

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY PANEL		
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	REMOVAL OF 2 TREES IN OXFORD STREET TO ALLOW HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENTS		
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	19 JULY 2011		
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	HEAD OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES		
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>			
None.			

### **SUMMARY**

The proposed highway improvement works on Oxford Street, between Terminus Terrace and Latimer Street, to a single level surface will require the removal of two highway trees. A minimum of five new semi-mature trees will be planted in replacement.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- (i) To allow the removal of two trees to enable the highway improvement works.
- (ii) To provide five new trees. Replacement tree species, size and location to be agreed with a Senior Tree Officer.

### **REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1 If the two trees are retained they would suffer serious damage to their roots during the works, which would compromise their health and stability.
- 2 The removal of the two trees and their replacement with five uniform species will result in a more coherent and pleasing design layout.

### **CONSULTATION**

- 3 The comments of Murtaza Mahmood, the Balfour Beatty engineer in charge of this project, have been incorporated within this report.

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

- 4 The safe retention of the two trees would require the existing pavement to be retained, thereby nullifying the objective of a single level surface.

### **DETAIL**

- 5 Southampton City Council is now working in partnership with Balfour Beatty to deliver the highways service for the city. The new partnership will provide a more structured, coordinated and better managed approach to essential highway repairs and maintenance, and will deliver high quality, value for money planned improvements throughout the city.  
One of the planned improvements is along Oxford Street, within the Oxford Street Conservation Area.
- 6 The improvement scheme will be carried out in a series of phases the first of which is due to start in October 2011. The initial phases, between Terminus Terrace and Latimer Street, will convert the current multi-level highway surfaces to a single-level shared surface.. Later phases will improve the

remaining section, which shall continue to have vehicular traffic.

- 7 The conversion process to a single level surface will require reduction in the levels of the footways, where the two trees are located, by up to 200mm. This reduction in levels will result in the severance of a significant proportion of the tree's roots rendering them more prone to wind-throw and infection by pathogens.
- 8 The two trees are a young 5 metre tall Chanticleer pear, outside The Olive Tree restaurant, and a semi-mature 8 metre tall Field maple, outside the Oxford Brasserie restaurant.

The Chanticleer pear was planted 5 years ago at the request of the then proprietor of the Olive Tree restaurant.

The Field maple was planted 15-20 years ago and has established well. Unfortunately, this is not an appropriate choice of species for planting close to properties due to its natural wide-spreading nature. There have been complaints by the Oxford Brasserie about the encroachment of the canopy and, as a result, the tree has been pruned twice to control its lateral spread.

- 9 It is intended that an additional three trees will be planted within the initial phases and an additional three trees planted in later phases, along the western section of Oxford Street, between Latimer Street and Bernard Street.

It would be beneficial if there could be some kind of continuity in all phases of construction works, i.e. the same species of tree

## **FINANCIAL/RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

### **Capital**

10 None.

### **Revenue**

11 None.

### **Property**

12 None.

### **Other**

13 None.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

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

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

### **Other Legal Implications:**

- 15 Oxford Street lies within the Oxford Street 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**

16 None.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices**

1	Location map.
2	Photograph of trees and proposed street scene.

**Documents In Members' Rooms**

1.	None.
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**Background Documents**

Title of Background Paper(s)

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

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**Background documents available for inspection at:**

**FORWARD PLAN No:**

**KEY DECISION?**

**NO**

<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	Bargate
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