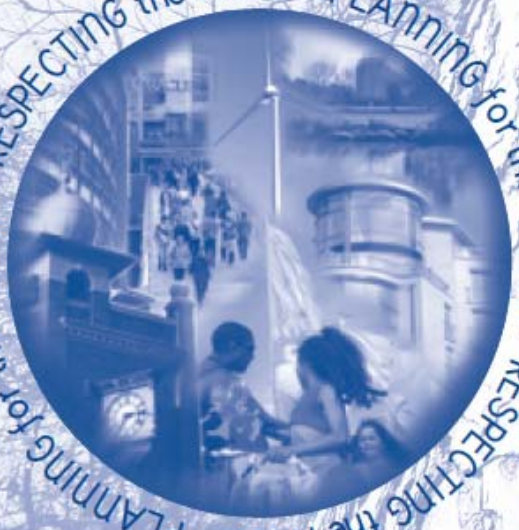
planning

Reading
Borough Council

Tree Strategy for Reading

Adpoted June 2010



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BOROUGH COUNCIL

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Trees are vital to the future sustainability of our urban environment. They contribute many social, environmental and economic benefits to an urban area. They are an important component of the character of an area. However, this natural resource needs to be properly managed, utilising increasingly limited resources. We all have a responsibility to ensure that Reading's tree cover continues into the future with the ability to withstand changing climate conditions during the 21st Century and beyond. Reading Borough Council as community leader intends to play its part. However, the Council is not able to do this alone and needs to determine what its priorities will be and how it will use its powers and influence over others to contribute to maintaining, renewing and enhancing tree cover in the Borough.

1.2 This document sets out a shared vision and strategy for trees in Reading, for both the private and public sectors. It considers various issues and options in relation to trees and sets out a strategic approach towards future management. The Government encourages local authorities to produce tree strategies to promote the management and enhancement of the tree population in their areas, including street trees, and to use current "Best Practice."

1.3 Over recent years the Council has been proactively moving towards a strategic approach to managing its tree responsibilities. The call for the preparation of a Tree Strategy followed a series of concerns about the replacement of felled trees in various parts of the Borough. In October 2008, a Council motion was agreed as follows:

"This Council has always recognised the significant and positive contribution that trees can make to the quality of the urban environment. In particular, it notes that:

1. ***Trees can greatly enhance the visual amenity of our environment, are vital for people's sense of well-being and contribute to everyone's quality of life.***
2. ***Trees are essential in maintaining and enhancing the Borough's biodiversity.***
3. ***Trees play a crucial role in reducing urban temperatures, mitigating the effects of climate change and facilitating better urban drainage.***

The Council is already working to protect and enhance tree cover across the Borough. The Council continues to review and add to the 900+ Tree Preservation Orders that cover both single trees and groups of trees. The Council is about to embark on a survey of all its trees to assess their condition and any health and safety risk. As a result of the Council's planning policies, additional trees are secured as part of development proposals and new trees have been planted in the public realm as a result of a wide range of tree planting initiatives by its Parks & Open Spaces Team and the Council's involvement in the partnerships, such as "Trees for Cities. This Council resolves to adopt a Tree Strategy to protect and enhance Reading's tree cover for the future.

1.4 The development of a Tree Strategy will support and contribute to achieving the corporate aim of developing Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley. The strategy will contribute to this aim through:

- Retaining and protecting existing trees with high amenity value in a suitable condition;
- Managing and maintaining the existing tree stock; and
- Facilitating, encouraging and engaging in the planting of new trees.

These activities, retaining and protecting, managing and maintaining and new planting make up the 3 main elements of the Tree Strategy.

1.5 A comprehensive public consultation exercise was undertaken between 19 February and 2 April 2010, the results of which highlighted widespread support for the draft Tree Strategy. Many respondents agreed that trees have a positive impact on the lives of those living, working and visiting Reading with fundamental benefits to the urban environment. Many responses requested that comprehensive tree planting be undertaken, in particular increasing and replacing street trees. The Council's proposal to reverse the decline in canopy cover, particularly in large canopy trees and increase Reading's tree population by 10% to reduce the effects of climate change received positive support, but some considered this wasn't going far enough and considered 15-25% was more appropriate. Similarly, proposals in the Strategy to introduce a "Tree Warden" scheme in Reading attracted considerable interest. Other responses were focussed around keeping the public informed, protecting and respecting Reading's existing trees, the need for newdevelopment to protect and integrate new trees far more, and the relationship between trees and biodiversity.

2.0 CONTEXT: TREE COVER IN READING

2.1 Reading Borough forms the core of the Greater Reading urban area and sits within a setting of rural countryside and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Analysis of Reading's existing tree resource indicates that an estimated 17.8% of the Borough's land area is covered by tree canopies. This compares with approximately 20% for London. Unfortunately, tree cover across Reading is not evenly spread. There are areas of high tree population in the generally lower density residential areas of Caversham Heights and Emmer Green in the north and in a number of areas in the west and south east of Reading. However, tree cover is very sparse in parts of the Oxford Road corridor, in many parts of Central Reading, and in the southern and some eastern parts of the Borough. The Strategy Key Diagram attached indicates the level of tree cover in different parts of the Borough.

2.2 The Council is responsible for a significant number of trees and woodlands growing in a wide range of locations e.g. in parks and woodlands, schools, care homes, housing areas, along highways, etc. Reading contains numerous parks and other open spaces. Parks such as Prospect, Palmer, and the Thameside Promenade provide the opportunity for people to experience wonderful concentrations of trees of various forms, types and ages in the middle of a relatively dense urban environment. In addition there are prestigious open spaces of notable character in the centre of Reading such as St Mary's Churchyard [Reading Minster], The Forbury Gardens and St Laurence Churchyard, or nearby, such as at Caversham Court.

There are extensive networks of woodlands and groups of trees across the Borough in both private and public ownership. They form significant and distinctive landscape features and help to define the landscape character of Reading. The concentration of woodland and other trees on higher ground defines the very visible wooded ridges that are an acknowledged feature of the skyline and character of Reading. Other landmark trees coincide with the generally older housing stock. Street trees have an important role in helping to define the character of many areas; enhancing the street scene and softening the hard urban environment in a variety of areas in Reading. Trees feature significantly within the character and appearance of most of the 15 conservation areas in the Borough. They also form significant parts of the landscape along the Thames, Kennet and Holybrook rivers, alongside the railways, and on the various arterial roads running into and out of the centre of Reading.

2.3 Trees provide considerable benefits:

- They are a significant feature of the character of many streets, reinforcing their scale and proportion, enhancing their attractiveness and bringing a sense of well-being to local residents;
- They screen undesirable features, enhance privacy and add greenery and colour;
- They provide habitat for wildlife and are a vital component of the town's green infrastructure providing corridors to link green spaces;
- They improve air quality by removing gaseous air pollutants, such as ozone and nitrous oxides, and particulate matter such as soot and smoke and releasing oxygen;
- They reduce noise, particularly noise from traffic;
- They reduce surface water runoff and flooding caused by heavy rain;
- They provide shelter and shading from wind, rain and sun and reduce urban temperatures (especially important with regard to climate change adaptation);
- They are of historical importance;
- They have been shown to contribute to better mental health.

However, trees can pose risks to the general public:

- Health and safety to the general public through falling trees and branches
- Subsidence damage to property
- Damage to footways
- Damage to underground services

These risks are compounded by the maturing and aged nature of the tree stock in the Borough.

2.4 Trees are a vital part of the attractiveness and the image of Reading as a place. They form an important part of the street scene and skyline of the town, they contribute to the impression of Reading at entrances to the town from outside, they make up a large part of views of Reading from the train and along the waterways in the Borough. They are valued by residents and visitors and those who work in Reading.

2.5 Reading began its major development in the 19th century supporting major employers, such as Huntley and Palmers, Sutton Seeds, various brick and tile works and Simmonds Brewery. To support these industries, rapid residential development took place. This phase of the town's evolution created its network of characteristic street tree planting. London Road, Caversham Road, Kendrick Road and numerous side roads were planted with stately Plane trees in the form of avenues or were lined with Lime trees. Numerous parks, recreation grounds and open spaces were laid out at this time, all using trees as an important component of their design and legacy. Today we are fortunate to benefit from the significant tree planting that took place in the Victorian and Edwardian eras and, to a lesser extent, in later periods.

2.6 Typical with other urban areas, tree planting and management in Reading suffered after each of the world wars due to the change of priorities and economic conditions. Post World War two saw significant development and redevelopment with little emphasis on planting trees. Since the 1980's, there has been an increase in tree planting with greater appreciation of the need to protect and plant trees to enhance the appearance and attractiveness of existing and new residential areas and of their value for biodiversity. Perhaps some of the most prominent publicly owned trees visible to most people are street trees, of which Reading is fortunate to have several main routes and side streets lined with traditional, large, mature specimens. During recent decades, particularly the 1980's and early 1990's, there has been "experimental" planting with alternative species selection seeking to resolve the inherent problems associated with the age and condition of Victorian/Edwardian species. Unfortunately not all have been successful, and random varied planting has contributed to a loss of landscape character.

2.7 Trees provide considerable benefits in terms of appearance and softening, especially in hard urban environments of high density, intensive development. They are of importance to wildlife, supporting a range of species and providing links or stepping stones across our urban areas, contributing to the Borough's aims and objectives for biodiversity, conservation and enhancement as set out in Reading Biodiversity Action Plan. Trees are important regulators and stores of water and help to slow surface water flows that can contribute to flooding. They provide shade from the sun and protection from strong winds.

2.8 The majority of Reading's trees are in private ownership. The largest tree resource in Reading is within private gardens and communal areas. Collectively these trees make a major contribution to the landscape value and biodiversity of the Borough. Many are afforded legal protection under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 if they are within a Conservation Area or are subject to a Tree Preservation Order. The Council has a responsibility to protect trees on private land by serving Tree Preservation Orders. There are over 900 Tree Preservation Orders in the Borough.

2.9 The Council encourages the management of trees in accordance with sound arboricultural standards and associated practices and resists inappropriate felling. It also encourages tree planting on private owned land by providing advice and information. As a result of the Council's planning policies, additional trees are secured as part of new development proposals and significant numbers of new trees have been planted in the public realm in recent years as a result of the Council's involvement in the "Trees for Cities" initiative.

2.10 The Council manages and plants trees on its own land across the Borough. It is directly responsible for trees alongside highways, and at parks, school grounds, care homes, cemeteries and other open spaces. The

Council has now embarked on a survey of all its trees to assess their condition and any health and safety risks. The capture of comprehensive information will enable the Council to manage its tree stock more effectively for future generations and satisfy its health and safety responsibilities.

2.11 In recent years there has been a steady increase in the numbers of street trees that have been felled for a variety of reasons. Many of the traditional streets now have gaps emerging where replacements haven't been planted. In addition, it is now rare for new developments to include street trees adjacent the highway. Little new street tree planting has taken place in recent years, partly because of a lack of resources but also because of constraints due to underground services, street furniture, limited pavement widths, highway visibility requirements, etc.

2.12 The Council is an active partner with the "Trees for Cities" Charity, in seeking to increase tree cover in the Reading urban area. "Trees for Cities" is a charity that raises funds and contributions through sponsors to provide trees and run activities related to trees. Its priorities include strategic themes that focus on areas of low tree-cover and high deprivation, planting trees for food & the regeneration of street planting.

3.0 ISSUES

3.1 Tree Coverage

3.1.1 Many of the older areas of the Borough have a good coverage of trees. The inter war and early post war suburbs of north and west Reading also, generally, have good tree cover. However, many of the more recently developed areas of the Borough are characterised by a lack of tree cover. This is particularly marked in central Reading, in south Reading and parts of inner west Reading. Tree coverage for the Borough has now been mapped (see separate Tree Coverage Map) and this highlights areas where there is poor (less than 10%) tree coverage. These areas often correspond with areas that are acknowledged as the more deprived parts of the Borough.

3.2 The Condition of Reading's Tree Stock

3.2.1 As we have seen in previous sections, the great periods of tree planting in Reading were in the Victorian and Edwardian eras of the mid to late 19th Century and the early part of the 20th Century. Large numbers of trees were planted in these periods in what are now the inner areas of the Borough. They now make up the greater part of the tree resource of the town. Unfortunately large numbers of these trees are now reaching maturity and moving into old age. Increasingly these trees are becoming diseased or are dying and need maintenance or removal. Increasingly they are a liability in terms of maintenance costs and, potentially, pose a health and safety risk.

3.2.2 This raises a number of issues:

- There is increasing tension between the need to remove older trees because of perceived risk and the desire to protect trees from unnecessary felling;
- The increased cost of on-going inspections, management and maintenance of the remaining tree stock
- Relatively little succession planting is being undertaken to ensure trees replace those that will inevitably have to be removed;
- Local authority resources for replacement and new tree planting and the essential subsequent watering and maintenance of young trees are very limited

As a consequence of the age of the tree stock, large numbers of trees could need to be removed in a relatively short space of time in the next few years, severely affecting the character and appearance of large parts

of the town. Street trees in particular, will have to be removed in increasing numbers for safety reasons. This issue therefore forms a major consideration in this strategy.

3.3 Risk Management

3.3.1 Responsible governance and the health and safety and financial risks of not managing tree stocks mean that the Council and other organisations are having to address the risk. Increasingly sophisticated risk management regimes, partly driven by insurance requirements, means that the Council and other responsible organisations are taking the risks that trees can pose to people and property seriously. Reading Borough Council has now embarked on a long-term programme of methodical survey and inspection of all trees for which it is responsible. This will provide spatial evidence of the condition and age of the Council's tree stock. This action is likely to lead to the treatment and/or felling of a significant number of trees that are now reaching the end of their lives and which have become dangerous. This could diminish tree cover in many parts of Reading, particularly in many of its older areas.

3.4 Community Pressures

3.4.1 More than ever, trees are seen as a nuisance by an increasing number of householders. There is constant pressure to remove trees from private land. There are also instances of pressure to remove trees that are the responsibility of the Council. People complain about loss of light, root damage, subsidence, problems with leaf fall, the sticky substances from Lime trees and other trees, potential damage and danger of falling trees or limbs, etc. This intolerance of trees is leading to the steady loss of trees, again usually of the larger, older trees that offer so much to the amenity and character of an area.

3.4.2 Conversely, there is also increasing pressure on the Council to protect more trees. The preparation, serving and subsequent administration of Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) is resource intensive. Making additional orders year on year adds to the resources needed to administer complaints and applications for works or felling. The Local Authority needs to be more prudent about making TPO's and determine priorities for such protection. The Tree Strategy will help in determining those priorities.

3.5 Areas of low tree cover

3.5.1 While many of the older parts of Reading are characterised by tree lined avenues and a high density of street trees, other parts of the Borough are almost bare of trees and as a result have limited character. These areas will also be less adaptable to future climate change. They are often less affluent areas where residents can often not afford to purchase and maintain trees on private land. Many of these areas would benefit greatly from some street tree or frontage planting. Recent tenant surveys have pointed to the dissatisfaction of residents of council house properties with the environment of estates and the Council is now looking to implement tree planting, including street tree and frontage planting, in parts of south Reading and elsewhere.

3.6 Climate Change

3.6.1 Trees have a significant role in mitigating the consequences of climate change. Planting trees complements other actions to reduce the effects of the use of fossil fuels and the emissions of carbon dioxide by absorbing CO_2 from the atmosphere and locking it away for decades or even centuries. They help in buying valuable time as society makes the transition to a low carbon lifestyle.

3.6.2 Scientific opinion is that, in general, future years will be hotter and dryer in summer with milder, wetter winters. The differences could

be significant and government policy is now promoting adaptation to inevitable climate change, in particular hotter temperatures and droughts in summer, and more rain and more extreme weather events in winter months.

3.6.3 Trees can make a positive contribution towards reducing the effects of future climate change [extremes of weather] by dissipating the impact of heavy rainfall, reducing urban temperatures, providing shade, protection against the detrimental effects of sunlight and positively helping in reducing household energy bills. The preference will be to use large canopy species that provide more benefits for climate adaptation and wildlife. There will also be a need to use trees species that can tolerate a changing climate of extreme weather conditions, particularly higher temperatures and drier summers.

3.6.4 With a changing climate it will be increasingly important for wildlife that green infrastructure, in which trees are a vital component, is linked to enable species to move across the landscape in order to adapt to climatic conditions.

3.7 Wildlife/Biodiversity

Trees and woodlands are a vital for wildlife, providing food and habitats for invertebrates, birds and mammals, and providing habitat, links and stepping stones for the movement of wildlife across urban areas.

In an increasingly unpredictable and climatically stressed world the value of biodiversity will be ever more important. On the other hand, climate change will speed-up the rate at which biodiversity is lost, by:

- Accelerating habitat loss: Small islands of habitats may not be able to sustain themselves;
- Causing changes in the range of species;
- Effecting changes in physiology and phenology (timings of natural events such as bud burst);
- Leading to increased extinction rates.

It will therefore be increasingly important to both manage our woodland habitats and trees and to provide links between them.

A healthy and wildlife friendly urban tree stock will be needed to facilitate movement of species across the Borough and it will be important to both retain and plant trees in a coordinated manner to consolidate, enhance and extend the Borough's green infrastructure. Native species support a greater diversity of wildlife than non-native species. Native species should be planted in preference to non-native species where appropriate.

There are more than 150 hectares of woodland across the Borough. For centuries, woodlands were traditionally managed for timber, charcoal and firewood. At the turn of the 20th Century, demand for home grown woodland products decreased and traditional woodland management declined. This has had a detrimental impact on biodiversity.

Traditionally managed woodlands have a greater diversity of plants and animals than unmanaged woodlands with different plants and animals relying on the diversity of habitats it produces for all or part of their life cycles. This decline in woodland management has greatly decreased the value of our woodlands for biodiversity and is probably the most important threat to our woodlands. It will be important to ensure that our woodlands are managed. The Council, in consultation with Natural England, The Forestry Commission and the Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum is progressing the production and implementation of woodland management plans.

Veteran or Ancient trees are of significant biodiversity and cultural value; they provide deadwood, an important habitat for invertebrates and fungi, roosting sites for bats and nesting sites for birds and are a link

to our past. There will be a need to identify and protect our veteran trees and to manage them appropriately.

Standing and fallen deadwood is an important habitat for invertebrates and fungi and the birds and mammals that feed on them. There will be a need to retain standing and fallen deadwood where health and safety considerations allow.

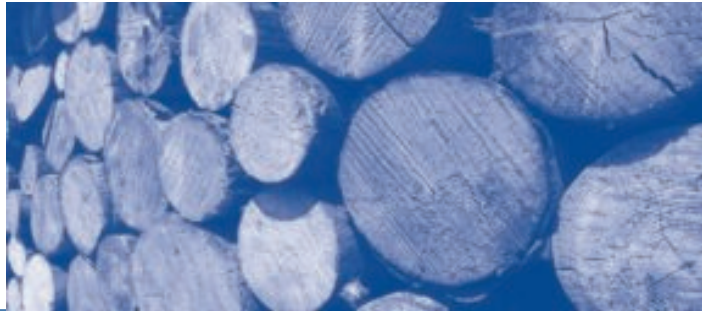
In addition to woodlands Reading also hosts a number of other important habitats, particularly grassland areas such as the Kennet Valley Meadows. it will be important to ensure that tree planting schemes do not have a detrimental impact on these habitats.

3.7.1 Trees are a vital component of the biosphere and numerous plants, animals and fungi depend upon them. They host numerous invertebrate species and provide food for birds, bats and other vertebrates and provide nesting and roosting sites. Standing and fallen deadwood is important for a number of specialist invertebrates and fungi and can be of particular biodiversity importance.

3.7.2 As a result of climate change, the urban environment is likely to become more harsh and unfriendly for the survival of many species that contribute to the biodiversity of Reading. It is important to retain and protect existing trees for the value that they provide as habitat. New tree planting of the right type can help the survival of species and the development of new habitats. Trees are also an important component of green infrastructure links which are now being promoted as an aid to diversity of species in the Borough. It will be important to retain and plant groups and lines of trees to link and enhance areas of biodiversity value and thus enable species to thrive. The priorities for such planting will be indicated on the Reading Borough Local Development Framework Proposals Map which is due to be published in the early part of 2010.

3.8 Trees and Development

3.8.1 Although the Council operates strong planning policies that seek to protect trees on development sites and to achieve new planting as part of new developments, developers tend to resist the allocation of reasonable amounts of space for landscaping and tree planting, particularly in the high density forms of development that have occurred in recent years. There is a need to develop policies, proposals and practices that achieve better levels of tree planting and landscaping in all new development. New development should include the provision of new street or frontage tree planting, particularly in order to balance the impact of more intensive development.



3.9 Street Trees

3.9.1 Planting and establishing urban street trees on or close to the highway presents various challenges: competition for space on pavements, poor soil, vandalism, reflected heat, drought, effects on visibility, street lighting, etc. They need considerable maintenance, certainly in the early years following planting if trees are to become established. There will continue to be concerns over matters such as root lifting/damage of carriageways and footways, damage to highway drains and underground services, autumn leaf falls, etc. Replacement is costly. Despite the considerable benefits that they bring, these trees can be viewed as liabilities with considerable longer term resource implications.

3.9.2 On the other hand, as outlined previously, there is growing pressure to take positive action to reinstate street trees for their numerous environmental and associated benefits. This strategy is intended to provide a clear approach to develop, protect, replant and enhance street trees in the Borough.

3.10 Resources for Tree Planting

3.10.1 The Council is investing in condition surveys and is creating an inventory of its own tree stock and this involves necessary expenditure. Maintenance requirements resulting from tree inspections will absorb existing budgets. The local authority currently does not have identified budgets for planting new trees. It is therefore important that all alternative sources of funding for tree planting and future maintenance are explored.

3.10.2 The Council is working with "Trees for Cities" and with various other partners to carry out targeted tree planting in the Borough in addition to, for example, continuing to undertake a wide range of tree planting initiatives by its Parks & Open Spaces Team. The Council has also embarked on projects that seek to improve the environment of areas of the Council's own housing stock. Tree planting is sought from new developments as appropriate via landscaping requirements and legal agreements. However, funding from these sources is currently limited. There is currently no clear policy on how these limited resources should be spent or what the priorities should be. It is intended that this tree strategy should set out what the priorities for the use of limited resources will be. Officers will continue the current successful working to develop programmes, projects and partnerships through the "Trees for Cities" Initiative.

3.10.3 In addition there is a need to find, obtain and use other resources for tree maintenance and planting. There are opportunities to use the voluntary sector and local communities, possibly in a tree warden scheme. Could such wardens be utilised as an extra resource to help manage our trees in the future? Should opportunities for local community involvement be initiated and developed? The Tree Council initiative from several years ago, in which several local authorities participated, provides a model for working with the community. The Housing Section is currently planting a large number of trees in parts of their estate as part of the Decent Neighbourhoods improvement works. Community volunteers are being used to carry out much of this planting.

3.11 Management of the Council's Tree Stock

3.11.1 A review of how the Council manages its tree stock needs to take place alongside the adoption of the Tree Strategy to provide the most efficient and effective management of the Council's tree stock. A consistent approach to tree management needs to be rolled out across all services/ directorates of the Council. An associated

[1] www.communities.gov.uk [2] Trees in Towns 2, DCLG, 2007 [3] A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests, Natural England, Forestry Commission, June 2007 [4] Dec 2008

management plan will set out how the Council will manage the tree stock in the future.

3.12 Utilising Tree By-Products

3.13.1 Being responsible for a significant number of trees, the Council generates considerable amounts of by-products in the form of woodchips and wood. Recycling of tree by-products has commonly turned trunks into seats, sculptures and play equipment, together with creating wildlife habitats from standing timber and lying wood. The Council must act responsibly in utilising and recycling its tree by-products in a variety of ways. Burning and/or landfill are no longer an option. Trials have been undertaken to recycle surplus woodchip from tree operations to provide bio-fuel as a renewable energy product. Wood can also be made available for other forms of wood recycling such as by the artist community or in training schemes. Revenue from these trials has contributed towards new planting of trees under the "Trees for Cities" Partnership and for other strategic tree planting. This is a process that could be developed further to provide an increased income. The Council is in discussion with operators to explore the potential of such provision.

4.0 NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

4.1 National Policy

4.1.2 The Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) publishes various guidance and best practice in relation to trees, landscaping and climate change. The DCLG website[1] indicates that not only do trees make places more attractive, but they also provide valuable habitats for wildlife, improve the air we breathe, help to conserve energy and much more. DCLG supports the planting of new trees and promotes best practice to ensure the survival of newly planted trees and ensure the efficient use of resources. DCLG sponsor programmes which involve tree planting as part of a wider strategy to improve where we live and work. It encourages tree planting as part of its urban design advice and advice in making places. These themes are picked up by other quasi government organisations such as CABE (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment), which encourages tree planting as part of "place shaping" and enhancing the public realm.

4.1.3 In 2008 the Government's response to a petition to 10 Downing Street recognised the many benefits that street trees can bring to an area and accepted the findings of the 2008 DCLG report, "Trees in Towns [2] ", that there had been a decline in the number of old, large trees and that the rate of new planting has fallen[2]." The aim of this survey was to provide up-to-date information on the national urban tree stock and urban tree management by Local Authorities. The survey identified that 52% of Local Authorities had some type of strategy that was relevant to trees and woodlands that embraced the entire district. The extent of tree strategies had significantly increased since the original survey of 1997. For example, of the 33 London Boroughs, 23 have either produced a tree strategy/policy or are in the process of doing so.

4.1.4 The Highways Act 1980 empowers the highway authority to plant trees. 'Well-Maintained Highways: Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management' issued by the Department for Transport in July 2005, Section 9.13.1, refers to the co-operation required between different parties 'to preserve and enhance the range and quality of street trees.' 'Trees and planting should

[5] This includes BS 3998, "Recommendations for Tree Work," BS: 5837:2005 "Trees in Relation to Construction," HSE, BS 4428 "Code of Practice for 6 General Landscape Operations" and NJUG 11/07.

[6] Forestry Commission – A forestry and Woodlands Framework For South East England, "Seeing The Wood For The Trees" 2004

reflect the history, architecture and tradition of places. Small pockets of poor quality planting can undermine the quality of the streetscape.' Section 9.13.3 reinforces the importance of 'a policy for the installation, management, removal and replacement of highway trees and landscaping.'

4.1.5 A Strategy for England's Trees, Woods and Forests[3] sets out the Government's vision and priorities for England's tree and woodland resource, in both rural and urban areas, over the next fifty years. The strategy provides a national policy direction, which will be developed by Natural England and the Forestry Commission.

4.1.6 The strategy identifies five key aims for government intervention in tree planting, woods and forests:

- to secure trees and woodlands for future generations;
- to ensure resilience to climate change;
- to protect and enhance natural resources;
- to increase the contribution that trees, woods and forest make to our quality of life; and
- to improve the competitiveness of woodland business and products.

4.1.7 The Delivery Plan for England's Trees, Woods and Forests Strategy[4] sets out what needs to be done to achieve the aims of the strategy:

- Building connections between ideas, partners and resources;
- Removing barriers to securer benefits more easily;
- Targeting resources to where there is need;
- Integrating delivery for greater efficiency
- Supporting effective market based approaches.

Various best practice is published by DCLG[5].

4.1.8 Public policy is now addressing the issue of climate change and, as we have seen, trees have an important role not only in relation to absorbing and storing carbon emissions but also in providing cooling, reducing energy bills, shade and water dissipation to help adaptation to inevitable climate change. Existing and emerging national policy would suggest that a high priority should be given to retaining and protecting trees, managing and maintaining trees and to planting new trees in urban areas. England's Biodiversity Strategy stresses the importance of trees to biodiversity. This is also emphasised in the Biodiversity Action Plans that cover Berkshire and Reading[6].

4.2 Regional Policy

4.2.1 The South East Plan makes reference to The Regional Forestry and Woodlands Framework, which highlights the importance of trees[6]. This framework recognises the benefits that woods offer the region and indicates that their value and contribution will decline without action to secure their future. It sets out a vision for woodlands to make an increasing contribution to the sustainable development of the South East region, in both rural and urban areas. In particular it wants to see:

- Trees and woodlands supporting the development of sustainable communities;
- improved access to woodlands to assist the health and wellbeing of local communities;
- Greater use being made of trees and woodlands for community projects and activities;
- Woodlands enhancing and protecting the region's environment, together with safeguards for the heritage within them;
- Woodland habitats and species being brought into good ecological condition;
- Increases in the economic value of woodland;
- A greater role for woodlands in attracting tourism, inward investment and other economic activity;
- Woodlands and trees, especially ancient woodlands and veteran trees, being protected from loss;

- Integrated, strategic planning of woodland management;
- Improving the skills base needed to manage woodlands;
- Increasing public awareness about woodlands and their management
- More security in relation to the financial viability of woodland management

4.2.2 The Mayor of London's Street Tree programme is committed to making London a greener city and has provided funding for 10,000 street trees over the next 4 years. Local Authorities that are also addressing the challenge include:

Various London Boroughs;
Newcastle City Council;
Bristol City Council;
Wycombe District Council;
Manchester City Council;
Rochford District Council.

4.3 Local Policy Context.

The development of a Tree Strategy will contribute to achieving the 2020 Vision of the development of Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley. The strategy will contribute to this aim through protecting existing trees with high amenity value and facilitating and encouraging the planting of new trees.

4.3.1 The Reading Borough LDF Core Strategy contains a policy (CS38) that seeks to protect trees and woodlands. Policy CS7 refers to Design and the Public Realm within which landscape plays an important role, particularly in relation to the public realm. A Sites and Detailed Policies Document that was published in early 2010, contains policies that seek to implement this Tree Strategy, in terms of landscaping in association with new development, assisting biodiversity and adapting to climate change.

4.3.2 The Open Spaces Strategy refers to tree planting as part of the improvement in quality of open spaces and their management for biodiversity. There are no written or explicit policies governing trees or tree planting elsewhere in the Council. Trees are a significant responsibility in terms of highways, parks, schools, the council's land holdings, etc., but at present there are no guiding principles related to their management and replacement, other than to act responsibly.

5.0 VISION

5.1 The Council's Vision for trees in Reading is:

Trees will play a vital role in achieving the City 2020 Vision of Reading as a Green City with a sustainable environment and economy at the heart of the Thames Valley. Looking beyond 2020, Reading will have an increasing population of healthy trees. The decline in canopy cover in the Borough will be reversed and increased by 10% by 2030 in line with period of the Council's new Sustainable Community Strategy. Trees will be protected, managed and planted to retain their strong contribution to defining and reinforcing the landscape character of the town. In addition, its river valleys, wooded ridges, woodlands, parks and open spaces, play an essential role in conserving the Victorian and Edwardian character of many parts of the town, particularly in designated conservation areas and in safeguarding and enhancing the quality and amenity of public spaces and the residential areas of the town.

Working with partners and stakeholders to maximise resources, trees will be protected, managed and planted to enhance quality of life and well being, to provide for biodiversity, to contribute to the planned regeneration of parts of the town and to contribute to objectives on carbon reduction and adaptation to climate change. Through awareness raising, all sections of the community will respect and value the role of trees within the urban environment.

6.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE STRATEGY

6.1 It is essential that trees are properly managed in accordance with clear objectives and policies. The Strategy aims to provide a strategic approach to managing and enhancing Reading's tree cover that links the Council's overall vision with other strategies and initiatives to improve the quality of place and life in Reading. We have seen from the analysis above, trees play an important role in the landscape character of Reading, in the amenity and character of individual areas within the Borough, in maintaining and enhancing biodiversity and increasingly in combating climate change. The Tree Strategy will seek, subject to available resources, to achieve the following objectives:

Objective 1:

Managing the Council's tree stock

- The Council's priority will be to continue its programme of comprehensive survey to establish the age and condition of its tree resource in order that it can assess risk and develop a proportionate approach to managing its tree stock, within the context of the remaining objectives of the Tree Strategy. Parks and Open Spaces Section will continue to carry out appropriate tree planting on its land in accordance with the policies and priorities of adopted Tree Strategy.

Objective 2:

Protecting and enhancing important landscape features.

The Council will seek to prioritise the protection, maintenance and planting of trees that contribute to:

- Maintaining the important landscape characteristics of Reading, namely the river valleys, wooded ridges, woodlands, open spaces and public spaces of the town;
- Preserving and enhancing the character and appearance of the environment of areas of the town, particularly designated conservation areas, and the amenity of other areas where trees are a notable and important characteristic of the local environment;
- Enhancing the appearance of the Central Area of Reading, particularly its various public realm;
- Enhancing the appearance of important transport routes and corridors
- Maintaining and increasing canopy cover in the Borough by 10% in the period up to 2030.

However, the Council cannot achieve the objectives of this strategy on it's own. Limited public funds will need to be supplemented by alternative funding streams and voluntary/ community action if the vision of a city of trees is to be achieved.

Objective 3:

Enhancing areas lacking tree cover.

While the Strategy prioritises the protection and enhancement of existing tree-based environments, it also recognises that some areas of the town suffer a lack of green infrastructure and an often relatively poor environment resulting from a distinct lack of trees and character. Tree planting would enhance the appearance of the environment

of these areas, in cases helping in the regeneration of housing estates, as well as bringing benefits in terms of biodiversity and adaptation to climate change.

When opportunities arise, such as new development, identifying suitable locations for new tree planting will be directed to enhancing the appearance and environment of identified residential areas with very low levels of tree cover, particularly where those areas are identified as in need of wider regeneration.

Objective 4:

Enhancing Biodiversity

The Council will seek to ensure that the management of its tree stock and woodlands is enhanced by:

- Protecting trees and woodlands, particularly ancient or veteran trees and important woodlands;
- Writing and implementing woodland management plans;
- Conserving, enhancing and extending existing green corridors and creating new ones to enhance the borough's green infrastructure;
- Ensuring that native and wildlife friendly species of trees are used in new planting schemes in most cases;
- Retaining standing and fallen dead wood habitat for biodiversity where health and safety and amenity considerations allow.

Objective 5:

Climate Adaptation

Where resources allow, and where practicable, the Council will seek to ensure the protection, maintenance and planting of trees to contribute to sequestering carbon dioxide/CO_2 and to help to adapt to the predicted effects of future climate change. This will be achieved through strategic tree planting, selecting species that are tolerant of higher temperatures, require low levels of ongoing maintenance and with large canopy cover to maximise benefits.

Objective 6:

The role of new developments.

New development will be expected to make a positive and sustainable contribution supporting the objectives of this strategy in enhancing Reading's urban environment. Such planting should be used to enhance streets and other public realm as part of planning permissions for all relevant new developments, particularly in higher density urban developments.

Objective 7:

Public awareness of trees

Engaging the public, raising awareness, providing information on tree issues. Increasingly, the benefits that trees provide to the wider community are becoming more appreciated. With increasing concerns over the need to maintain and enhance the quality of the urban environment, adapt to climate change and promote biodiversity, the Council and key stakeholders have a role in raising the profile of the importance of protecting, maintaining and planting new trees in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of its residents.

The Council will consult and inform the public on controversial proposals with regard to felling, maintenance and planting. As part of it's Action Plan, the council will prepare a consultation procedure in relation to tree matters. In line with Objective 7 the "action" in the Action Plan proposes to introduce and develop a dedicated page on the Council's website for all the Council's trees issues and responsibilities. The Council will continue to look at consultation practices to provide more information and consultation in respect of proposed planting, maintenance and felling operations.

In addition the Council and its partners will seek to raise awareness and promote the importance of trees in enhancing the quality of life and well-being of the wider community, particularly in the context of climate change. A dedicated page on tree issues will be developed on the council's website by the end of 2011.

Objective 8:

Securing the resources to deliver the strategy

The Council is well placed to champion trees and to lever additional funding and support across a range of potential sources to maximise opportunities to fulfil the objectives of the strategy. There is a need to develop alternative sources to public sector funding to provide financial resources for tree maintenance and planting. In particular the council needs to build on the excellent work that has been undertaken in partnership with "Trees for Cities" and other various partners in recent years. There is also a need to build up relationships with the voluntary sector and local communities as resources for planting and maintaining trees in local areas, providing not only enhancements of local environments but also learning and social activities that can contribute to capacity building in those areas.

The Council will explore setting up and developing partnerships with funding sources and along with voluntary and community groups seek to increase resources for tree planting including a tree warden scheme.

Objective 9:

Manage tree waste and by-products.

Proactively utilise and re-cycle tree by-products to include use of timber in the community by artists and other groups and providing material for creating bio-energy. The Council will continue to work to improve the sustainability of its tree operations.

7.0 POLICY

7.1 PROTECTION AND RETENTION

7.1.1 Statutory protection of trees

The Council will use its powers under the Town and Country Planning Act to make Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees of high amenity value, where they are of suitable health and condition and particularly where they are under imminent threat of damage or felling. In making Tree Preservation Orders, the Council will partivularly seek to protect trees in the areas that this strategy indicates are priorities for tree retention, that is:

- Areas where there is 10% or less canopy cover
- Conservation Areas;
- Wooded ridges;
- River Valleys;
- Areas of importance to future biodiversity including identified green corridors and links;
- Along identified green routes and corridors;
- Other identified areas where trees make a notable and important contribution to the amenity of the area.

7.1.2 The Council will not normally grant consent for work to a tree protected by a Tree Preservation Order unless it is satisfied that it is necessary and justified on arboricultural, health and/or safety grounds or is satisfied for another legitimate reason. The proposed removal or pruning of trees that are healthy but which are the centre of complaint, e.g. loss of TV/satellite signal, bird mess, honey dew, loss of light, leaf/fruit fall, will not be considered a legitimate reason unless there is an overriding justification and there is no alternative management possible.

7.1.3 Retention of Trees

The Planning Authority will use its powers to achieve satisfactory retention of appropriate trees within development propsals, including the service of Tree Preservation Orders and will promote "Best Practice" on integrating trees within the development and design process.

Within its own estate, the Council will normally seek to retain trees unless the loss is justified on arboricultural grounds, the tree poses an unacceptable risk to people or property, or is causing unacceptable damage to structures and infrastructure including underground services or is part of a tree management plan prepared in accordance with current best professional practice.

7.2 MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

7.2.1 The Council has recently commenced a survey of its own trees as part of its approach to managing its tree responsibilities. This will provide detailed information on the age and condition of its tree resource and will enable the Council to properly prioritise the management of the trees for which it has direct responsibility. It will also assist the Council to fulfil its legal "duty of care" with regard to health and safety. The Council will manage and maintain its tree stock to sound arboricultural practices and recognised "best practice".

7.2.2 Biodiversity

The Council will maintain and manage its own trees and woodlands to ensure that their biodiversity and nature conservation value is maximised. It will achieve this by:

- Protecting important trees
- Conserving, enhancing, consolidating and extending the green corridor network
- Using native and wildlife friendly species in planting schemes in most cases
- Implementing woodland management plans
- Retaining standing and fallen deadwood where appropriate
- Identifying veteran trees, protecting and managing them appropriately

It will encourage others stakeholders across the borough to adopt this approach

7.2.3 Climate change

The Council acknowledges the contribution and role that trees can play in reducing the effects of climate change. Therefore it will utilise the benefits they can provide e.g. reduction in household energy bills, provision of shade, reducing effects of heavy rain, reducing urban temperature, filtering pollution and will plant and manage existing trees accordingly to maximise these benefits.

7.2.4 Recycling of timber arisings

The Council will investigate the creation of a "Wood Station" to process all arisings from tree work for a variety of purposes. This resource should be seen as a potential source of revenue with a multitude of uses including materials for sculpture and other needs of the artistic community, wood for training schemes, wood turning etc. Where practicable, all proceeds from arisings and other forms of recycling will be used in the maintenance and planting of trees.

Where deemed cost effective, the Council will re-use and recycle any suitable timber and resulting woodchips and will work in partnership with such organisations as Thames Valley BioEnergy to supply surplus timber and woodchips to local biomass boilers and heat and power stations, where appropriate, for renewable energy.

Creation of potential wildlife habitats will be undertaken where appropriate by leaving timber and branches safely on site. Trunks of felled trees will continue to be used to create natural play for children.

7.3 TREE PLANTING

7.3.1 Street tree replanting

Within the context of available resources, the following areas will be the priorities for new tree planting:

- Areas where there is 10% or less canopy cover
- in designated conservation areas:
- other areas where highway trees are acknowledged as an integral feature of the character of the area;
- on the wooded ridges which are a distinctive part of the landscape character of Reading;
- where trees contribute to a defined "green corridor", which might be a main or secondary route (A, B or C classified road) or to a defined green infrastructure link between open spaces;

Other identified areas where trees make a notable and important contribution to the amenity of the area particularly where the loss of street trees results in a significant gap or gaps;

All stakeholders, the Council, developers, the voluntary sector, residents and others should have regard to these priorities.

7.3.2 Street tree replanting will be undertaken in accordance with the above priorities, subject to the following constraints:

- it should not unacceptably contravene highway safety requirements and standards;
- it should not unacceptably compromise underground drains, utilities or other services
- it should not prevent a tree becoming properly established because of inappropriate location, inadequate soils, poor ground conditions, impact of services or other factors that would prevent its natural growth.

7.3.3 The Council's Residential Estates

When opportunities arise, the Council will develop a sustainable tree planting plan with particular emphasis on those parts of its residential estate that are identified for improvement/regeneration and where trees are largely absent at present. Tree planting in these areas will seek to improve the appearance and environment of the area with opportunities to provide street trees in appropriate locations. Opportunities will be taken to use trees to enhance the public realm in these areas. Planting will be undertaken to enhance biodiversity in these areas and particularly to improve the capability of these areas to adapt to predicted climate change, such as through using large canopy species to provide shade.

7.3.4 The Council's non residential estate

Reading Borough Council is responsible for the care and management of public trees growing in a variety of situations. Apart from street trees, the Council is responsible for trees growing in parks and open spaces. In addition, the Council is responsible for other land under its administration such as schools, employment areas, care homes and various other land holdings. It needs to develop policies in relation to tree retention, maintenance and new planting, including succession planting in relation to these various non residential holdings. Parks and Open Spaces Section will continue to carry out appropriate tree planting on its land in accordance with aims and priorities of The Tree Strategy.

7.3.5 Planting on new development sites

The Draft Sites and Detailed Policies Document that was published early 2010, contain policies that refer to trees in relation to a range of matters including design, climate change and green infrastructure. These policies refer to the provision of trees including street trees as part of the design and layout of sites and in landscaping proposals.

New development increases the pressure on green infrastructure and it is reasonable to expect new development to incorporate new trees within the boundary of a site, wherever possible. The Local Planning Authority will continue to secure tree planting as part of landscaping schemes associated with new development proposals where appropriate.

The Local Planning Authority will exercise its powers to require replacements for trees to be planted in landscaping schemes or protected by a Tree Preservation Order unless there are valid reasons why it should not to do so.

7.3.6 New street tree planting

Where feasible, the Council will consider selective new street planting in areas identified as deficient in tree cover, where such planting will enhance the character and appearance of the area and provide valuable shading. However, the highway can be highly constrained and not always suitable for new tree planting. This may be achieved on Council land other than that directly adjacent to the highway.

7.3.7 Individual trees should normally be planted:

- So that they do not unduly obstruct the footpath/footway/pavement, normally the minimum walking width should be 1.8m wide;
- Where possible along the line of party walls so that they don't stand directly in front of windows or gates;

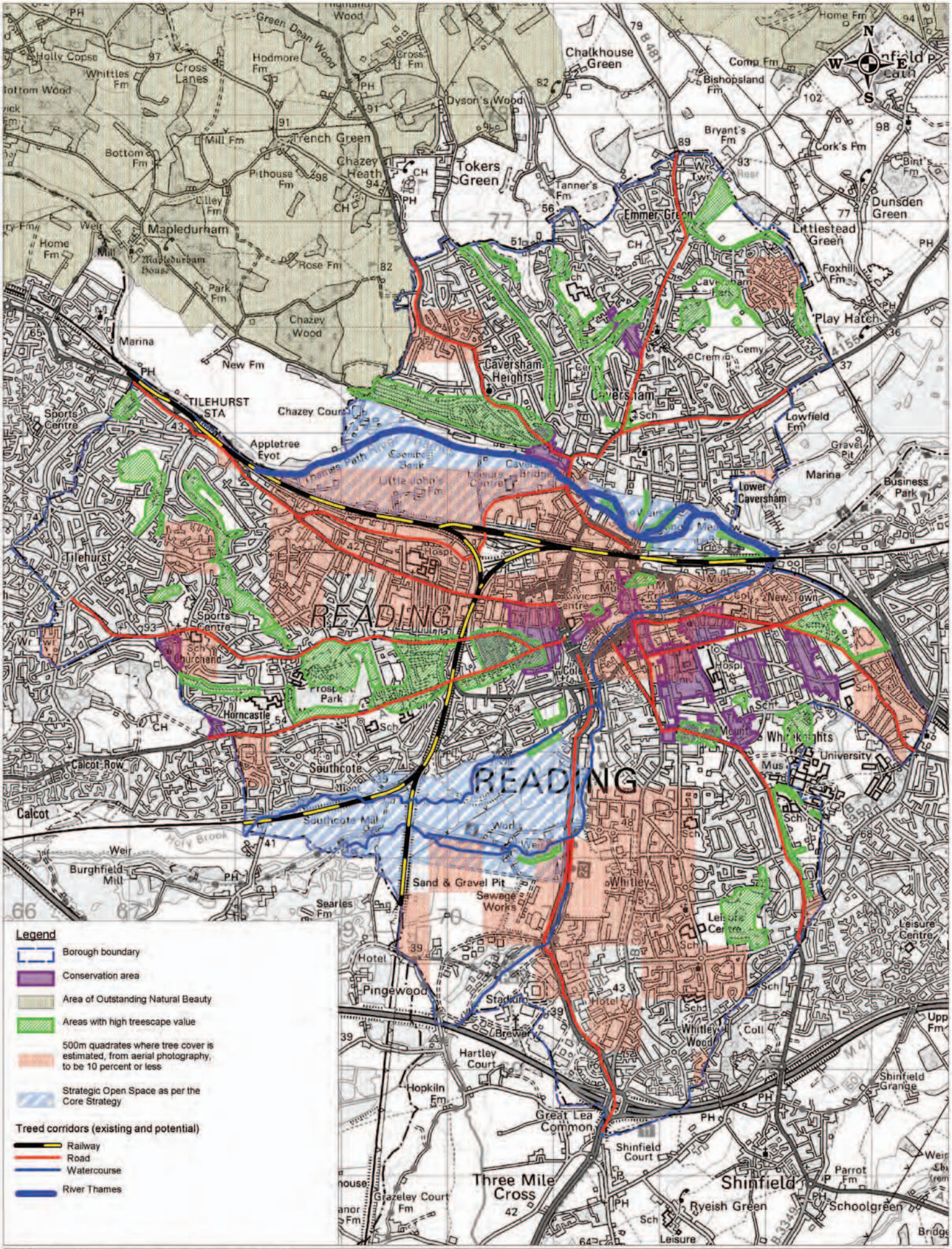
- So that they are spaced not less than 8 metres apart along the street;
- So that they do not unacceptably obstruct or interfere with light from street lights, CCTV, road signs and other equipment such as cycle stands or bus shelters;
- So that they do not unacceptably foul or damage overhead cables or underground services or structures;
- So that they do not unacceptably obstruct sightlines for road users at junctions, pedestrian crossings and traffic lights;
- So that they do not unacceptably obstruct vehicle entrances, crossovers and garages.

7.3.8 Planting design and implementation

In designing schemes involving new tree planting, priority should be given to those native species that are more drought tolerant and more likely to withstand and mitigate the effects of climate change and to adopt the principle of "The right tree in the right place". However there are occasions when other species are more appropriate, such as less tolerant native species, although long-term they may be less successful. Fruit trees will also be appropriate in many locations and should be encouraged where there is the prospect of ongoing management and maintenance. Trees should be planted using modern planting techniques with the aim of avoiding future problems inherent within an urban area such as future damage to underground services, pavements, nearby structures, infrastructure etc. Trees should be planted where they will provide greatest effect for shading and cooling. An associated planting plan will be prepared to accompany this Strategy that will identify priority areas for planting and other associated information.

7.3.9 Monitoring and Review

The Council will carry out annual monitoring against the Tree Strategy Action Plan and will periodically review the Strategy when the monitoring shows that such review is appropriate.



TITLE	READING TREE STRATEGY - OVERVIEW MAP
DRG NO: TS002	DATE: 2ND JULY 2010
DRAWN BY: GS/KR	NOT TO SCALE (DIAGRAMMATIC ONLY)

Reading BOROUGH COUNCIL
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TEAM

8.0 ACTION PLAN

8.1 The implementation of a tree strategy undoubtedly will have resource implications and its success is dependant on support from other organisations and the private sector.

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
General					
Adopted Tree Strategy	Role out adopted Tree Strategy across Council Services, public, business sector and organisations		2010 -2011	Planning Section	Planning Section/Corporate Communications
Climate adaptation	Maximise the role of trees through the protection of important trees. Increase and enhance green infrastructure. Utilise the benefits of trees to reduce urban heat island effect, provide shade, reduce effects of heavy rain, reduction of energy bills etc. Green infrastructure is the network of green (and blue) elements in and around urban areas Increase canopy cover by 10%	Protect existing trees that contribute towards climate adaptation, especially large canopy species and particularly those in urban settings. Identify priority areas where canopy cover should be safeguarded, managed and increased. An increase of just 10% in our present urban tree canopy cover is predicted to offset all but the most extreme temperature rises predicted through global warming.	Summer 2010 - ongoing 10% canopy cover increase by target date of 2030	Existing staff and resources Sustainability Manager, partnership funding	Planning/Parks Team/other Council Services. Private sector/organisations

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
		Development process and partners/ organisations			
Protect, Manage and Develop Green Corridors	Identify strategic green corridors and routes [existing and proposed]	TPO/CA protection, Planning process, manage and reinforce existing priority street trees, Planting Plan.	On-going	Strategic tree planting budget identified for street tree replacement, existing staff and resources + partnership funding	Planning/Parks/other RBC services
Biodiversity	Maximise the benefits trees provide to the biosphere	Manage trees with consideration of biodiversity when commissioning, implementing and giving permission for tree work. Create habitats with standing deadwood, log piles when/where ever possible	On-going	Existing staff and resources	Planning/Parks/other RBC services
Develop Partnerships	As part of the Council's management of trees, allocate time and resources to setting up and developing partnerships with funding sources for providing tree planting resources and with voluntary and community groups to provide resources for planting and maintaining trees in local areas, possibly through a tree warden scheme.	Corporate Communications, Develop links with trees for cities, local business links, other networking, etc.	On-going	Internal	Parks, Planning, Corporate Communication and other services as necessary

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
Introduce and develop a tree "hub" Promote/increase awareness of the importance of trees	To provide a central point for all tree issues including a dedicated area for trees on the council's website. Inform and consult the public on maintenance and felling proposals together with information and advice.	Certain helpful advice/info is already provided. Develop a strategy and provide useful general information, particularly with regard to proposed tree work, felling, planting and increased community involvement. Could also link to Warden Scheme.	On-going + 1 Year	Existing staff and resources	Corporate Communications, Parks, Planning and other services as necessary
PROTECT AND RETAIN					
Enforce/Prosecute unauthorised work [Private Trees]	Continue to respond to unauthorised pruning or tree removal of protected trees	The Council will use its relevant statutory powers to enforce and where appropriate prosecute unauthorised work.	On-going	Existing staff and resources	This task is currently undertaken by Planning and Building Control and supported by Legal Services
Protect existing trees	Continue to make and administer Tree Preservation Orders and control tree removal within Conservation Areas and other areas denoted as priorities in the Tree Strategy, particularly on development sites. As a Major landowner the Council will continue to protects it's tree stock by	Local Authorities are empowered to make TPO's in the interests of amenity and the exercise of additional controls over trees in its 15 Conservation Areas.	On-going On-going	Existing staff and resources Existing staff and resources	This task is currently undertaken by Planning and Building Control, supported by Legal Services This task is currently undertaken mainly by the Parks Team

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
	adopting a culture of retaining trees unless removal or work is necessary on arboricultural or sound management grounds Promote/awareness/advice throughout the private sector and individual landowners Develop partnership with other major land owners, businesses, organisations	Actively promote the benefits of trees in the urban environment and provide appropriate advice to the general public Create a "Reading Tree Partnership" of interested parties and stakeholders with agenda to raise the profile of trees in Reading by protection, management and planting	On-going + develop action plan 1 Year	Existing staff and resources Existing staff and resources	Parks and Planning
Protect trees that contribute towards Biodiversity	Trees are essential in maintaining and enhancing the Borough's biodiversity	Protect habitats, particularly those of protected species on Council land and through the Planning process	On-going	Existing staff and resources	Planning/Parks/contractors

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
MANAGE AND MAINTAIN					
Survey of RBC tree stock	Undertake a prioritised condition and risk assessment	Prioritise survey according to risk rating, capture info on bespoke software, take appropriate H and S action, use info to manage tree stock in future	Survey commenced spring 2009 - on-going	Funding identified, Tree Surveyor and Tree gang appointed. 2 year programme underway. *Resources will be needed to carry out remedial works identified. Once identified, works of an urgent health and safety nature will have to be actioned.*	Parks Team
Create Wood Station	Identify suitable location with hardstanding for storage of woodchip, cordwood, tree trunks, etc. to utilise by-products in a variety of ways, with adequate access and space to process material. Explore options available to maximise the benefits [including revenue] of this resource.	Consult all directorates/services, particularly the Sustainability Team and Thames Valley Bioenergy to create basic wood station to manage, season and process by-products at a suitable venue	1 year	No specific funding identified other than existing staff and resources. Partnership/grant/private funding/revenue	Parks TV Energy, council renewable energy aims, revenue, avoids landfill/burning, play build initiative, BAP habitats etc
Introduction of the Tree Warden Scheme	Set up a local network of the Tree Council's Tree Wardens, to be administered/co-ordinated by the Council.	As coordinator, the Council would organise Wardens to gather information about their local trees, get involved in local tree matters and encourage local practical projects to do with trees and woods.	1 Year	Tree Council membership is £250 per annum. Will require input from existing staff to co-ordinate/develop Wardens and set tasks	Parks/Planning

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
Introduce "one-stop-shop" approach for all private and public tree inquiries [similar to 1. above but primarily for telephone and email enquiries]	Establish a hub for dealing with all tree enquiries and information	Utilise dedicated area of RBC website for trees to provide information and contact details Utilise call centre process to deal with tree enquires, FAQ's etc	1 Year and 1 Year +	No specific funding identified other than existing staff and resources	Parks/Planning/Call Centre
Management Plan of RBC tree stock	Preparation of a plan that states how the council's trees are managed and maintained	A management plan that guides RBC staff and informs the public to demonstrate that the Council is a responsible organisation undertaking this duty, complying with sound arboricultural practices and standards	1 Year	Existing staff and resources	Planning/Parks
PLANT					
Tree Planting Plan	Prepare a comprehensive strategic planting plan	Identify suitable prioritised locations [focussing on deprived areas], species selection [particularly for climate adaptation], work with partners and other local organisations	End of 2010	No specific funding identified other than limited street tree planting over 2 years, existing staff and resources + partnership funding. [Develop partnerships, trees for cities, private funding, Section 106 and adopt-a-tree scheme[?]. Existing staff and resources]	Planning/Parks/Highways/Partners

Objective	Action	Means of implementation	Timescale	Resource scope/Issues	Responsibility
Tree Planting [Parks & Open Spaces]	Populate parks and open spaces to provide succession, replacements and to achieve 10% increase aim	Parks and Open Spaces Section will continue to carry out appropriate tree planting on its land in accordance with aims and priorities of the Tree Strategy.	On-going	Exisitng resources	Parks and Open Spaces
Street Tree Replacement Programme	Prepare annual rolling programme for replanting of street trees.	Identify priority locations from survey info of felled trees	Commence Nov 2010 ongoing	2 year Capital sum identified, existing staff	Planning/Highways/Parks
Climate Adaptation	Increase canopy cover by 10%	Strategic tree planting, especially large canopy species, integrate planting for climate adaptation within general tree planting plan. Planning process. Encourage partners/organisations to contribute	2010-2030	No specific funding identified other than existing staff and resources + partnership funding	Planning/Parks, relevant Council Services and private sector
Require appropriate Tree Planting [in relation to Tree Preservation Orders]	Require replacements when TPO trees are removed	Local Authorities are empowered to require replacement tree planting for either for approved or unauthorised TPO tree removal in the interest of the amenity	On-going	No specific funding identified other than existing staff and resources + partnership funding	This task is undertaken by Planning and Building Control
Tree Planting [in relation to development]	Require tree planting and tree retention as part of the Planning process	Trees are secured as part of development proposals and Council Planning Policies	On-going	Development funded/S 106/Existing staff and resources	This task is undertaken by Planning and Building Control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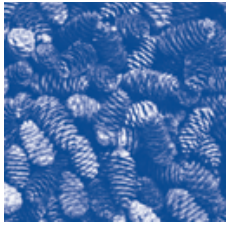
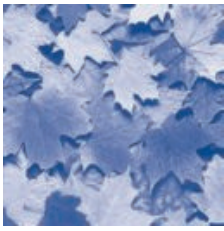
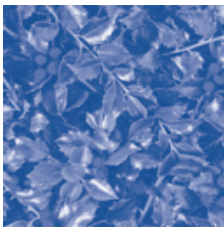






This document is about the Reading Borough Tree Strategy and the public consultation that is being undertaken from 19 February to 2 April 2010. If you need help in translating this leaflet please call 0118 937 2441 or visit the Customer Services Reception on the ground floor of the Civic Offices.

تهم هذه النشرة المخطط التمهيدي الخاص باستراتيجية شجرة بلدية ريدنغ Reading Borough Tree Strategy والإستشارة العمومية المزمع إجراؤها من 19 فبراير/ شباط إلى 2 أبريل / نيسان 2010. إذا كنت في حاجة إلى مساعدة لترجمة هذه النشرة، الرجاء الإتصال بالرقم 0118 9372441 أو قم بزيارة استقبالات خدمات الزبون Customer Services Reception في الطابق الأرضي للمكاتب المدنية Civic Offices. Arabic

این برگه معلوماتی در باره طرح ستراتیژی شهرداری ریدنگ در مورد درختان و مشوره های عمومی می باشد که قرار است از تاریخ 19 فبروری تا 2 اپریل سال 2010 صورت گیرد. اگر در قسمت ترجمه این برگه معلوماتی به کمک نیاز دارید لطفاً به شماره 01189372441 زنگ بزنید و یا به دفتر پذیزش خدمات مشتریان در طبقه اول دفاتر شهری یا Civic Offices مراجعه کنید. Dari

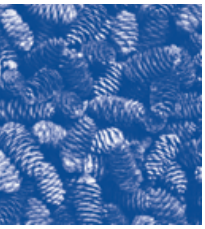
यह प्रचारपत्र ड्राफ्ट रेडिं बरा ट्री स्ट्रटेजी और 19 फरबरी से 2 एप्रिल तक होनेवाला जनता के साथ परमर्श के बारे में है | यदि आपको इस प्रचारपत्र का अनुवाद के लिए सहयोग चाहिए तो कृपया 0118 9372441 कल करें या सिभिक ऑफिस के भूतल पर स्थित कस्टमर सर्विसेस में आईए | Hindi

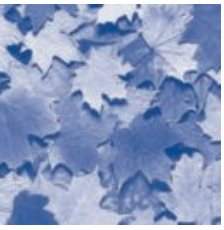
Niniejsza broszura dotyczy Projektu Strategii Rady Gminy Reading ds. rozwoju drzew oraz konsultacji publicznych z nią związanych, które będą prowadzone między 19 stycznia i 2 kwietnia 2010 r. Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać niniejszą ulotkę w innej wersji językowej, proszę zadzwonić pod numer 0118 9372441 lub udać się do Punktu Obsługi Klienta, który znajduje się na parterze w budynku Urzędu Miejskiego (Civic Office). Polish

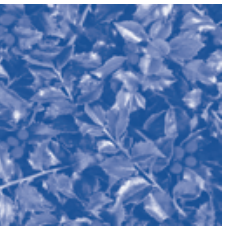
Este folheto refere-se ao Esboço da Estratégia Arbórea da Freguesia de Reading e a consulta ao público irá ocorrer entre 19 de Fevereiro e 2 de Abril de 2010. Se necessitar de assistência na tradução deste folheto por favor ligue para o 0118 9372441 ou visite a Recepção de Serviços ao Cliente no Rés-do-Chão dos *Civic Offices* (Gabinetes Cívicos). Portuguese

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਡ੍ਰਾਫਟ ਰੈਡਿੰਗ ਬਰਾ ਦੀ ਦਰਖਤ ਕਾਰਜਨੀਤੀ (Reading Borough Tree Strategy) ਅਤੇ 19 ਫਰਵਰੀ ਤੋਂ 2 ਅਪਰੈਲ 2010 ਤੱਕ ਕੀਤੀ ਜਾ ਰਹੀ ਜਨਤਕ ਰਾਏ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਬਾਰੇ ਹੈ। ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਪਰਚੇ ਦਾ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ ਕਰਨ ਵਿੱਚ ਮਦਦ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੋਵੇ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 0118 9372441 ਤੇ ਫ਼ੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜਾਂ ਜ਼ਮੀਨ ਮੰਜ਼ਲ ਤੇ ਸਿਵਿੱਕ ਦਫ਼ਤਰਾਂ (Civic Offices) ਵਿੱਚ ਗਾਹਕ ਸੇਵਾਵਾਂ ਦੀ ਰੀਸੈਪਸ਼ਨ (Customer Services Reception) ਤੇ ਆਓ। Punjabi

یہ پرچہ ڈرافٹ ریڈنگ بارو ٹری سٹریٹجی (درختوں سےمتعلق حکمت عملی) اوراس عوامی مشاورت کےبارےمیں ہے جو 19 فروری سے 2 اپریل تک عمل میں لائی جارہی ہے۔ اگرآپ کو اس پرچے کا ترجمہ کرنے میں مدد چاہیے تو برائےکرم 0118 9372441 پرفون کریں یا سوک آفسز کےگراؤنڈ فلور پرواقع کسٹمرسروسز استقبالیہ کا دورہ کریں۔ Urdu







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June 2010