

FC London work plan for 2017-18

1 Purpose

This plan provides an overview of Forestry Commission activity in London in 2017-2018 and how it meets government objectives. Most of the work will involve collaborative working with a wide range of other stakeholders, including the London Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee and London Tree Partnership.

2 Vision

To support the protection, improvement and expansion of London's urban forest, so it delivers multiple benefits and is valued by everyone.

3 Policy & Drivers

The [Government Policy Statement on Forestry](#) (Jan 2013) set out the following priorities:

- Protect – from loss or damage, including resilience building
- Improve - the quantity and quality of tree and woodland management
- Expand - woodland and tree canopy cover increase

Urban forests provide particularly high multiple benefits – more than 80% of the UK population live in cities. The FC will also deliver, with partners, the aims of the [Vision for a Resilient Urban Forest](#) which has synergies with the [FC corporate plan](#), [Defra Strategy 2020](#) – and the [London Plan](#) / supporting documents.

4 London context

Some aspects of Forestry Commission work in London differ from its core organisational activity but still fit with Forest Services' 6 workstreams (WP1-6 below). London activity also has an impact and influence across other populated areas in the SE and beyond.

5 What we will do

Protection

WP1 - Tree Health

- Deliver the 2017 Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) operational plan including control and surveillance, stakeholder liaison and communications
- Support continued OPM evidence base building and future policy thinking
- Promote a strategic and collaborative approach to tree health in the capital including Biosecurity, the development of biosecurity plans and preparedness

WP2 – Regulation

- Implement Forestry Commission regulations (Forestry Act, Environmental Impact, Plant Health, Forest Reproductive Materials and CRoW legislation) to prevent / deal with activities that risk the loss of woodlands or the benefits that they provide.

WP3 - Resilience

- Promote borough tree strategies, woodland management plans, sustainable management and good practice / policy
- Support the Ealing iTree survey and Borough Tree Strategy production

Improve

WP4 – Woodlands into Management

- Process Countryside Stewardship and other grant scheme applications / claims
- Facilitate the development of the London Wood Enterprise Network
- Promote the benefits of sustainable woodland management, why tree cutting is good and why management plans are the foundation of sustainability
- Promote funding and other opportunities that can support woodland management

Expand

WP5 – Woodland expansion

- Support delivery of financial incentives such as Countryside Stewardship and alternative funding sources such as the woodland carbon code
- Work with the GLA to identify potential woodland creation sites in target Boroughs

Business Management & Development *WP6*

Develop and deliver joint plans with Environment Agency and Natural England

Support cross sector working through partnerships:

- Chairing the London Tree Partnership
- London Tree Week and delivery of London Tree & Woodland Awards
- Work with the GLA and Defra family to influence strategic plans such as London Plan & Environment Strategy; develop partnership plans to deliver strategic aims

Where capacity permits, we will also be involved in other activities such as:

- Policy and planning – influence pan London policy / plan development to ensure the urban forest is appropriately recognised, protected, improved & expanded
- Work standards – influence the development and implementation of good practice
- Data, evidence and advocacy work – produce, share and disseminate information that advocates the benefits of the urban forest, threats to it and action required

6 Monitoring and reporting of progress against this plan

We will report on progress to the London Forestry & Woodland Advisory Committee and produce a brief report at the end of the year.

Craig Harrison, Forestry Commission London Manager
March 2017