

**Manchester City Council  
Report for Resolution**

**Report to:** Neighbourhood & Environment Scrutiny Committee – 3 January 2017  
Executive – 11 January 2017

**Subject:** Manchester Tree Action Plan

**Report of:** Deputy Chief Executive, Growth & Neighbourhoods

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**Summary**

The report brings the final Manchester Tree Action Plan to Executive for endorsement, as the constitutionally appropriate body for approving documents of this nature.

In July 2016 the draft Manchester Tree Action Plan was presented to Scrutiny prior to a six week period of public consultation. This report presents the final draft Tree Action Plan together with the results from the consultation. The Tree Action Plan will be an updated component of the Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Stakeholder Implementation Plan which were produced in July 2015.

**Recommendations**

That the Neighbourhoods & Environment Scrutiny Committee:

1. Notes the results from the public consultation on the draft Manchester Tree Action Plan.
2. Notes and comments on the Manchester Tree Action plan.
3. Requests updates on the Tree Action Plan as part of the annual progress report on the delivery of the Manchester Green & Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy Stakeholder Implementation Plan.

That the Executive endorses the Manchester Tree Action Plan as an integral part of the Green & Blue Infrastructure Stakeholder Implementation Plan.

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**Wards Affected: All**

<b>Manchester Strategy outcomes</b>	<b>Summary of the contribution to the strategy</b>
A thriving and sustainable city: supporting a diverse and distinctive economy that creates jobs and opportunities	Trees, as part of the City's natural environment, increase the attractiveness of Manchester as a place in which to work and invest. Jobs are created in the environmental sector through the need to plant and manage the local tree resource.

A highly skilled city: world class and home grown talent sustaining the city's economic success	Manchester competes on a world stage to attract skilled people. A high quality natural environment makes an important contribution to this.
A progressive and equitable city: making a positive contribution by unlocking the potential of our communities	An attractive tree filled natural environment can be enjoyed by all communities within Manchester and offers the potential for communities to enjoy leisure time and work together through volunteering opportunities.
A liveable and low carbon city: a destination of choice to live, visit, work	The city's tree stock plays a valuable role in storing carbon and creating a liveable city.
A connected city: world class infrastructure and connectivity to drive growth	Appropriate tree planting along transport routes can help mitigate poor air quality.

**Full details are in the body of the report, along with any implications for**

- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Risk Management
- Legal Considerations

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### **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

The Tree Action Plan will not create any additional revenue financial implications for the Council beyond what would otherwise have been funded through the revenue cash-limit budget for regular maintenance and inspection.

### **Financial Consequences – Capital**

The Tree Action Plan is a part of the Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy and Implementation Plan which seeks to provide the basis from which new bids for external funding can be developed by the Council and partners. Successful delivery will result in increased capital investment in the city's green and blue infrastructure. Investment will be on a project-by-project basis and will, wherever appropriate, be approved according to due Council processes.

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**Background documents (available for public inspection):**

The following documents disclose important facts on which the report is based and have been relied upon in preparing the report. Copies of the background documents are available up to 4 years after the date of the meeting. If you would like a copy please contact one of the contact officers above.

- Manchester Tree Strategy and Action Plan 2005-10, Manchester City Council
- Manchester's Great Outdoors: A Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Manchester 2015-25, Manchester City Council
- Manchester's Great Outdoors, Stakeholder Implementation Plan 2015-18, Manchester A Certain Future, Manchester City Council
- Manchester City Council Climate Change Delivery Plan 2010-20, Manchester City Council
- Manchester Local Plan (Core Strategy) 2012-27, Manchester City Council
- The Manchester Strategy: Our Manchester 2016-2025, Manchester City Council

## 1.0 Introduction

1.1 Members will recall from the report in July 2016 that Manchester's original Tree Strategy and Action Plan was produced in 2006 to raise awareness of the important role that trees play and to provide a policy framework within which tree-related activity can be managed. Since then the understanding of the importance of green infrastructure to a thriving city has increased. This has been recognised in several approved key policy documents that provide the strategic context to this refreshed draft Tree Action Plan.

- **The Manchester Strategy: Our Manchester** sets out a long term vision for Manchester's future. It recognises that world class Cities of the future will have access to beautiful green spaces and emphasises the need for a liveable city which is clean safe and attractive.
- **The City Council Climate Change Action Plan** sets out the council's contribution to delivering *Manchester – A Certain Future*, the city's climate change action plan. Trees are a vital component of green and blue infrastructure within the city and have a key regulating role to play in terms of air and water quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation, carbon storage and flood control.
- **Manchester's Great Outdoors: a Green and Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy for Manchester** provides an improved strategic approach for all the elements of green and blue infrastructure (G&BI), including trees, linking the provision of G&BI to the City's wider objectives as set out in the Manchester Strategy. This was adopted in July 2015 and a review of progress against the implementation plan is also on this agenda. The important contribution of trees in parks, along streets, in public and private areas is recognised through the Strategy. The G&BI Strategy specifically references the development of this Action Plan as a key priority.

## 2.0 How a refreshed Tree Action Plan will sit with the G&BI Strategy

2.1 The G&BI Strategy embeds trees within a wider approach to green and blue assets, and now incorporates the Manchester Tree Strategy. The production of the Tree Action Plan has been a way to ensure that the full scope of the former Tree Strategy is embraced. The Tree Action Plan will not be a stand-alone document but will be an essential part of the delivery plan for the G&BI Strategy.

2.2 The G&BI Strategy's four key objectives are to

1. Improve the quality and function of existing G&BI,
2. Improve the quality and function of new G&BI,
3. Improve connectivity and accessibility to G&BI within and beyond Manchester and
4. Raise awareness and understanding of the G&BI benefits to residents, the economy and the environment.

Each of the four key objectives has a set of Headline Actions which are relevant to particular stakeholders or particular types of G&BI.

- 2.3 The two key Headline Actions that are of direct relevance to the City's trees are:
- 'Effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting'. (G&BI Strategy Objective 1, Headline Action 5) and
  - Embed G&BI in key plans and policies - (G&BI Strategy Objective 4, Headline Action 2)
- 2.4 The Tree Action Plan will sit within the G&BI Stakeholder Implementation Plan primarily under the Headline Action of 'Effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting'. It will be an integral part of the G&BI Strategy Implementation Plan enabling more detail to be provided regarding how the City's tree assets can be cared for not just by the Council but by the wider community and a number of other partners.

### 3.0 The vision for Manchester's trees

- 3.1 Within the context of the wider G&BI Strategy, the vision for trees continues to be to:
- "Secure a long-term future for our trees and woodlands for generations to come, providing the right management and strong protection, ensuring their positive contribution to a growing, world class City, recognised for its dynamic and sustainable economy and high quality of life."*

### 4.0 Tree Action Plan objectives

- 4.1 The four objectives from the original Tree Strategy have been assessed and remain appropriate for shaping the existing activity that both the council and stakeholders undertake individually and in partnership, as well as future actions that are required to maintain and enhance the city's tree resource.

**(i) Managing Sustainably** - The sustainable management of the City's tree stock has included tree audits and the development of a GIS based tree management system. This objective will continue to help in terms of forward planning and future proofing the City's tree stock.

**(ii) Planting Appropriately** - The right tree planted in the right place is part of creating a diverse and maturing tree stock that is sustainable and resilient and can cope better with the adverse effects of climate change, new pests and diseases.

**(iii) Protecting Strongly** – The aim of this objective is to ensure that Manchester's existing tree stock, both in public and private ownership, continues to have adequate protection. With a fast growing population, demand for commercial and residential growth and developing transport infrastructure, the City's trees and woodlands will continue to face challenges. Informed decision making supported by an appropriate policy framework will support the future for trees and woodlands within Manchester.

**(iv) Involving People Creatively** – This reflects the need to raise awareness, increase understanding, build capacity and highlight the importance of trees in

the City. It is at the centre of the G&BI Stakeholder Implementation Plan which embraces actions by all partners not just the Council, in line with the Our Manchester approach.

- 4.2 Each of the four key objectives has a set of Headline Actions which are relevant to particular stakeholders or particular types of G&BI. Below these are the actions that will be taken forward by the council and/or external stakeholders.

## **5.0 Consultation undertaken in refreshing the Tree Action Plan**

- 5.1 Refreshing the Tree Action Plan has involved extensive engagement with key partners including those within and outside the council. Evening and day time briefing sessions have been held with councillors and discussions have taken place with relevant officers across the council including the Tree Officers, Park Managers, Grounds Maintenance and Planning Officers. External partners including the Woodland Trust, City of Trees<sup>1</sup> and Groundwork continue to be engaged along with members of the Manchester: A Certain Future Green Infrastructure group, many of whom have committed to activity identified within the Action Plan.

- 5.2 Following the draft Tree Action plan going to Scrutiny in July 2016 a six week on line public consultation took place. This provided the public with the opportunity to comment on the key objectives and the headline actions identified within the draft Action Plan and to express which actions they considered to be the most important. It also gave them the opportunity to suggest other actions and to state whether they were interested in volunteering for tree related work undertaken by partner organisations such as RSPB. The Council promoted the opportunity to comment via social media outlets including twitter and facebook, with external partners also being asked to promote the survey via their own channels.

## **6.0 Summary of public consultation**

- 6.1 The online consultation received 140 responses, 93% of which were from residents of Manchester.
- 6.2 A paper detailing the full findings is attached as an appendix to this report but the key findings are as follows
- 95.7% of respondents think that it is “very important” to have trees as part of the urban environment in Manchester.

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<sup>1</sup> Building on the success of the Red Rose forest, City of Trees was initiated by the Oglesby Charitable Trust and Community Forest Trust in 2015. It is a new movement aiming to plant 3 Million trees, one for every man, woman and child across Greater Manchester, bring 2,000 hectares of unmanaged woodland brought back into a productive state and connect people to the trees and woods around them

Most respondents valued trees in all areas suggested in the Survey (large informal spaces e.g. river valleys, formal parks, small informal open spaces in neighbourhoods, street trees, city squares and private gardens), but when asked to prioritise which types of area respondents would like to see more trees in the city, there were three clear 'front-runners':

- 'along streets' was the most popular (102 put it in their top 3)
- small informal open spaces in neighbourhoods (94)
- city 'squares' (90).

6.3 The vast majority of respondents agreed that trees are important for the three key reasons outlined in the Survey:

- environmental reasons e.g. biodiversity, climate change, air-quality (95.7%)
- social reasons e.g. health, contact with nature, quality of life (95.0%)
- economic reasons e.g. attractiveness to investors, property values (70.0%)

6.4 13 respondents (9.3%) also specified 'other' reasons, some of which came under 'biodiversity' (wildlife, insects, birdlife), some were more cross-cutting such as a 'truly liveable city', flood alleviation/prevention, education (including forest schools), play, well-being and mental health, and free fruit from fruit trees.

6.5 In terms of prioritising the headline actions linked to each objective, the most popular were as follows:

Objective 1: Managing Sustainably

- Ensure green and blue infrastructure (including trees and tree management) are considered as part of major new developments and retrofits and policy reviews
- Ensure continued and sustainable management of all trees and woodland and best practice approaches employed

Objective 2: Planting Appropriately

- Ensure continued healthy tree canopy cover across the City
- Investigate mechanisms for funding new tree planting, management, and maintenance

Objective 3: Protecting Strongly

- Use planning conditions to ensure high standard of tree works, protection and management
- Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs): increase the number of SBIs in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity

Objective 4: Involving people Creatively

- Encourage and record the delivery of community led and focussed tree projects and food growing
- Provide opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activity

6.6 Numerous other helpful suggestions and comments were put forward, including:

- Retaining mature trees around developments
- Involving schools
- Fruit tree and orchard planting
- Linking the Action Plan to other strategies e.g. Park Strategy
- Sustainable use of timber

A full list is included in the Appendix to this report which also identifies where each suggestion can now be found within the Action Plan.

6.7 From an Our Manchester perspective, the Manchester Tree Action plan provides an ideal opportunity for local individuals and communities to get involved. The consultation asked respondents to state if they would be interested in volunteering opportunities across the City. 58% said they would, including 21 of those who are currently involved; of these, 18 would like to be involved regularly and 62 occasionally. All those who have provided contact details have been signposted to the appropriate volunteering groups.

## **7.0 Refreshed Tree Action Plan in the context of consultation responses**

7.1 The responses received from the public consultation demonstrated support for the actions identified within the Action Plan. There were no actions that received significant amounts of negative feedback. Most of the “other” actions suggested were already included within the draft Action Plan. The following provides a commentary detailing our response to the priorities identified through the public consultation, listed in paragraph 6.4 above.

7.2 **Managing Sustainably** – The two priorities expressed under this objective were the continued and sustained management of all trees and woodlands and the consideration of trees within new development, retrofits and policy reviews. One of the key pieces of work contained within the final draft Tree Action Plan is the development of a series of key principles of tree management in Manchester. This will aim to be a useful starting point as to what the Council will and won't do with regard to trees, highlighting the need for a consistent approach to tree management in the City. The principles will be developed working with professional tree officers and key partners and involve consideration of examples of best practice elsewhere. Whilst it will be a council document, the principles it contains will hopefully be used by other local tree management bodies. Green and blue infrastructure, including trees, is already considered within new developments. Consideration of any further opportunities to incorporate appropriate green and blue infrastructure in new development and existing areas will be taken forward through the governance arrangements for the delivery of the G&BI Implementation Plan.

7.3 **Planting Appropriately** - Within the context of a growing city which is liveable and climate resilient, it is important that Manchester continues to have a healthy tree canopy formed by a mixture of trees by type, age and location.



Respondents supported the continuation of a healthy tree cover. Manchester's current tree canopy cover is 20%, compared with a national average in towns and cities of 8.2%. The actions under this objective seek to sustain this level. Manchester is also actively supporting the City of Trees (formerly Red Rose Forest) which, through access to other funding mechanisms, enables further tree planting in appropriate locations. The data held on Manchester's estimated tree cover can be broken down to ward level and begin to help identify where tree planting could be targeted. Other funding sources are being investigated such as the commercial opportunities for using the unwanted thinnings from managed woodlands within the city. The figures for tree planting are reduced from those originally stated within the Green & Blue Infrastructure Implementation Plan to reflect the need for a neighbourhood focus to new tree planting rather than mass planting, for example, on former landfill sites. The tree planting figure includes street trees, hedge trees, orchards and others taken forward as part of the City of Trees Initiative.

- 7.4 **Protecting Strongly** – In accordance with priorities suggested through consultation, work will take place to increase the number of Sites of Biological Importance in active management. Planning conditions are already used to protect trees and the Tree Officers will continue to provide advice to ensure compliance of tree works. Opportunities to use the City of Trees Citizen Forester Volunteer Service to help identify trees that need replacing within the timescale planting condition on approved developments, are also being considered.
- 7.5 **Involving Creatively** - The response from the public consultation demonstrated a keenness for greater focus on community led tree projects. Key to this is the provision of opportunities to support training and capacity building within community organisations. The development of the City of Trees Citizen Forester Volunteer Scheme is one such opportunity, launched earlier this year. This aims to build on the legacy of the Manchester Tree Warden Network which ran from 2008-2013 when it merged with the Manchester Community Guardian scheme. It will harness community interest in trees and woodlands and continue to provide an opportunity for the public to get actively involved with trees and woodlands in Manchester.

## 8.0 **Delivering the Action Plan**

- 8.1 The plan sets out tree related activity and opportunities, identified in consultation with council officers, the public and through growing, dynamic and collaborative partnerships such as City of Trees.
- 8.2 The Tree Action Plan will be updated by officers and reported to Scrutiny as part of the annual update of the G&BI Implementation Plan. It will be a dynamic and accessible document, making it far easier for tree related activity, from statutory bodies to community groups, to be captured.
- 8.3 With regards to funding, projects identified within the action plan will either rely on collaborative funding bids being developed or will be funded as part of

existing budget provision. In relation to external partners, funding would come from independent organisational budgets.

- 8.4 The Action Plan will be monitored through a small number of identifiable measures, which may include:
- The number/area of trees/woodland with management plans
  - The percentage of tree canopy cover across Manchester
  - Numbers engaged with through volunteer opportunities
- 8.5 A simple understanding of the number of trees and the area covered does not provide the full picture about our tree stock. Other aspects such as the quality and health of our woodlands are also important. These, sometimes less quantifiable measures will be considered through the G&BI governance arrangements.
- 8.6 The success of the Action Plan will ultimately be driven by the continued recognition of the value of trees to the City; shaping both the existing activity to maintain and care for our tree stock as well as identifying and resourcing new opportunities to plant and care for the city's trees. The Manchester of the future will have an extensive, maturing tree and woodland canopy, with a rich and diverse mix of species. This is one of the elements that will help to create a city in which people are attracted to live, work and invest; it will help the City adapt to climate change and to create a healthier living environment. The Tree Action Plan will allow a focus to be given to trees, helping to ensure that they will continue to be planted in Manchester selectively and appropriately, with due regard given to location, landscape character and sustainability. Work will continue to bring existing trees and woodlands into active management, with a key emphasis on collaboration and partnership working. Communities and partner organisations will be engaged and involved, adopting the Our Manchester approach in taking a proactive role in understanding, promoting, improving and protecting the City's treescape.

## **9.0 Contributing to the Manchester Strategy**

### **(a) A thriving and sustainable city**

- 9.1 Trees, as part of the City's natural environment, increase the attractiveness of Manchester as a place in which to work and invest. Jobs are created in the environmental sector through the need to plant and manage the local tree resource.

### **(b) A highly skilled city**

- 9.2 Manchester competes on a world stage to attract and retain skilled people. A high quality natural environment makes an important contribution to this.

### **(c) A progressive and equitable city**

- 9.3 An attractive tree filled natural environment can be enjoyed by all communities within Manchester and offers the potential for communities to enjoy leisure time and work together through volunteering opportunities.

**(d) A liveable and low carbon city**

- 9.4 The city's tree stock plays a valuable role in storing carbon and creating a liveable city.

**(e) A connected city**

- 9.5 Appropriate tree planting along transport routes can help mitigate poor air quality.

**10. Key Policies and Considerations**

**(a) Equal Opportunities**

- 10.1 All communities within Manchester should have access to attractive tree filled natural environments. The Tree Action Plan as part of the Green & Blue Infrastructure Implementation Plan will encourage tree planting and the care of trees across the city.

**(b) Risk Management**

- 10.2 Appropriate planting and management of trees is essential to avoid risk to people and property from falling trees or branches.

**(c) Legal Considerations**

- 10.3 Appropriate planting and management of trees is required to minimise the potential for legal action to arise.

**Appendix 1: Draft Tree Action Plan**

**Appendix 2: Paper on results of public consultation**

## Manchester Tree Action Plan 2016-20

Trees are a valuable and prominent part of the city's green assets and have a key role to play in a healthy, attractive, resilient city. The contribution they make is set within the wider context of green and blue infrastructure<sup>2</sup> across the city. The understanding of the importance of green infrastructure to a thriving city has increased over recent years. This has been recognised in several approved key policy documents.

- **The Manchester Strategy: Our Manchester** sets out a long term vision for Manchester's future. It recognises that world class Cities of the future will have access to beautiful green spaces and emphasises the need for a liveable city which is clean safe and attractive.
- **The City Council Climate Change Action Plan** sets out the council's contribution to delivering *Manchester – A Certain Future*, the city's climate change action plan. Green and blue infrastructure within the city has a key regulating role to play in terms of air and water quality, climate change adaptation and mitigation, carbon storage and flood control.
- **Manchester's Great Outdoors:** a Green and Blue Infrastructure (G&BI) Strategy (adopted in July 2015) is the key document and mechanism that will help deliver the liveability agenda. This strategy covers all types of green and blue infrastructure but contains a key headline action which requires **“Effective and appropriate tree and woodland management and planting.”**

This Action Plan provides more detail about what this means for the City's trees

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<sup>2</sup> Definition of green and blue infrastructure: parks, woodlands, informal open spaces (including amenity grass areas, allotments), nature reserves, lakes and reservoirs, historic sites and natural elements of built conservation areas, civic spaces and accessible countryside, outdoor sports facilities (with natural surfaces), river valleys and canals, pathways, cycle routes, tram routes and railway lines – both used and disused, networks of “urban green” - the collective resource of private gardens, pocket parks, street trees, verges, green roofs and green walls  
Source: Manchester Local Plan (Core Strategy)

Within the context of the wider Green & Blue Infrastructure Strategy, the vision for Manchester's trees continues to be to:

**Secure a long-term future for our trees and woodlands for generations to come, providing the right management and strong protection, ensuring their positive contribution to a growing, world class City, recognised for its dynamic and sustainable economy and high quality of life.**

The Manchester Tree Action Plan is set out under the same objective headings used in the original Manchester Tree Strategy:

1. managing sustainably;
2. planting appropriately;
3. protecting strongly and;
4. involving creatively.

It also aims to follow the key principles set out in the Trees and Design Action Group publication "Trees in the Townscape". The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG) is an open collaborative forum facilitating cross-sector and cross-disciplinary dialogue and projects promoting the role of the urban forest throughout the United Kingdom. The action plan also takes on board best practice approaches suggested by partners including the Woodland Trust and City of Trees (formerly Red Rose Forest). The Action Plan has been developed collaboratively, working with a range of organisations and agencies, referencing existing and new partner commitments. It is a list of actions to be delivered by all partners and stakeholders, demonstrating true commitment to a sensible, sustainable and essential future for trees and woodlands in the City.

## Manchester's Tree Resource

Trees are intrinsic to the appeal of Manchester's parks and open spaces. They add to the sense of place, character and attractiveness of our neighbourhoods.

They also provide a variety of unseen functions, often referred to as Ecosystem Services:



### What Do Trees do For us?

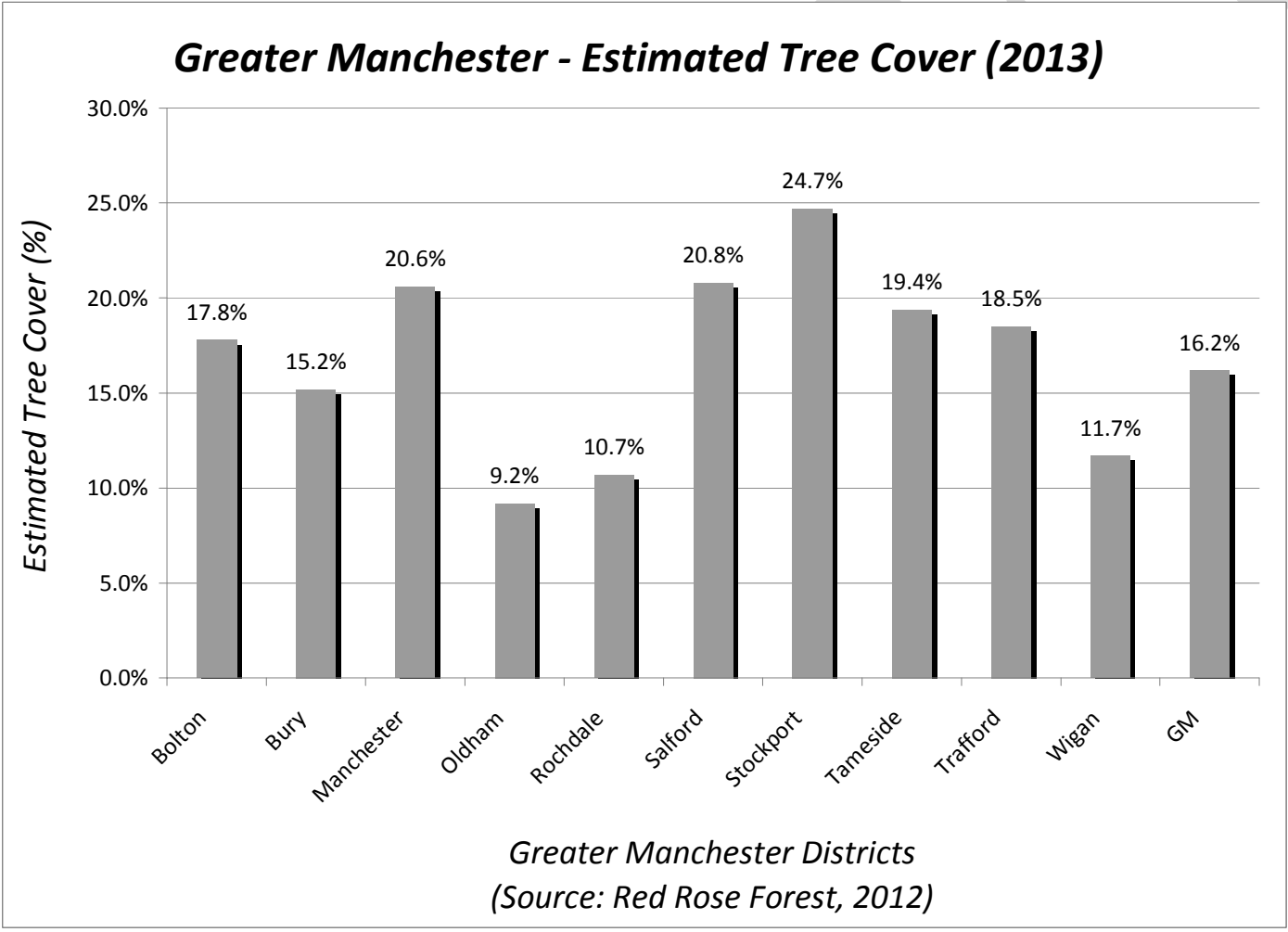
Ecosystem Services is the term we use to describe the benefits that nature provides for us - Free of Charge, 24/7.

**"A mature Oak tree supports hundreds of life forms, more than any other native tree in the UK" the Woodland Trust**

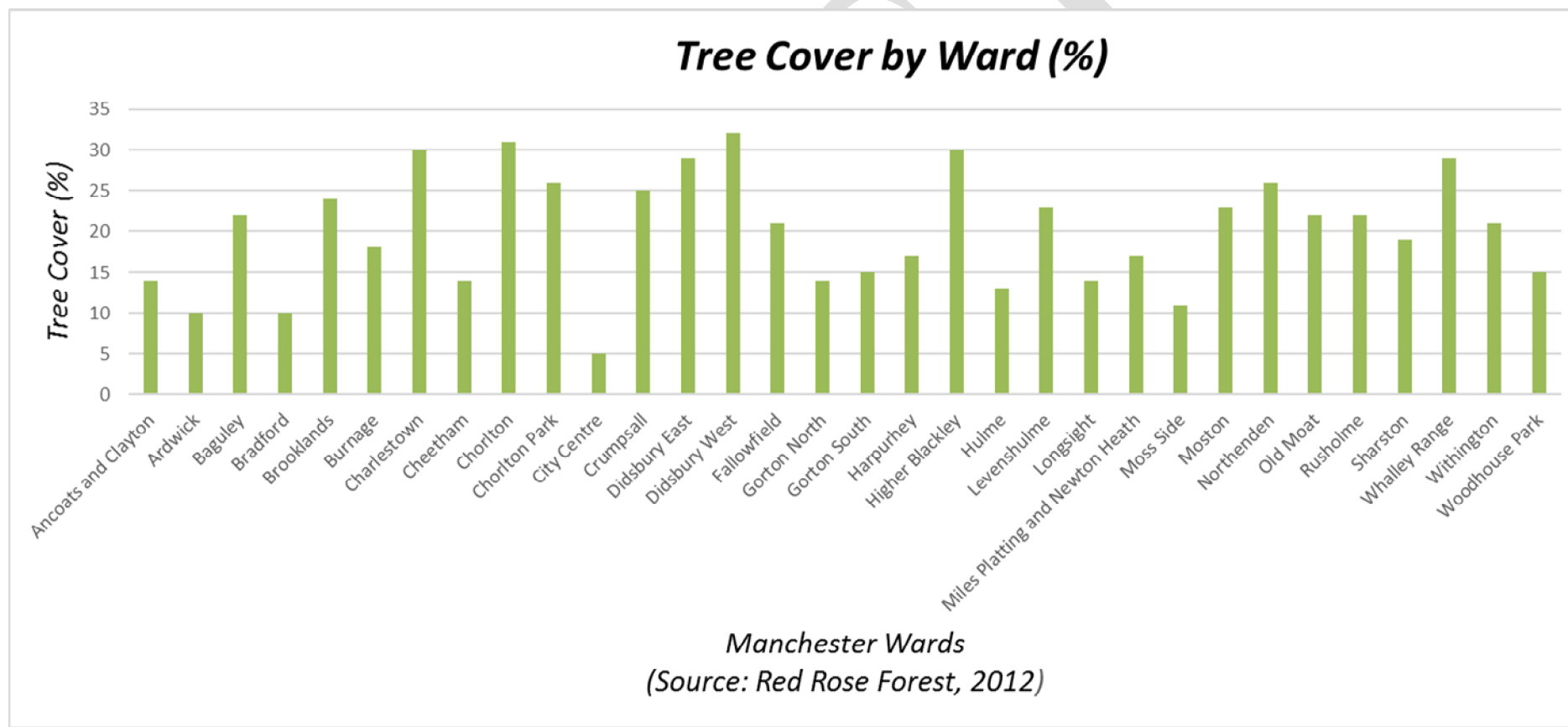


<b>1</b> <b>REGULATING SERVICES</b> Air and Water Quality Climate Change Adaptation and mitigation Carbon Storage Flood control	<b>2</b> <b>PROVISIONING SERVICES</b> Food production Timber Production Pollination Fuel	<b>3</b> <b>SUPPORTING SERVICES</b> Soil Formation Habitat Provision Photosynthesis Biodiversity	<b>4</b> <b>CULTURAL SERVICES</b> Health and well being Recreation and Leisure Education Aesthetic Tourism Quality of Place
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A detailed understanding of the City’s tree resource is fundamental to a healthy, thriving treescape. Manchester has one of the highest percentages in tree cover across Greater Manchester:



This can be broken down to ward level:



Both north and south Manchester have significant areas of tree cover. The Irk and Moston Brook catchment along with Heaton Park provide extensive woodland cover in the North, as do the Mersey Valley and Wythenshawe Park in the south. The Wards with the highest tree cover in the City are Higher Blackley, Charlestown and Didsbury West – all having approximately 30% or higher tree cover. The wards with tree cover of 10% or less are Ardwick, Bradford and the City Centre. The average tree cover for the City across all 32 wards is 20.6% (source: Red Rose Forest).



Access to woodland has been studied in detail, and Manchester compares favourably against the English National and Regional National Average in this regard (Woodland Trust: Spaces for People Mar 2015):

31.5 % of Manchester's population have access to a 2ha Woodland Site within 500m, compared to a regional average of 25.4%. 87% of Manchester's population have access to a larger 20 hectare site within 4km compared to a regional average of 73%.

### **Street and Highway Trees**

At present, the City Council has responsibility for approximately 80,000 street and highway trees<sup>3</sup>. Trees are planted along roadsides, verges and on pavements where appropriate. The resource is managed directly by the City Council's specialist arboricultural section, who oversee a programme of checks, routine maintenance and emergency work throughout the year. The team manages a database of all street tree stock in the City. Each tree is registered individually and checked approximately every two years.

The trees that are planted on our streets and highways today are generally ornamental species. These trees are typically non-fruiting, will normally grow to a maximum height of 20-25 feet and have small crowns that grow vertical and straight. Planting on the boundaries of properties is encouraged to avoid locating them in front of windows and blocking light.

### **Trees in parks and open spaces, cemeteries, churchyards and allotments**

Trees, woodlands and plantations within the City's parks, river valleys and other open spaces make up the largest proportion of tree cover in the City. The size of plantation ranges from small copses to large tracts of mature woodland. Many are important ecosystems in their own right providing valuable biodiversity connectivity. Woodlands are defined as being over 2ha in size (less than half a football pitch). Manchester has many distinct woodlands, from Blackley Forest and the woodlands of Heaton Park and Boggart Hole Clough in the north, to Kenworthy Wood, Chorlton Ees and Stenner Woods in the Mersey Valley, plus Southern Cemetery in Chorlton and a further 30 known woods in Wythenshawe.

### **Trees on private land**

There are a significant proportion of trees on land that is not owned or controlled by the Council. These could be trees in private gardens, or on private property. Major land owners including organisations such as Network Rail, United Utilities, Universities, Transport for Greater Manchester and Registered Housing Providers, have their own guidance as regards safeguarding and

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<sup>3</sup> Source:MCC Arboricultural Team.

managing their tree stock. Trees in the City's 35 Conservation Areas are covered by group Tree Preservation Orders, regardless of ownership. The Council will continue to work with private land owners and managers through the Action Plan to support the sustainable management of trees and woodlands on private land.

### **Monitoring, Review and Progress Reporting**

The Action Plan will be monitored and reported on annually by both the council and the *Manchester: A Certain Future* Steering Group as part of the wider Green & Blue Infrastructure Implementation Plan. It is intended to be an accessible document which is easy to be updated to capture tree related activity, from statutory bodies to community groups.

The success of the Action Plan will ultimately be driven not just by the realisation of the activity illustrated below, but by the on-going push by all of us to recognise and support the true value of trees to the City; making commitments to enhance and protect the treescape in Manchester for many years to come.

**Objective 1 – Managing Sustainably**

	<b>Headline Action</b>	<b>Potential projects/activities</b>	<b>Delivery Agencies</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
1	<b>Map and monitor changes in the amount and distribution of trees across the city</b>	Refine datasets of tree and woodland cover  Refresh Manchester Tree Audit	Universities, CoT  GM partners, CoT, FC	2017-20  2017-18
2	<b>Develop a fuller understanding of the City's tree resource</b>	Develop MCC tree management system  Deliver annual highway tree inspection programme  Investigate online mapping tool of planned tree works in the City  Encourage network of data gathering and information sharing e.g. University access to canopy data for research  Investigate opportunities for valuing Manchester tree stock including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The development of an ecosystem services valuation of treescape</li> </ul>	MCC  MCC  MCC, Universities  MCC, CoT, FC, Universities  Universities, CoT	2016  2016-18  2017-18  2016-18  2017 -20
3	<b>Ensure continued and sustainable management of all trees and woodland and best practice approaches employed</b>	Develop, agree and embed principles of tree management in Manchester  Develop tree and woodland management plans for MCC parks and greenspaces, which include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No waste timber going to landfill</li> <li>Consideration of sustainable uses of woodland by-products</li> </ul>	MCC  MCC, CoT, GMEU	2016-17  2016-20

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
		<p>Develop tree focussed opportunity mapping for :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks and open spaces</li> <li>• City centre</li> <li>• Neighbourhoods</li> </ul> <p>Encourage the development of tree and woodland management plans by all landowners and managers of trees in Manchester</p> <p>Develop tree management good practice case studies as part of MACF GI Group</p>	<p>MCC CoT</p> <p>RPs, Universities, Network Rail, other landowners</p> <p>MACF GI Group</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016 – 20</p> <p>2016-2020</p>
4	<b>Ensure green and blue infrastructure (including trees and tree management) are considered as part of major new developments and retrofits, policy and strategy reviews where appropriate.</b>	<p>Major development projects to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transport infrastructure changes</li> <li>• Lower Medlock</li> <li>• Lower Irk Valley</li> </ul> <p>Local Plan Review, Park Strategy</p>	<p>MCC, TfGM, Developers</p> <p>MCC</p>	<p>2016-2020</p> <p>2016-2019</p>
5	<b>Develop climate resilient approaches to tree and woodland management</b>	<p>Encourage use of trees within broader climate resilient adaptive plans e.g. Sustainable Urban Drainage projects, public realm improvements</p>	<p>GM CoT, MCC RPs</p>	<p>2016-2020</p>

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
		Develop Ash Dieback Strategy in partnership with Natural Capital Group	GM, CoT, MCC, FC	2016-17
		Encourage diversity of tree stock e.g. appropriately diverse species and age ranges to help increase resilience to pests and disease	MCC, CoT	2016-18
6	<b>Develop partnership projects that sensitively improve the functionality of the treescape</b>	Develop appropriate projects to deliver the City of Trees vision in Manchester including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heritage Trees</li> <li>• Forest Schools</li> <li>• Community Orchard planting and management</li> <li>• RSPB Willow Tit conservation Project – Stenner Woods</li> </ul>	CoT LWT, MBP, MVP, GW, CoT, RSPB	2016/17 2016

### Objective 2 – Planting Appropriately

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
1	<b>Ensure continued healthy and diverse tree canopy cover across the City</b>	Sustain tree and woodland canopy cover of 20% average to 2025  Deliver suitable and sustainable tree planting projects which support biodiversity, in line with the G&BI Strategy, tree audit baseline, park strategy and neighbourhood place plans, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One for one tree replacement for highways trees</li> <li>- Delivery of tree replacement policies across city</li> <li>- 150 Highways Tree planted annually (combination of new and replacement)</li> <li>- 1000 hedgerow trees planted annually</li> <li>- 1500 trees planted annually</li> </ul>	MCC, RVIs, RPs, CoT, Woodland Trust LWT  MCC TfGM, MCC MCC  MCC CoT RPs MCC CoT RPs	2016-20

	Headline Action	Potential projects/activities	Delivery Agencies	Timescales
		Develop Beacon/Heritage Trees Mapping project	MCC CoT	
2	<b>Continued planting of community orchards in suitable locations</b>	Planting of at least 4 new community orchards annually  Mapping of Community orchard locations Encourage cropping, harvesting , distribution and usage of food provided	RFW, CoT, RPs,  RFW, MCC UoM CoT	2016-20  2017-18
3	<b>Investigate mechanisms for funding new tree planting, management, and maintenance</b>	Support the delivery of the City of Trees Vision for Greater Manchester by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Active involvement in the GM Forest Partnership</li> <li>• Exploring opportunities to engage with complementary additional tree planting through the One Tree per Child Project</li> <li>• Working collaboratively to develop sustainable tree planting and management project ideas through, for example, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCC Parks and greenspaces opportunity mapping programme and tree sponsorship opportunities</li> <li>• Investigating commercial opportunities for trees and woodlands</li> <li>• Neighbourhood tree planting opportunities with priority given to wards with lower average tree cover where possible.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	MCC, MACF GI, RPs,  MCC EA, MCC, CoT, GW CoT MCC, RPs, MCC	2016-20  2016-20 2016-18 2017-18 2017-18
4	<b>Develop a climate resilient approach to tree planting</b>	Utilise a mixture of native and non native planting projects to ensure resilience against pests and diseases  Reduce risk of tree pests and disease by ensuring all new trees planted are from registered and approved sources  Promote SUDS Friendly demonstrators	MC, MACF GI, CoT RPs  MCC, CoT  CoT, MCC RPs	2016-20  2016-20  2016-20

**Objective 3 – Protecting Strongly**

	<b>Headline Action</b>	<b>Potential projects/activities</b>	<b>Delivery Agencies</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
1	<b>Investigate effective tree replacement and compensation measures</b>	Develop and agree appropriate compensation measure for tree loss and replacement in Manchester	MCC, CoT	2017
2	<b>Ensure trees of high value are designated as Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs)</b>	Continue to designate new TPOs as appropriate Enforce as appropriate against unauthorised works to trees protected by tree preservation orders or within conservation areas Promotion of the Tree Preservation Order process via neighbourhood teams	MCC MCC MCC, CoT, Partners	2016-20 2016-20 2017-18
3	<b>Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs): increase the number of SBIs in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity</b>	Increase the number of sites of biological importance (SBIs) in active conservation management by 1-4% annually, working with landowners and land managers  Provide statistical report to Defra annually	MCC GMEU  MCC	2016 –18  2016-20
4	<b>Use planning conditions to ensure high standard of tree works, protection and management</b>	Tree officers to provide guidance and advice through the planning process to ensure compliance of tree works against: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BS 5837 (the British Standard for Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction)</li> <li>• BS 3998 ( the British Standard for Tree Work)</li> </ul> Investigate the use of City of Trees Forester Volunteer Service to increase the awareness of non compliance with conditions.	MCC, Developers  MCC, CoT	2016-18  2016-18

**Objective 4 – Involving Creatively**

	<b>Headline Action</b>	<b>Potential projects/activities</b>	<b>Delivery Agencies</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
1.	<b>Further develop research into the benefits of trees</b>	<p>Local universities, MACF and MCC to establish an ongoing programme of collaborative GI research including trees, initially for 2016-20, to measure the impact of GI across the range of social, economic and environmental benefits set out in the Strategy. To include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Creating ‘ecosystems@Manchester’ multi-disciplinary research network at the University of Manchester</li> <li>• Nerc Gardens and Ecosystem Services project</li> <li>• Nerc GHIA project</li> <li>• Nerc Green Growth</li> </ul> <p>Update GI Evidence base with tree and woodland related research</p>	<p>Universities, MCC, MACF GI, MCCA</p> <p>UoM</p> <p>MMU</p> <p>UoM</p> <p>UoM</p> <p>CoT, MCC</p> <p>Universities</p>	<p>2016</p> <p>2016-18</p> <p>2016-18</p> <p>2016 -18</p> <p>2016-20</p>
2.	<b>Encourage and record the delivery of community led and focussed tree projects and food growing</b>	<p>Projects to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Real Food Wythenshawe</li> <li>• Heritage trees</li> </ul>	<p>RFW</p> <p>CoT</p>	<p>2016-20</p> <p>2016-18</p>
3.	<b>Raise the awareness of the benefits of trees</b>	<p>Establish social media platforms for ongoing promotion of tree related information</p> <p>Ward councillors and local communities to include tree activity in ward plans as appropriate,</p>	<p>Ward Councillors, CoT, MACF GI Group</p>	<p>2015-16 and ongoing annually</p>



	<b>Headline Action</b>	<b>Potential projects/activities</b>	<b>Delivery Agencies</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
4	<b>Provide opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activity</b>	Support for and delivery of tree related activity, training and capacity building: Related volunteer opportunities to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• “Friends of” group events and activities</li> <li>• Development of CoT Citizen Forester Volunteer Scheme</li> <li>• River Valley Initiative volunteer and engagement opportunities</li> <li>• LWT Moston Fairways Volunteers Scheme</li> </ul>	CoT, CGs, MCCA, Third Sector Partners, MCC	2016-20
5.	<b>Showcase local best practice and seek recognition for delivered projects</b>	Apply for national awards wherever appropriate e.g. Britain in Bloom RHS Awards for community greening projects Encourage nomination of Champion trees as part of notable and ancient trees in Britain and Ireland register	MCC  MCC	2016-20  2016-20
6.	<b>Raise the profile of Manchester as an attractive place to live, work and visit with access to high quality GI within and beyond Manchester</b>	Use of the city’s trees and woodlands to attract visitors and create new recreation opportunities, including through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Heaton Park Canopy Trail</li> <li>• Heritage Trees project</li> <li>• Beacon Trees</li> </ul> Promote the City’s existing parks and green spaces to maximise their usage by local communities, workers and visitors	MACF GI Group, MCC, MCCA, MM, UoM, MCC CoT CoT, MCC  MCC, Universities	2016-20  2016-17

**Part 2 – Monitoring, Review and Progress Reporting Actions**

	<b>Headline Action</b>	<b>Method</b>	<b>Delivery agencies</b>	<b>Timescales</b>
	Key performance indicators	Potential measures to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The number/area of trees/woodland with management plans</li> <li>• The percentage of tree canopy cover across Manchester</li> <li>• Numbers engaged through volunteer opportunities</li> </ul>	All	2016-20
	Annual review and reporting	Undertake an annual review against the Action Plan and publish the findings through the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- MACF website</li> <li>- MACF Annual Report</li> <li>- Manchester State of the City Report</li> <li>- Plus others as appropriate</li> </ul>	MACF GI, MCCA, UoM, MMU, UoS, MCC, and all other stakeholders as appropriate	2016-20
	Website and news stories	Publish stories on progress against the Action Plan and specific projects on the MCC website, plus other channels as appropriate	MCC All	2016-20
	Review and update the action plan	Undertake a full review of progress against the Action Plan in 2020 and publish an updated version for the following 3-5 year period.	MACF GI, MCC, and all other stakeholders as appropriate	2020

## Contributors

The MACF Green and Blue Infrastructure Group and the Council are grateful to the following organisations that have contributed to the development of this Action Plan and made commitments to support its delivery.

CityCo	CCo	<a href="http://cityco.com/">http://cityco.com/</a>
City of Trees	CoT	<a href="http://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/">http://www.cityoftrees.org.uk/</a>
Community groups	CGs	
Environment Agency	EA	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency</a>
Forestry Commission	FC	<a href="http://www.forestry.gov.uk/">http://www.forestry.gov.uk/</a>
Greater Manchester Ecology Unit	GMEU	<a href="http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit">http://www.tameside.gov.uk/ecologyunit</a>
Groundwork	GW	<a href="http://www.groundwork.org.uk/">http://www.groundwork.org.uk/</a>
The Wildlife Trust For Lancashire, Manchester and North Merseyside	LWT	<a href="http://www.lancswt.org.uk/">http://www.lancswt.org.uk/</a>
Manchester A Certain Future - Green & Blue Group	MACF GI	<a href="http://macf.onthepatform.org.uk/">http://macf.onthepatform.org.uk/</a>
Manchester Climate Change Agency	MCCA	<a href="http://macf.onthepatform.org.uk/">http://macf.onthepatform.org.uk/</a>
Manchester City Council	MCC	<a href="http://www.manchester.gov.uk/">http://www.manchester.gov.uk/</a>
Manchester Garden City	MGC	<a href="http://cityco.com/project/manchester-garden-city/">http://cityco.com/project/manchester-garden-city/</a>
Manchester Metropolitan University	MMU	<a href="http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/">http://www2.mmu.ac.uk/</a>
Manchester Museum	MM	<a href="http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/">http://www.museum.manchester.ac.uk/</a>
Natural England	NE	<a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about">https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england/about</a>
National Trust	NT	<a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/">http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/</a>
Network Rail	NR	<a href="http://www.networkrail.co.uk/">http://www.networkrail.co.uk/</a>
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council	OMBC	<a href="http://www.oldham.gov.uk/">http://www.oldham.gov.uk/</a>
Real Food Wythenshawe	RFW	<a href="http://www.realfoodwythenshawe.com/">http://www.realfoodwythenshawe.com/</a>
Registered Providers (Formerly Registered Housing Providers)	RPs	
River Valley Initiatives:	RVI	<a href="http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500194/irk_river_valley_project/4753/irk_valley">http://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/500194/irk_river_valley_project/4753/irk_valley</a>
Irk Valley Project		
Medlock Valley Project		<a href="http://www.medlockvalley.org.uk/MedlockValley/">http://www.medlockvalley.org.uk/MedlockValley/</a>
Moston Brook Partnership		<a href="http://oldham.gov.uk/info/200393/parks_countryside_an">http://oldham.gov.uk/info/200393/parks_countryside_an</a>

Mersey Valley Partnership		d_canals/699/moston_brook_green_corridor/2
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds	RSPB	<a href="http://www.rspb.org.uk/">http://www.rspb.org.uk/</a>
Trans Pennine Trail partnership	TPT	<a href="http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/">http://www.transpenninetrail.org.uk/</a>
Transport for Greater Manchester	TfGM	<a href="http://www.tfgm.com/Pages/default.aspx">http://www.tfgm.com/Pages/default.aspx</a>
Tree and Design Action Group	TDAG	
University of Manchester	UoM	<a href="http://www.manchester.ac.uk/">http://www.manchester.ac.uk/</a>
University of Salford	UoS	<a href="http://www.salford.ac.uk/">http://www.salford.ac.uk/</a>
The Woodland Trust	WT	<a href="https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/">https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/</a>

## **Analysis of responses to Manchester Tree Action Plan Online Public Consultation Summer 2016**

### **1.0 Executive Summary**

1.1 140 people took part in the Survey, 93% of whom lived in Manchester. The highest percentage of respondents were aged between 40-64, with 28% aged between 26-39. The findings suggest that a high majority of respondents support the overarching vision and headline actions proposed in the Manchester Tree Action Plan.

1.2 95.7% of respondents think that it is “very important” to have trees as part of the urban environment in Manchester. This is reflected in the headline action for retaining the amount of canopy cover in the City.

1.3 Most respondents valued trees in all areas suggested in the Survey (large informal spaces e.g. river valleys, formal parks, small informal open spaces in neighbourhoods, street trees, city squares and private gardens.)

1.4 When asked to prioritise which types of area respondents would like to see more trees in the city , there were three clear ‘front-runners’:

- ‘along streets’ was the most popular (102 put it in their top 3)
- small informal open spaces in neighbourhoods (94)
- city ‘squares’ (90).

1.5 This suggests that respondents recognise that the City has extensive tree cover in places like parks and river valleys, but that there is a need to focus tree planting in neighbourhoods – along streets, roads and public places in particular. This aligns itself with City priorities in terms of place making and the work of registered providers and other land owners and managers to create welcoming, safe, accessible neighbourhoods.

1.6 The vast majority of respondents agreed that trees are important for the reasons outlined in the Survey:

- Environmental reasons e.g. biodiversity, climate change, air-quality (95.7%)
- Social reasons e.g. health, contact with nature, quality of life (95.0%)
- Economic reasons e.g. attractiveness to investors, property values (70.0%)

1.7 Responses suggest protection and management of the City’s trees as priorities, as was the need to plant more trees in appropriate locations.

1.8 Numerous helpful suggestions and comments were put forward, many of which will be taken on board, either by the council or other stakeholders, as the Action plan gets delivered. These include:

- Retaining mature trees around developments
- Involving schools
- Fruit tree and orchard planting

- Linking the Action Plan to other strategies e.g. Park Strategy
- Sustainable use of timber

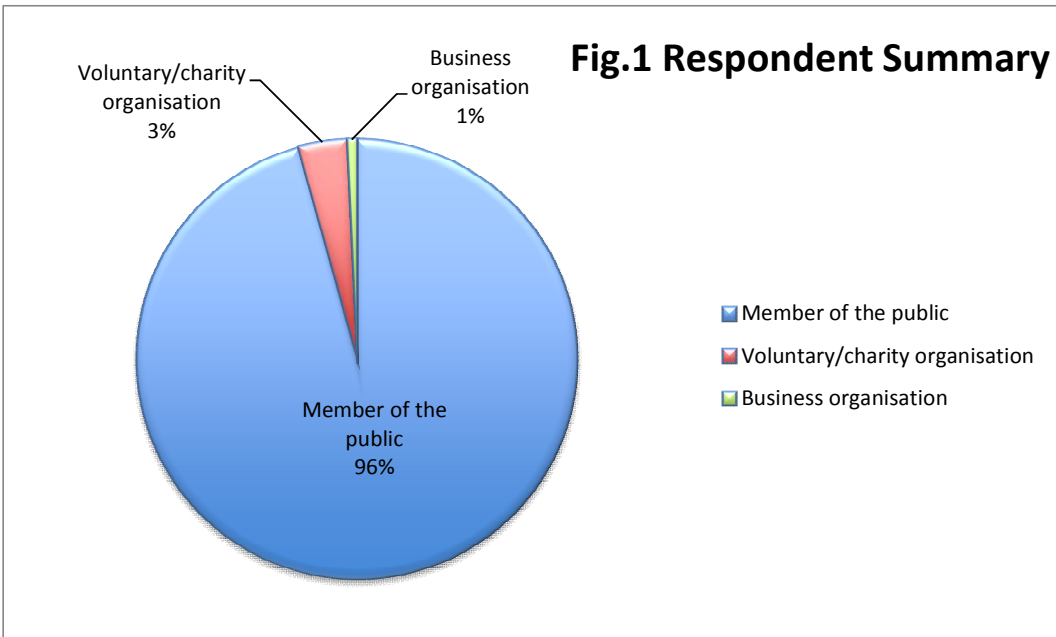
**2.0 Introduction**

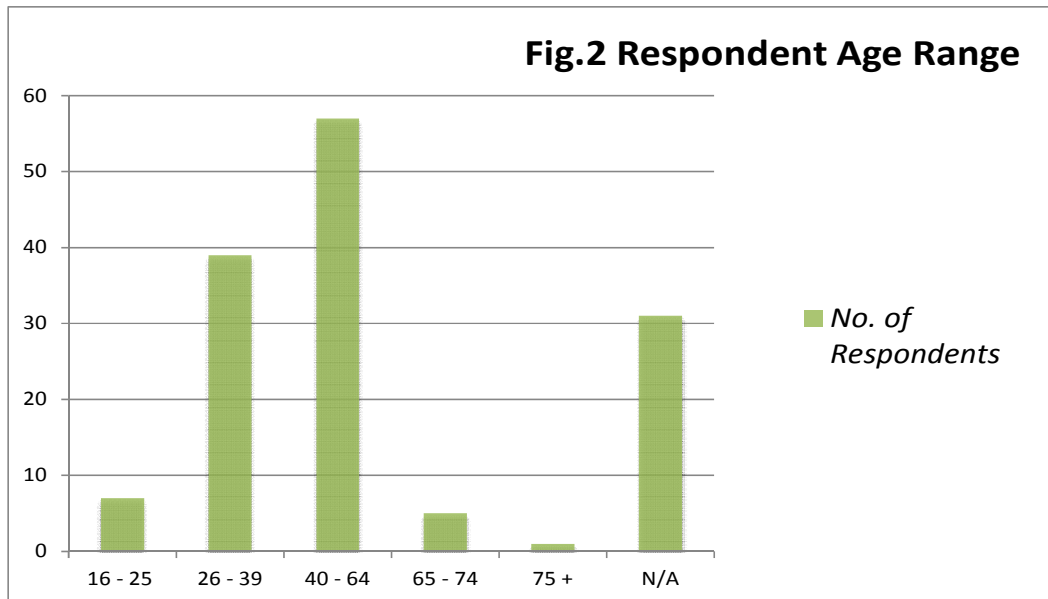
2.1 Following the draft Manchester Tree Action plan going to Scrutiny Committee in July 2016 a six week on line public consultation took place which ended in September.

2.2 This provided the public with the opportunity to comment on the key objectives and the headline actions identified within the draft Action Plan and to express which actions they considered to be the most important. It also gave them the opportunity to state whether they were interested in finding out more and getting practically involved in tree related activity.

2.3 The Council promoted the survey via social media outlets including twitter and facebook, with external partners also being asked to promote the survey via their own channels.

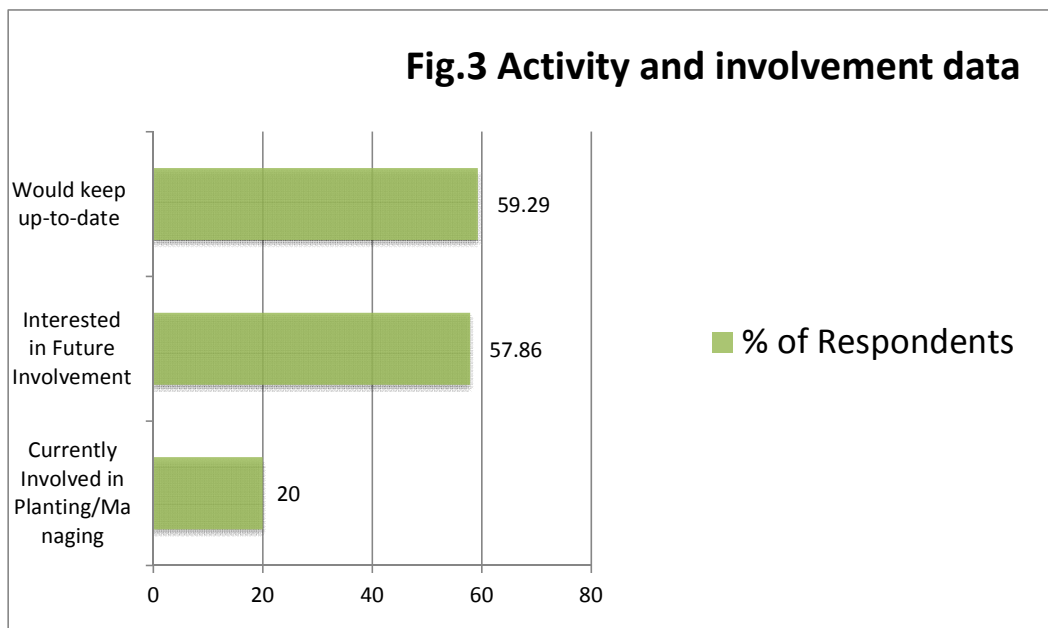
2.4 140 people took part in the Survey, 93% of whom lived in Manchester. 41% of respondents were aged between 40-64, with 28% aged between 26-39. Based on the response data provided, further detail is provided below.





### 3.0 Would you be willing to get involved?

3.1 From an Our Manchester perspective, the Manchester Tree Action plan provides an opportunity for people to get involved. The consultation asked respondents to state if they would be interested in volunteering opportunities across the City. 28 respondents (20%) said they are currently involved with helping to plant or look after trees/woods in Manchester. 58% said they would be interested in being involved in tree related activity in the future (including 21 of those who are currently involved); of these, 18 would like to be involved regularly with 62 occasionally. 83 (59%) said they would like to be kept up-to-date with the Tree Action Plan.



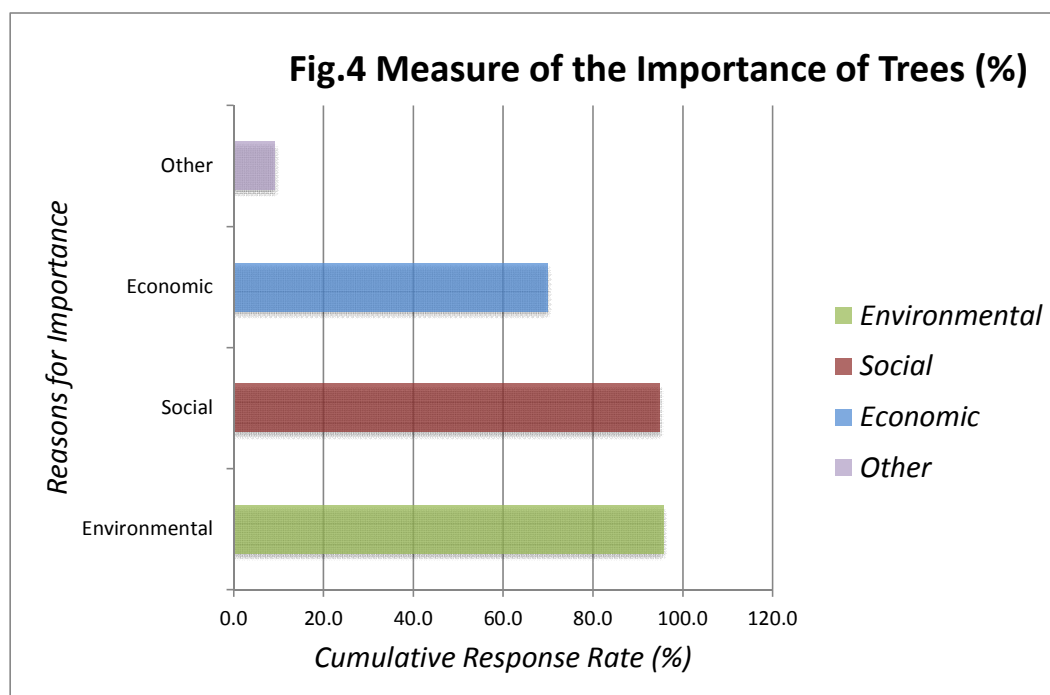
3.2 All respondents who have provided contact details have been signposted to the appropriate volunteering groups with tree related activity and capacity building opportunities, for example through the City of Trees Citizen Forester Scheme.

#### 4.0 Do you value trees?

4.1 People were asked a series of closed questions. The first asked whether they valued trees to which 134 (95.7%) people responded that it was “Very important” to have trees as part of the urban environment in Manchester.

#### 5.0 What benefits do trees bring?

5.1 Question three asked about the range of benefits derived from trees, with the response shown in Fig. 4 below.



- Environmental reasons e.g. biodiversity, climate change, air-quality (134 = 95.7%)
- Social reasons e.g. health, contact with nature, quality of life (133 = 95.0%)
- Economic reasons e.g. attractiveness to investors, property values (98 = 70.0%)

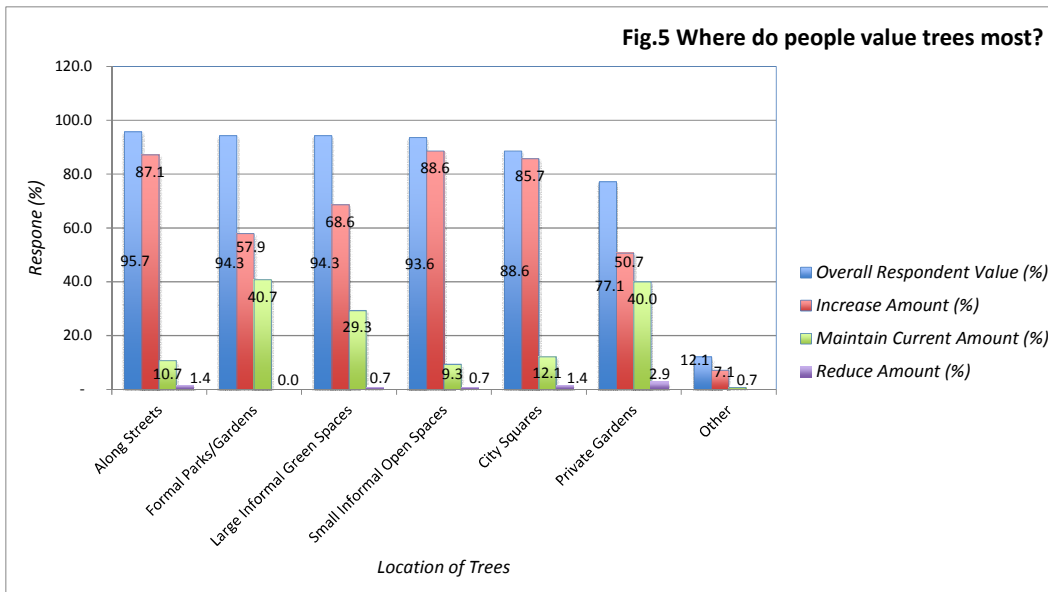
5.2 13 respondents (9.3%) also specified ‘other’ reasons, some of which come under ‘biodiversity’ (wildlife, insects and birdlife). some reasons were more cross-cutting such as a ‘truly liveable city’, flood alleviation/prevention, education (including forest schools), play, well-being and mental health, and free fruit from fruit trees.

#### 6.0 Where should there be more or fewer trees?



6.1 Questions 2, 4 and 5 asked about where respondents valued trees and where they would prefer fewer or more trees. The vast majority of respondents valued the presence of trees across all the varying locations suggested.

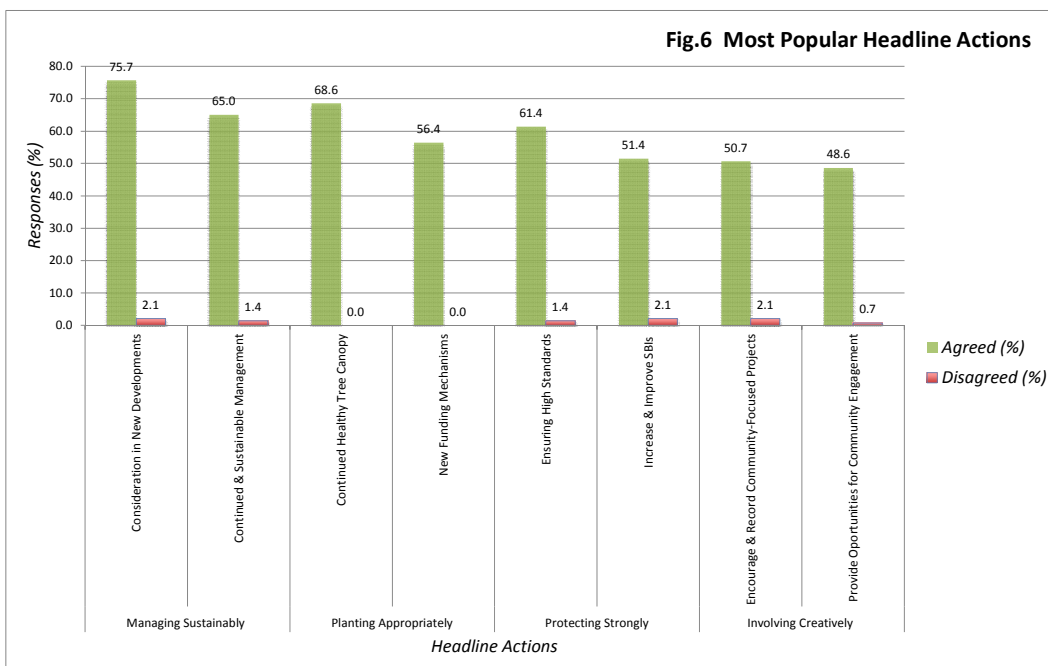
- 134 (95.7%) said they value trees along streets
  - 122 (87.1% of all respondents) would like to see more trees along streets; 15 think the current amount is about right, and only 2 would like to see fewer.
- 132 (94.3%) said they value trees in formal parks and gardens
  - 81 (57.9% of all respondents) would like more trees, 57 (40.7%) want current tree cover maintained, none wanted to see fewer trees in formal parks and gardens.
- 132 (94.3%) said they value trees in large informal green spaces e.g. river valleys, country parks, woodlands
  - 96 (68.6% of all respondents) would like to see more trees, 41 (29.3%) want current tree cover maintained, only 1 would like to see fewer in large informal green spaces.
- 131 (93.6%) said they value trees in small informal open spaces in neighbourhoods
  - 124 (88.6% of all respondents) would like more trees, 13 want current tree cover maintained, and only 1 would like to see fewer in small informal open spaces in neighbourhoods.
- 124 (88.6%) said they value trees in city 'squares'
  - 120 (85.7% of all respondents) would like to see more trees, 17 want current tree cover maintained, and only 2 would like to see fewer trees in city squares.
- 108 (77.1%) said they value trees in private gardens
  - 71 (50.7% of all respondents) would like to see more trees, 56 (40.0%) think the current amount is about right, and only 4 would like to see fewer trees in private gardens.



6.2 17 respondents (12.1%) specified ‘other’ places where they value trees. For 5 respondents, this was ‘everywhere possible’; the other 12 between them suggested: school grounds, university and college campuses, church yards, community centre grounds and other community spaces, around big sports stadiums, commercial, retail & industrial development, courtyards, large terraces and atriums, rooftops, nature reserves, canal sides, railway lines, road sides, carriageway islands, roundabouts, car parks, and waste ground.

## 7.0 Which Headline Actions are most important?

7.1 Based on the suggested Headline Actions within the Action Plan, in question 6 respondents were asked which they considered most important:



7.2 In terms of prioritising the headline actions, linked to each objective, the most popular were:

**Objective 1: Managing Sustainably**

- Ensure green and blue infrastructure (including trees and tree management) are considered as part of major new developments and retrofits and policy reviews
- Ensure continued and sustainable management of all trees and woodland and best practice approaches employed

**Objective 2: Planting Appropriately**

- Ensure continued healthy tree canopy cover across the City
- Investigate mechanisms for funding new tree planting, management, and maintenance

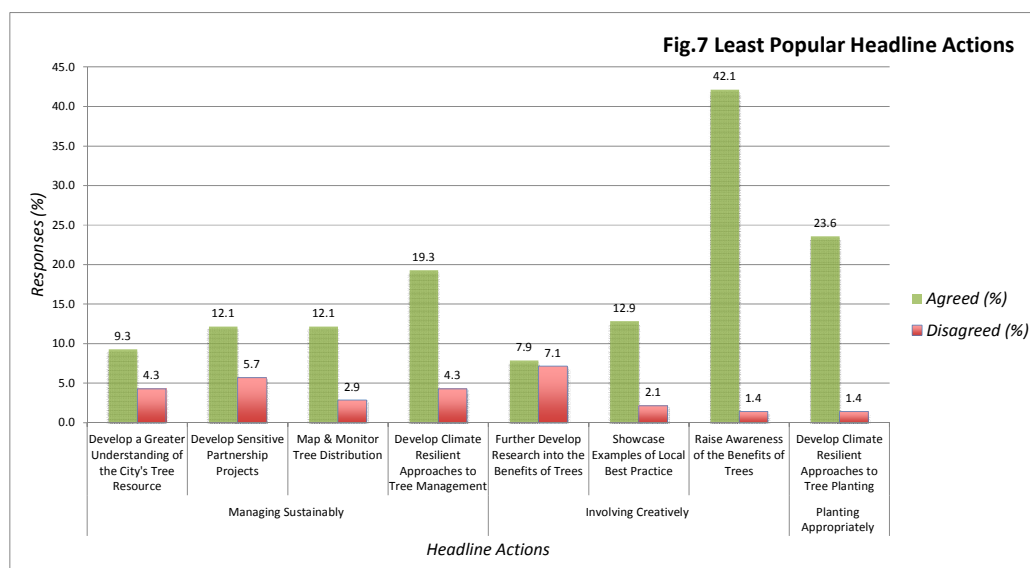
**Objective 3: Protecting Strongly**

- Use planning conditions to ensure high standard of tree works, protection and management
- Sites of Biological Importance (SBIs): increase the number of SBIs in active management to conserve, protect and enhance biodiversity

**Objective 4: Involving people Creatively**

- Encourage and record the delivery of community led and focussed tree projects and food growing
- Provide opportunities for community engagement, involvement and activity

7.3 In terms of prioritising the headline actions, linked to each objective, the least popular were:



## **8.0 Any other comments?**

8.1 A final open question allowed respondents to provide any other comments. The responses ranged from a few negative comments about the problems around street trees, to many constructive suggestions, numerous pleas for more trees and more appreciation and care of trees. Numerous helpful suggestions and comments were put forward, many of which will be taken on board, either by the council or other stakeholders, as the Action plan gets delivered. These include:

- Retaining mature trees around developments
- Involving schools
- Fruit tree and orchard planting
- Linking the Action Plan to other strategies e.g. Park Strategy
- Sustainable use of timber

8.2 A full summary of respondents “open” comments is provided in the Appendix below.

### Appendix 3: Comments from Respondents

A full summary of the comments provided by respondents is provided below, and has been aligned to the key objective and Headline Action to which it relates. Headline Actions and potential actions have been revised where appropriate to reflect the suggestions.

#### Objective 1: Managing Sustainably

HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Best practice' in tree and woodland management needs be developed and made more widespread. In particular pollarding, coppicing etc need to be recognised as the means of ensuring that trees do not become too intrusive as well as a means of making them productive and of creating more work.</li> </ul>
HA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tree lined streets are part of good urban design; they look good and soften the sometime hard/harsh built environment.</li> </ul>
HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manchester should promote and invest in more parks, green spaces, and trees, especially in the City Centre, for the benefit of the public and health, mental health in particular. Link to recent studies about the positive effect on mental and physical health.</li> </ul>
HA2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make sure the management of the inevitable leaf falling is carried out every year to maintain drains in good and clear condition.</li> </ul>
HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making good use of trees that are removed should be a priority; currently most are chipped and sent to power stations and paper mills. Whereas they could be used for local sawn timber or firewood, to reduce the amount of both currently imported from overseas.</li> </ul>
HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are lots of small spaces in public and private ownership, which if deemed suitable (not needed for development) could be made into more attractive features within neighbourhoods with a few trees planted on them.</li> </ul>
HA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Poor building design and airflow modelling have actually contributed to the loss of trees. Given the propensity for more skyscrapers in the city it is imperative that trees are located in area where they can best flourish. Also, rather than wasting money on putting trees in planters commit to planting them in the ground as a truly sustainable legacy for future generations (the cost saving would enable more trees to be planted).</li> </ul>
HA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tree Action Plan should feed into the developing Parks Strategy.</li> </ul>

#### Objective 2: Planting Appropriately

HA 1 and HA 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to ensure that young trees are planted to replace aging mature trees, so that the city is not in a state of deforestation; and ensure that old trees are not felled for design purposes, e.g. because they block a view.</li> </ul>
HA 1 and HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Street trees where people live provide shade during periods of heat stress where there is a preponderance of brick, concrete and tarmac etc.</li> </ul>
HA1 and HA 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New estates would benefit from tree planting and open areas containing mature and young trees. Existing estates with too with few trees would benefit from avenues of trees being planted.</li> </ul>

HA2 (also Objective 1 HA6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest Gardens with layers of under-storey plants such as fruit bushes, raspberry canes, and herbs should also be promoted; more Community orchards are also needed.</li> </ul>
HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It would be lovely to have some of our wide concrete pathways planted with shrubs, grasses and trees in a quality manner, especially along bus routes.</li> </ul>
HA1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is important to plant a diversity of tree types to support biodiversity.</li> </ul>
HA2 and HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planting fruit trees alongside streets may provide an additional food source for poorer people and families.</li> </ul>
HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give people the chance to have trees planted for them - outside properties, in parks, etc, therefore giving people and trees a kind of link together, making people feel attached to trees.</li> </ul>
HA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Give consideration to reducing flood risk when planting trees.</li> </ul>

### Objective 3: Protecting Strongly

H4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage transparency in the planning process of the value of trees (not just native species). The impact on existing trees and the potential for more trees should be a separate sub-section in the environmental impact of planning advice by officers to members.</li> </ul>
HA4 (also Objective 1HA 4)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New developments should be more concerned about fitting their developments into the existing landscape/communities, not being allowed to remove important trees just because they've promised to compensate.</li> </ul>
HA1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a tree needs to be removed for whatever reason due to the development then there should be a formally agreed procedure for replacing them, two (or three) to one in a place nearby.</li> </ul>
HA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Street trees should not be sacrificed for off-road parking.</li> </ul>
HA4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Planning conditions should be used to create and plant green spaces and trees should be imposed on all new city centre buildings.</li> </ul>

### Objective 4: Involving Creatively

HA3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inner city areas such as Levenshulme would benefit from better maintained parks, and more trees and green spaces, and more street tree planting.</li> </ul>
HA1 (also Objective 2 HA1&3)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In cities, encouraging biodiversity is less of an issue than using trees and green spaces to improve the quality of life of neighbourhoods, especially deprived areas.</li> </ul>
HA4 (also Objective 1 HA 6)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools should be involved, especially in deprived areas, and they could educate children in woodland areas.</li> </ul>