

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY PANEL			
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	REMOVAL OF SIX TREES - STATION QUARTER			
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	22 APRIL 2014			
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	HEAD OF CITY SERVICES			
<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>				
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
None.

### **BRIEF SUMMARY**

Southampton Station Quarter North – additional tree removal – four Fraxinus Excelsior (Common Ash) at Southbrook Road car park in order to accommodate a two tier cycle stacking storage facility; and the removal of two Acer Platanoides (Norway Maple) between south east corner of Frobisher House and the bottom of Wyndham Place – in order to facilitate the rebuilding of the retaining wall of the planting bed as part of the overall re-landscaping scheme.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To allow removal of six trees to improve the station forecourt and to improve cycle and pedestrian links from the station; and
- (ii) To provide four Alnus Cordata (Italian Alder) to replace two Norway Maples, the replacements for the four Fraxinus Excelsior (Common Ash) to be included within the overall landscaping scheme.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. If the trees are retained at Southbrook Road car park then this will prevent the installation of the cycle storage unit. The trees have been assessed as C grade trees and therefore within BS5837:2012; as trees of low quality with an estimated remaining life expectancy of at least 10 years, or young trees with a stem diameter below 150mm. The loss of these trees will be mitigated across the whole project as a greater number of new trees are to be planted than removed.
2. If the Norway Maples are retained within the raised bed between Frobisher House and the bottom of Wyndham Place this would prevent part of the re-landscaping of the overall scheme. This raised bed is showing signs of root damage from the Maples in places.

## **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

3. Southbrook Road car park – alternative locations for the cycle storage have been discounted as they either do not provide sufficient quantity of storage or would block access for deliveries and collection of money relating to the businesses operating within the station.
4. Between south east corner of Frobisher House and the bottom of Wyndham Place: retain the existing brick wall planter. Discounted, as the new wall forms part of a suite of structures designed for the new public realm area in front of Frobisher House. Retaining the existing wall would compromise the overall aesthetic of the wider scheme improvements.
5. Extend the new wall south and east. Discounted due to the footway of Wyndham Place already being quite narrow. Services exist immediately south and diverting these would be too costly.

### **DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)**

6. Between south east corner of Frobisher House and the bottom of Wyndham Place – originally the existing trees were to be retained. However, during the detailed design it became apparent that the new retaining wall would need to be moved north to avoid an underground pipe. The result being the existing structure would need to be removed. Damage to the crown of these trees and significant disturbance to the roots on the east side would be unavoidable.
7. The loss of the two Norway Maples will be mitigated by the planting of four *Alnus Cordata* (Italian Alder). The replacement trees will be planted with suitable root barriers / deflectors so that in the long term the surrounding structure will be protected.

## **RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital/Revenue**

- 8 All works are being funded as part of the project. Funds are from LSTF (Local Sustainable Transport Fund, Section 106 and National Station Improvement Programme) budget previously approved by Cabinet.

### **Property/Other**

- 9 The replacement trees will be planted on land within the ownership of the City Council.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

### **Other Legal Implications:**

- 11 The trees are not subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

## **POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS**

12. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Bargate
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**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1.	Southampton Station Quarter – Landscape Proposals Planting Plan 201015-BE-3000-001
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**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.	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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