

STATEMENT FROM CLLR D'AGORNE

Call- in Arboricultural Policy for the Management of Public Trees and Woodland Jun 15th

① This is timely, given the recent media attention to the Clifton Moor tree belt, which clearly hasn't been managed according to good arboricultural practice. Broadly we very much support this first step to bring all CYC practices together in one clear statement, although we feel it should explicitly extend to or cross reference policy for trees on private land where the council has influence or planning control.

② An overarching 'policy statement' should be added, endorsing the objective of increasing overall tree cover and enhancing diversity of species and age profile, with a process for reviewing progress and setting targets in consultation with interested bodies such as Treemendous, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust etc.

③ The explicit contribution trees make to mitigating air pollution in urban areas and countering climate change through water retention and summer shade should be taken into account when making decisions that affect tree cover. This would extend to requiring two semi mature replacement trees for each mature tree felled and a supplementary planning document within the Local Plan explicitly spelling out objectives for tree cover as well as a broader Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategy.

All partners of the One Planet York initiative should be encouraged to conduct a clear audit of the trees and biodiversity within their estate and impacted by any contractual arrangements so that they can adopt a strategy for extending tree cover in York wherever the opportunity arises.

④ The council can also work to promote best practice by utility operators (Policy 10 and 11) not just through highlighting protection guidelines but also through more proactive training, awareness raising and collaborative working to 'design in' tree locations and cable runs at the earliest stage of any road or other development.

As stated at the outset, this is an excellent statement of the work being done in York to do our best to maintain our tree heritage, But we should be clearer about longer term strategic approach to maintaining and enhancing tree cover and age profile in the city centre, in existing residential and amenity areas and within new developments as they come forward for approval.

CLlr Andy D'Agorne
Calling in member