the planning process. In accordance with Policy 7.21 of the London Plan in respect of trees and woodlands, the Council agrees that 'any loss as a result of development should be replaced following the principle of 'right place, right tree'. Wherever appropriate, planting of additional trees should be included in new developments, particularly large canopied species.
Implementation	The Council may require the provision of the following information (to the BS 5837:2012 standard) at the various stages of the planning process: • Pre-application stage: - Tree survey - Tree retention/removal plan - Consideration for protected wildlife species • Planning application stage: - Tree survey - Arboricultural impact assessment - Tree retention/removal plan, detailing retained trees and their Root Protection Areas (RPAs) - Any proposed level changes - Hard and soft landscape design plans (replacement tree planting) • Reserves matters/planning conditions: - Arboricultural method statement - Details of all special engineering within the RPAs - Details of utility apparatus and installation - Schedule of works to retained trees - Arboricultural site monitoring* - Post construction remedial works

	*The Council, aside from making its own spot checks on development sites, will impose planning conditions to ensure that all proposed tree protection measures are implemented and maintained throughout each stage of development. The Council will apply the following principles to encourage replacement or new planting on development: • Applicants should attempt to incorporate tree planting as part of their planning application for a development site • Where trees must be removed to facilitate the development, suitable levels of replanting must be provided. • Where proposed tree planting on a development site conflict with other trees, Council policies, or where suitable levels of tree replacement planting locations cannot be secured on site, the Council will seek funding for alternative tree planting in the locality.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO3, SO4

Policy 20	**Unauthorised Works Prosecution** The Council may prosecute any tree owner who carries out or allows another to carry out on their behalf unauthorised works to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order or within a Conservation Area.
Policy description	Unauthorised works include the removal or pruning of any part of the tree (including roots*) protected by a TPO without the approval of the Planning Authority, or within a Conservation Area where the Council has not been given prior formal notification. Landowners should note that the root systems of protected trees are also subject to the protected status and consider this in the context of any intended re-landscaping, garden design, wall replacement or decking construction where that will involve any excavations or changes in levels within the Root Protection Area of a protected tree.
Implementation	The Council places a high value on trees protected by a TPO or within Conservation Areas and will therefore seek prosecution against those that arrange or carry out unauthorised works to a protected tree.

Strategic Objective delivery	SO4

Trees and the Environment

Policy 21	**Trees and the Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan** The Council will seek to support the Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan aims and objectives through its tree and woodland management.
Policy description	The Council will seek to enhance biodiversity at Council owned and maintained sites in the borough.
Implementation	The Council will follow the best practice guidelines for sustainable woodland management as set out in Appendix E of the Bromley Biodiversity Action Plan.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1

Policy 22	**Supporting Partnerships** The Council will provide arboricultural support and advice to its partners.
Policy description	Partnership groups make a valued contribution to Bromley's environment.
Implementation	The Council will provide advice and support to its established partnership groups, including but not limited to: • Countryside Stakeholder Panel • Bromley Biodiversity Partnership • Tree Friends • Park Friends and the Friends Forum • Street Friends
Strategic Objective delivery	SO5

Policy 23	**Veteran and Ancient Trees** The Council will promote a programme of recording and protecting veteran and ancient trees in the borough and instigate a programme of management and succession planting.
Policy description	N/A
Implementation	Many of the Council's veteran and ancient trees are already recorded on the Council's asset management system following survey. However specific management practices are best practice for these trees which are a highly valuable resource. Therefore, the Council will launch a programme of recording and mapping of these trees and will seek to produce management plans for Bromley's veteran and ancient trees, whether on public or private land. The Council will engage volunteers to support this work as part of its aims to promote the value of trees to residents.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO4, SO5

Policy 24	**Pests and Diseases** The Council will adopt practices to control and contain the outbreak of known pests and diseases.
Policy description	Over the last few decades, the UK has experienced increasing threat to plant biosecurity as pathways for new organisms have opened, resulting in increasing number of plant disease and pathogen outbreaks in relation to trees.
Implementation	The Councill will prioritise resources in a timely fashion to deal with threats from pests and disease and will liaise closely with the Forestry Commission and London Tree Officers Association on issues of biosecurity.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO4

Policy 25	**Green Corridors** The Council will support initiatives for Green Corridors where grant funding is secured for delivery.

Policy description	Green Corridors create continuous links of street trees to join up areas of countryside with parks and open spaces in urban locations. As an Outer London Borough, Bromley's geography make it particularly suited as a place for Green Corridor creation. In 2014, the first Green Corridor was designated running from Court Road, Orpington through Cray Avenue, Sevenoaks Way, Midfield Way and St Pauls Wood Hill. The Corridor has a local designation with a commitment to replace trees that have reached the end of their life with ecologically important native species.
Implementation	Where Green Corridors can be implemented, species selected for planting will be native, large specimens in maturity, with the aim of: • Providing avenues for wildlife to travel • Supporting a reduction in pollutants • Enhancing the aesthetic of the street scene. The council will strategically identify other routes for designation as Green Corridors where funding for tree planting becomes available.
Strategic Objective delivery	SO1, SO2, SO5

Monitoring and Review

This Strategy will be monitored and reviewed to ensure its successful implementation. The Strategy and all individual policies will be reviewed every five years to respond to the changes in the borough, any new or revised legislation and/or emerging best practice.

The Council will produce an annual report against the following Indicators which are designed to monitor progress against the aims and objectives of this Strategy.

Indicator 1	Number of new and replacement trees planted
Indicator 2	Number of trees planted in community projects
Indicator 3	Mortality rate of newly planted trees (%)
Indicator 4	Number of trees removed per annum, categorised by: • Street trees • Park trees • Trees on Council owned and controlled education sites • Trees in woodland and conservation sites
Indicator 5	Number of trees inspected in biennial and triennial cycles
Indicator 6	Number of trees prunes per annum
Indicator 7	Number of registered Tree Friends
Indicator 8	Number of arboriculture enquiries processed through Fix My Street
Indicator 9	Number of Conservation Area applications processed
Indicator 10	Number of TPO applications received
Indicator 11	Number of new TPOs issued
Indicator 12	Number of tree planning contraventions investigated
Indicator 13	Total amount of compensation paid to the Council in relation to trees removed or damaged by development (including through s106 monies)