



Havering

LONDON BOROUGH

Update on Havering's Tree Service
Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
18 July 2023

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Introduction

20,000 street trees

250,000 trees in parks

4,000 trees on Council housing sites

Key responsibilities:

Cyclical inspections

Reactive inspections / works orders

Planting (including funding applications)

Insurance investigations

Internal advice and inspections

Tree contract update

City Suburban contract expired in March 2022

Interim measure: RFQs + temporary emergency contractor

New contractor from November 2023 (possibly earlier)

Currently 2-3 teams in the borough on average whilst work is brought up to date.

New contractor = 1 or 2 teams.

Contractors undertake:

General maintenance

Emergency works

Planting

Watering

Tree contract update (2)

KPIs for the new contract:

Completion of orders	95% of orders to be completed within timescales prescribed by Authorised Officer.
Requests for estimates	To be provided within 7 days of request.
Works programmes	To be provided within 7 days of request.
Notification of completed works	Notification of works completed to be provided within 7 days of completion.

Key stats

Planting:

	Removed	Planted	Nett
2013-14	244	356	112
2014-15	311	260	-51
2015-16	257	250	-7
2016-17	212	248	36
2017-18	322	304	-18
2018-19	329	176	-153
2019-20	303	305	2
2020-21	213	359	146
2021-22	212	4735	4523
2022-23	356	8484	8128
	2759	15477	12718

Complaints:

	Member enquiries (total)	Member enquiries (to May)	Customer complaints (total)	Customer complaints (to May)
2022	373	171	102	38
2023	52	40	48	36

Tree Team update

Staffing = 2 x full time tree officers

Delay in employing qualified officers due to market competition

So far the team have:

Worked through a backlog of CRM enquiries

Introduced a new IT system

Secured £0.230m funding and delivered on 2022-23 planting season

Engaged with volunteers for further planting

To do this year:

Ratify policy and strategy

Complete backlog of cyclical inspections (6 months)

Secure funding for 23/24 planting season / execute planting programme

Mobilise a full-time contractor

Policy / Strategy

Strategy:

To preserve, improve and secure a nett gain of the Council's tree stock for current and future generations, adhering to the "right tree, right place" principal.

Policy:

The aims, objectives and outcomes of the Tree Policy are as follows:

To manage the Council's tree stock in accordance with good arboriculture and streetscape practice to BS standard 3998.

To maintain the Council's tree stock on a regular cyclical basis.

To increase the stock of trees in an appropriate manner by seeking both grant funding and private sponsorship.

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.

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

Key risks and strengths

Risks:

Age of tree population

Deer

Driveways

Finances

Strengths:

Talented team

Building partnerships

Securing funding

What's next

June 2023: Submit funding applications

August 2023: Assuming funding is provided, purchase new tree stock

November 2023 – Feb 2024: Next round of tree planting (dependent on the above)

November 2023: Commencement of new tree maintenance contract

Thank you

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