

Developing a Partnership Street Tree Strategy for Sheffield



Sheffield &
Rotherham

CONFIRMED NOTES AND ACTIONS

Meeting 6: Friday 24th January 2020

Attending

Chair: Liz Ballard, Sheffield & Rotherham Wildlife Trust (LB)

Joe Coles, Woodland Trust (JC)

Christine King, Co-Chair of Street Tree Action Groups (CK)

Brian Stocks, Amey (BS)

Darren Butt, Amey (DB)

Karen Ramsay, Sheffield City Council (KR)

Mick Croft, Sheffield City Council (MC)

Paul Selby, Street Tree Action Groups (PS)

Alison Holt, Natural Capital Solutions (also Trustee SRWT) (AH)

Glen Gorner, Leeds City Council (GG)

Apologies:

Deepa Shetty, Street Tree Action Groups (DS)

Welcome & Introductions

LB thanked everyone for coming.

LB noted that the minutes had been circulated some time in advance and the few comments received had been included so it was assumed that everyone was happy with the minutes.

All agreed.

The minutes will be uploaded to the SRWT website.

1. Actions & Decisions from 20th December 2019 minutes

- DB/BS to provide a clear narrative on the current position of street tree numbers to be included in the strategy. **ACTION LB to locate – checked and not sent through – back to DB/BS**
- LB had decided not to draft text for accreditation section of strategy as we haven't yet determined whether to take forward PEFC or some other scheme. LB has included a link to PEFC 'Trees Outside Woodlands' website in the strategy.
There was some discussion about accreditation and standard, and the potential to develop our own. However, no decision was made. **ACTION: LB** to ensure this remains as a Development Action in the Strategy.
- LB had drafted a PR about the Treeconomics report – covered under PR item later
- LB had circulated offer of CSV – CK the only person to respond
- **CF ACTION BS/AH** to assess best approach to canopy cover calculations and report back to next meeting. Will cover later on the agenda where this is up to

- **CF ACTION: DB/BS** to define high, medium and low impact (from 'decision-matrix'). Still to do.
- **ACTION BS:** will take away and continue to work on decision-matrix – on agenda
- **ACTION DB/KR:** to develop and confirm the process including consultation – on agenda.
- CK had tried to 'break' the model – done. PS also said tried for a number of trees in his area and felt it worked well. Definition of condition and impact are key.
- .
- **ACTION KR/MC** to feedback to the group whether additional tree planting on the network is acceptable or whether the aims is for the same number of trees to be returned – on agenda
- LB replied to Alun that the group is interested but need more information. CK is now lead contact.
- JC provided info on tree cities of the world.
- PS added explanation into the glossary. CK amended.
- **ACTION AH** to report back on usefulness of data sets comparing air quality and tree data – work in progress
- Tree Warden Proposal – LB has been in touch with the National Council about the scheme. KR reported back – not aware of any issue for SCC - also on the agenda. PS provided more text for tree warden section.
- ALL Sent comments across all sections to LB on gmail – thank you.
- KR sent lessons learnt document send to LB

2. Strategy Timeline, PR & launch

Timeline

LB reminded the group of the timeline for final draft to go public w/c 9th March when it will be published ready to go to Cabinet on Wednesday 18th March. LB, on annual leave from 1st – 21st Feb so aim is for vsn7 to be out next week for all to comment on whilst LB is away. KR would use vsn7 for Cabinet report. Any Cabinet feedback would then go into vsn8 (final draft?).

The next meeting is scheduled for 6th March just before publication.

ACTION: ALL to comment and edit vsn7 of strategy on google drive – CK offered to upload comments from those not on gdrive (Glen)

ACTION: LB to draft up timeline

JC highlighted national Trees & Woodlands Strategy information possibly due out from Defra in spring. Could be an opportunity for Sheffield to influence on street tree approach.

Treeconomics PR

The PR and report were discussed following previous email discussion. It was AGREED that this should not now be published prior to the strategy as we needed to focus on the strategy itself. Therefore the strategy needed to include some short narrative about the report **ACTION KR** to draft

A draft PR was needed for the Cabinet report publication w/c 9th March

ACTION: LB to circulate CK's initial FAQs and the Treeconomics PR - **ALL** to start adding in other FAQs and to act as a basis for strategy release. **ACTION: LB** to pick up PR draft on return

Launch, consultation and PR

As previously discussed, the launch of the strategy was AGREED as follows:

- To be planned for June/July. (MC to avoid May local elections).
- To include a street tree panel who can field questions from the public. This would be part of the consultation process.

AGREED to call the strategy a Working Strategy – so that a consultation period/dialogue with others could take place and shape the document over the coming year 2020.

LB, asked how the consultation would be delivered and by whom? What tools and approaches would be used? Discussion and ideas included online questionnaires, workshops, roadshows. Agreed this could be quite a piece of work and needed some planning before the launch.

LB noted that the group were set up as the Development Group, so a decision about the Delivery Group was also needed – and those here would need to consider their own involvement.

ACTION: LB to add launch to 6th March meeting agenda + draft brief for comment to go to events teams + future Delivery Group

ACTION: ALL to develop consultation and launch ideas further

ACTION: DB to circulate template used for winter management consultation

3. Drafting the Strategy

LB presented the current draft strategy vsn6 to work through and comment on. Specific comments were made in the text during the meeting.

Canopy Cover

BS has been working on this, but still more to do – nearly there.

ACTION: BS to upload into vsn7 when circulated on gdrive or ideally send to LB by end of Weds.

Additional Planting

DB updated that there is agreement from Streets Ahead that, on the basis of the framework proposed in this strategy, additional planting supported by additional funds would be accepted.

LB clarified that the Delivery Group would be the forum whereby new funds would be secured and additional planting decisions could be considered with reference to this strategy's aims. This would allow for a whole city approach to new planting.

This was really welcomed by the group.

Guidance for the Management of Trees

Definitions still to be completed **ACTION: BS & DB**

AH asked if the maintenance value of the tree is in the cost benefit analysis, and feels this needs to be included and if DB/BS had data on the material costs of the upkeep of stock annually. **ACTION DB** to send to AH

Discussed how consultation could be incorporated in to the process:

FIRST DRAFT

- Tree is assessed into amber box – cost benefit analysis undertaken
- Streets Ahead contact Delivery Partnership + Local Residents setting out options and preferred option
- If felling is proposed due to lack of cash funds available to undertake retain solution then Partnership is given timeline to seek an alternative approach eg if additional funds can be found
- If no funded solution is available, and Streets Ahead go ahead then they will compensate for loss of the tree's ecosystem services by equivalent planting etc. on the network

ACTION: DB, KR, MC to consider further and include in matrix/flow chart

Species Selection

ACTION: PS to add in explanation about cultivars into glossary

ACTION: BS to send LB or add in to vsn7 pie charts to complete data needed for establish baseline for 30:20:21 rule

Tree Warden Proposal

LB had added in and edited text from PS. DB keen to progress this. LB had offer to attend a meeting in Sheffield from Tree Council. LB asked DB if there was any funding to support the scheme, DB offered staff time from AMEY.

ACTION: LB, PS, DB to meet and discuss setting up the scheme after Strategy has been made public – wardens to feed in to Delivery Partnership.

Sign Off

LB reminded the group that each rep would need to check back with their organisation about signing off the strategy before it goes public.

ACTION: ALL to check back sign off procedures within own groups & organisations.

5. Next Steps

Design

LB reminded the group that the previous plan had been to have the strategy 'designed' and available digitally. No particular brand style would be used but all logos included.

KR requested the design was 'accessible' – clear font etc.

ACTION: ALL to send LB any photos that could be used to illustrate each section/outcome area - once strategy has gone to Cabinet

ACTION: BS, CK, PS to consider sending in a case study to illustrate the decision-making matrix – - once strategy has gone to Cabinet

JC the Woodland Trust could support design for the main graphics – eg decision making matrix.

ACTION JC to progress

Scope

LB asked everyone to remind themselves of the scope of the project for the next meeting.

ACTION ALL

The meeting closed at 1pm

Next meeting is Friday 6th March 2020 at 9:30am in Meeting Room: Otter at Sheffield and Rotherham Wildlife Trust H.Q.