

## **APPENDIX B HIGHWAY TREE REPLACEMENT POLICY**

1. The species of tree listed in Annex 1 are currently considered suitable for replacement plants on the highway. Alternative species will be considered subject to Authority Approval. The selection should be made after consideration of the following: -

- Site conditions
- Sufficient space available on site for both root development and ultimate height and spread of tree when it reaches maturity
- Species and size of any existing trees on the same street where these are appropriate to the location and in particular maintaining the visual and historical integrity of the tree planting on the street (e.g. avenue planting schemes)
- Minimising future maintenance requirements and nuisance (eg preference for small leaves, light foliage/canopy, restricting the use of large or fruiting species to appropriate locations)
- Ability to withstand extreme temperatures and drought
- Any tree diseases prevalent in the area or probable in future (as far as practicable)

2. Where possible the character of an area will be preserved by using replacement plants of a similar species of tree. If disease is present, resistant cultivars of a similar species should be used before considering alternative species.

3. All replacement trees will be containerised in 45 or 80 litre pots with a girth between 12 and 16 cm. All new plants should be suitably supported until they are sufficiently established and able to stand up un-supported during strong winds.

4. Tree grills shall only be installed in high amenity areas such as the City Centre.

5. The planting location shall be checked for the presence of utility equipment to ensure that there will be no restriction to the future growth and development of the tree and to avoid damage to the equipment both during planting and over the life of the tree.

6. The planting season for replacement trees shall be November to April inclusive. Trees shall only be planted outside this season with the written permission of the Authority.

7. Where all trees on a street are identified for replacement and the number of trees is six or more, this shall be phased such that no more than one third of the trees are replaced in any phase. The subsequent phase of planting shall take place no less than five years after the previous phase to allow the earlier replacements to become established. Where there are five or less trees on a street and all have been identified for replacement, all of the trees shall be replaced at the same time.

8. Where a tree has been identified as damaging the highway network but not otherwise in need of removal due to condition, retain and phase options shall be

considered in order to determine the most appropriate way of managing the timing of the replacement of the tree and in the interim period maintaining the highway in a safe condition. The type of work covered by 'retain and phase' includes installation of flexible paving, thinner kerbs, in-situ cast kerbs, carriageway build-outs and arboricultural works such as crown reduction. This can apply to single trees or if necessary to a whole street.

9. There shall be a process of consultation with residents to ensure they are fully aware of the replacement proposals and have sufficient opportunity to make comments or suggestions regarding the proposals.

10. All tree replacement work shall be carried out in accordance with good arboricultural practice and in particular the requirements of BS 3998: Recommendations for Tree Work, and shall take cognisance of the SCC Highway Tree Design Guide.