

DECISION-MAKER:	PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY PANEL			
SUBJECT:	REMOVAL OF THREE TREES IN MAYFLOWER PARK			
DATE OF DECISION:	18 FEBRUARY 2014			
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF CITY SERVICES			
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>				
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY

None.

BRIEF SUMMARY

The highway improvement works 'Platform for Prosperity', is a two phase programme of works on Platform Road between the junction of Platform Road/Terminus Terrace (phase 1) and Town Quay/High Street junction to De Vere Roundabout (phase 2). The works providing dualling of the carriageway in both directions. The works in the second phase will require the removal of three trees. A minimum of six new trees will be planted in replacement.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To allow the removal of three trees to enable the highway improvement works; and
- (ii) To provide six new trees; replacement tree species, size and specific planting location and layout to be agreed with a Senior Tree Officer.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. If the three 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 three trees and their replacement with six new trees being planted in a location nearby will not have a significant impact upon the visual amenity the trees currently provide.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. The safe retention of the three trees would require the existing improvements design to be aborted. This will cause delay to delivery and may result in a section of the scheme not be delivered due to the constraints of land availability in this locality. This will result in incoherent provision of highway improvements as the carriageway is to be widened on the southern side to provide additional lanes.

4. The lane widening on Town Quay (south side) will also require subsequent re-provision of the footway, this requires the removal of one tree which is directly in the alignment of the new footway.
5. The construction of the new footway will impinge upon the roots of two trees. The works to deliver the new footway will cause significant damage to these trees root systems and for this reason their removal is sought.
6. An alternative solution would be to widen the carriageway on the northern side of Town Quay, rather than southern side. However, this would require the loss of two mature, high quality London Plan trees, impacting the visual amenity of this location. Additionally the alignment of the carriageway would be in closer proximity to buildings of significant heritage value including the City Walls and the Wool House. This proposal has a significantly greater impact compared to the proposed tree loss and has been disregarded for these reasons.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

7. The *Platform for Prosperity* scheme will implement a new dual carriageway route along a widened alignment of Platform Road from Platform Road / Terminus Terrace (phase 1) and Town Quay / High Street junction to De Vere Roundabout (phase 2). 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. The improvements will provide two lanes of traffic in both directions, removing pinch points on Town Quay and congestion from Dock Gate 4.
8. The improvement scheme will be carried out in a series of phases. The first phase has commenced – Platform Road/Canute Road intersection to Town Quay / High Street junction. The second phase of work, Town Quay High Street junction to De Vere Roundabout, will commence Spring 2014.
9. The three trees and a small section of hedgerow within Mayflower Park need to be removed before bird nesting season to enable access from April 2014 to commence preliminary works in diverting services to beneath the new footway.
10. The three trees with Mayflower Park range in age and variety.
 - One – Foxglove (Reference T38)
 - One – Conifer (Reference T39)
 - One – Holm Oak (Reference T41)
11. The Holm Oak is located outside of the park, on the highway verge which separates the road and the park. This tree is isolated and is randomly spaced and placed within the highway verge.
The Foxglove and Conifer are in alignment with each other forming part of the park's tree line screening on the park's northern boundary. Both are well established within the park's tree line.
12. It is intended that replacement trees will be planted within the final phase of works of landscaping the boundary between the new footway and Mayflower Park. A location for the replacement trees has not been determined, but it is

anticipated the replacement trees will form part of these landscaping works. It is intended to agree the location, once the road design details are finalised, which includes data relating to the location of utilities. The replanting will need to be not in conflict with the services beneath the footway. The service diversions are still subject to design consideration.

13. External Consultation has been conducted regarding the Prosperity for Platform Road project, comprising four elements: a leaflet, two separate exhibitions in respect of the two phases of work and a site walk-over with Open Space Groups and Societies and a webpage and email updates to all consultees and members of the public who have registered to receive updates.
14. Consultation was undertaken with the Open Space Groups and Societies, (SCAPPS, City of Southampton, and The Open Space Society) in December 2013 and January 2014, 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.
15. 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

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

Property/Other

17. 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:

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

Other Legal Implications:

19. The trees are not subject to Tree Preservation Orders.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

20. None

KEY DECISION? No

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Bargate
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Road Improvements Design and trees requiring removal Plan 13ALM021017
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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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