

DECISION-MAKER:	PLANNING AND RIGHTS OF WAY PANEL		
SUBJECT:	REMOVAL OF COUNCIL OWNED TREES FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A REPLACEMENT RAILWAY BRIDGE		
DATE OF DECISION:	25 MARCH 2014		
REPORT OF:	HEAD OF CITY SERVICES		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
NONE

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report covers the request from Dyer & Butler, working on behalf of Network Rail, to remove five trees owned by Southampton City Council on Bridge Road - Woolston

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. To allow the removal of the trees once a suitable planting scheme has been agreed and the trees are to be planted back in the same location.

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

2. The five London Plane trees are located next to the railway bridge on highways land. They are required to be felled to assist with the installation of the new replacement railway bridge.
3. The trees are located in the area where the 500 tonne crane will operate. There is insufficient room for the cranes safety legs to extend or for the crane boom to safely operate to lift the bridge in to position.
4. If the request to fell the trees was refused, I have been informed that the railway line would have to be closed in the future for health and safety reasons.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

5. Refuse – This would result in the closure of the railway line with possible negative repercussions to the City Council.
6. Have the bridge built in smaller sections and assembled in situ. This idea was considered at tender stage and was rejected as a viable option as it would result in a severe loss of head room from the carriageway to underside of structure, thus limiting traffic passing under.
7. Working from the southern side of the bridge has been ruled out as there is insufficient room for the crane to operate. The only location available is to the North of the bridge.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

- 8. An enquiry was logged with SCC from Dyer & Butler in which the request to call and discuss further the request to remove the council owned trees.
- 9 A site visit was made with a representative from Dyer & Butler and the request to remove the trees was discussed.
- 10. All other possibilities were discussed at this meeting and valid reasons were provided. It was clear that the only location suitable to conduct the works was to the North of the rail bridge.
- 11. An email was sent to Dyer & Butler with questions. An email from Dyer & Butler was received with the answers to my questions added.
(See Appendix 1)
- 12. Replacement tree planting will be replaced in the same location and extra planting will be placed in the local area to increase the canopy cover for the future. A budget of £2000 has been allocated for the replacement planting. These trees will be funded by Network rail.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

- 13. No impact on tree budget or revenue accounts.
- 14. All works will be funded by Network Rail

Property/Other

- 15. 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:

- 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.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

- 18. NONE

KEY DECISION? NO

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	Woolston/City Wide
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	Email from Dyer & Butler with questions answered
2.	Photograph of site

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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