

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY PANEL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	REMOVAL OF 7 TREES IN VOKES MEMORIAL GARDENS PLATFORM ROAD TO ALLOW HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	15 JANUARY 2013		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SENIOR MANAGER - CITY SERVICES		
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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#### **STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY**

None.

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

The proposed highway improvement 'Platform for Prosperity' works on Platform Road between the junction of Town Quay/ High Street to the junction of Platform Road/Terminus Terrace to provide dualling of the carriageway in both directions will require the removal of 7 trees. A minimum of 14 new London Plane trees will be planted in replacement.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To allow the removal of seven trees to enable the highway improvement works;
- (ii) To provide 14 new London Plane trees. Replacement tree size and specific planting location and layout to be agreed with a Senior Tree Officer

#### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. If the seven trees are retained they will prohibit the design for the road improvement scheme from being implemented and ultimately the road scheme could not be delivered.
2. The removal of the seven trees and their replacement with 14 London Planes will result in a more coherent and pleasing design and layout - being planted to the south of the new carriageway within the new replacement park land, which is also being delivered as part of the road project. The layout will replicate the existing avenue of London Plane trees in Queens Park on the north side of the carriageway.

#### **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. The safe retention of the seven trees would require the existing highway design to be aborted as the carriageway is to be widened on the southern side to provide additional lanes. The seven trees are located within the alignment of the new carriageway lanes, thus obstructing any new road

layout.

4. Widening the carriageway on the northern side of Platform Road would require the loss of No19 Mature London Planes subject to a TPO and the loss of Common Land (Queens Park). This has a significantly greater impact compared to the proposed tree loss.

**DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

5. The *Platform for Prosperity* scheme will implement a new dual carriageway route along a widened alignment of Platform Road from the Town Quay/High Street junction through to Canute Road and Terminus Terrace. This will allow the existing gyratory system around the western and northern sides of Queen's Park to be downgraded to a local access route and the eastern section of Queen's Terrace to be closed as a through route
6. The improvement scheme will be carried out in a series of phases. The first phase is due to start in April 2013, with the diversion of the existing utilities. Prior to this Phase of work, the seven trees and a hedgerow within Vokes Memorial Gardens need to be removed before bird nesting season, to enable access from April 2013.
7. The seven trees with Vokes Memorial Gardens range in age and variety.  
One – Silver Maple  
One Purple Norway Maple  
One Norway Maple  
Three – Rowan  
One Sycamore.
8. These seven trees are randomly spaced and placed within Vokes Memorial Gardens.  
The Maples are in alignment with each other at the back edge of the footway, well established within the triangle island of parkland that forms part of Vokes Memorial Gardens. The Silver Maple is in close proximity to the vehicle entrance to Triangle car park. The Norway Maples are located either side of the vehicle entrance to the ABP Pan Handle car park.  
  
The Rowans are all located within the hedgerow which separates Vokes Memorial Gardens and the ABP Pan Handle Car Park.  
  
The Sycamore is located on the eastern boundary of Vokes Memorial Gardens in close proximity to the footway leading into Dock Gate 4.
9. It is intended that replacement trees will be planted within the final phase of works along the northern boundary of the new park land (replacement Vokes Memorial Gardens) when the replacement park is laid out and landscaped.
10. External Consultation has been conducted regarding the Prosperity for platform Road project, comprising four elements, a leaflet, 3 day exhibition and a site walk –over with Open Space Groups & Societies and an interactive webpage.
11. Consultation was undertaken with the Open Space groups and societies,

(SCAPPS, City of Southampton, & The Open Space Society) in February 2012, including a site walk over to discuss in outline terms the design and the proposals for the loss of trees as a direct result of the road widening and the outline design for their replacement.

12. At the end of May 2012 a three day public exhibition was held, inviting comments and feed back regarding the overall project and the road design. 83 people attended the open days. A leaflet was produced for the exhibition which was also published on the Councils website.
13. Internal consultation has taken place with Platform for Prosperity Project Board, finance, legal and the Parks and Open Spaces teams, regarding the need to remove the trees and to provide replacement trees.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

14. All works are being funded from the Platform for Prosperity budget previously approved by Cabinet.

### **Property/Other**

15. The replacement park in which the replacement trees will be planted will be within the ownership of the City Council.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

### **Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:**

16. In accordance with the Constitution any decision relating to council trees, unless delegated, will be determined by the Planning Panel.

### **Other Legal Implications:**

17. The trees are not subject to Tree Preservation Orders.
18. Platform Road lies within the Canute Road Conservation Area and the removal of any trees is subject to the Town & Country Planning Act 1990. Under section 211 of this Act anyone proposing to cut down or carry out work on a tree in a conservation area is required to give the Local Planning Authority six weeks' notice (a "section 211 notice").

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

19. None.

**KEY DECISION?** No

**WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:**

Bargate

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

### Appendices

1.	Location Plan V3415
2.	Platform for Prosperity Road Improvement: Arboricultural report
3.	Platform for Prosperity Road Design

### Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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### Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes/No
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### Other Background Documents

#### Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)

Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)

1.	None	
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