

PART A - Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal Name: Tree Inquiry Response (EIA ID: #2121)

EIA Author: Lucy Heyes

Proposal Outline: The report sets out how the Council will act on all of the recommendations from the Sheffield street trees Inquiry, published by Sir Mark Lowcock KCB on the 6 March 2023. The Council aims to ensure that the lessons of the Inquiry are learnt and systematic change made across the organisation to ensure that a dispute like this does not arise again in any service for which the Council is responsible.

Proposal Type: Budget

Entered on QTier: No

QTier Ref: #

Year Of Proposal: 23/24

Lead Director for proposal: Kate Josephs

Service Area: Chief Executive

EIA Start Date: 6/8/2023

Lead Equality Objective: Understanding Communities

Equality Lead Officer: Ed Sexton

Committees:

Policy Committees

- Strategy & Resources

Portfolio**Primary Portfolio:**

Street Scene & Regulations Services

EIA is cross portfolio:

Yes

Future Sheffield

EIA is joint with another organisation:

No

Overview of Impact**Overview Summary:**

The proposals aim to address all the of the recommendations of the Sheffield street trees Inquiry. In doing so, they support the ongoing aims of Street Scene & Regulations Services, in specific the management of the Streets Ahead contract and the achievements of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership. The proposals around apologies and reconciliation aim to support the ongoing recovery from the dispute and improve trust between the Council and all residents. The overarching appology will be hosted on the Council's website and be available to all. Some groups require particular apologies, these will be sent directly to them. The recommendations related to the Streets head Contract and Sheffield Street Tree Partnership, support the Council's commitment to ensuring an equity of street tree canopy cover, including increasing the benefits of this in low cover and deprived areas. This should benefit those who live in those areas. There are documented mental health benefits to green infrastructure, these proposals support those to the benefit of all residents. The actions to address wider Council issues should improve services and processes for all residents equally.

Impacted characteristics:

- Poverty & Financial Inclusion

Consultation and other engagement

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact:

Yes

The Inquiry received over 1.1 million documents and met with 159 people in private and 26 people at 32 hours of public hearings. This substantial evidence base was used to develop the Inquiry report which has been the foundation for the development of this report's recommended actions. The development of these actions has been supported by engagement with individuals and services across the Council, including the senior management, Amey and consultation with elected members. It has also been underpinned by representations from individuals, representative groups and a task-and-finish Implementation Working Group with attendees external to the Council. It also draws on the 10 May EGM, and the discussion sessions that followed it, which compiled views on implementation of the Streets Ahead and wider Council recommendations.

Impact areas:

Year on Year

Initial Sign-Off

Full impact assessment required:

Yes

Review Date:

6/1/2024

Health

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: By supporting the aims of the Sheffield Street Tree Partnership Strategy, this report supports the aims to increase the tree canopy across the city and see it more evenly distributed. There are documented benefits to wellbeing, particularly mental health, of green infrastructure. Street trees also provide physical health benefits through cutting pollution and increasing shade, reducing the temperature of urban areas in a way that most benefits those with existing health conditions or who are very young or elderly.

Name of Lead Health Officer:

Comprehensive Assessment Being Completed: No

Public Health Lead signed off health impact(s):

Disability

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: During the dispute at times the Council used accessibility reasoning to justify some of the messaging around why trees needed to be removed. These proposals do not do that, and instead support rights of those with disabilities to both access and green infrastructure.

Poverty & Financial Inclusion

Staff Impacted: No

Customers Impacted: Yes

Description of Impact: The recommendations related to the Streets head Contract and Sheffield Street Tree Partnership, support the Council's commitment to ensuring an equity of street tree canopy cover, including increasing the benefits of this in low cover and deprived areas.

Action Plan & Supporting Evidence

Outline of action plan: Implementation of the report's action as described and monitoring via the relevant boards and committees, listed within the report.

Action plan evidence: Sheffield Street Trees Partnership Strategy. Sheffield street trees Inquiry.

Changes made as a result of action plan:

Mitigation

Significant risk after mitigation measures: No

Outline of impact and risks:

Review Date

Review Date: 6/1/2024

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