

FC London work plan for 2018-19

(Communication plan in italic)

1 Purpose

This plan provides an overview of Forestry Commission activity in London in 2018-2019 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. Please note that the plan is subject to change during the year to adapt to new or changing priorities.

2 Vision

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

3 Policy & Drivers

The [Government's 25 Year Environment Plan](#), published in 2018, guides the priorities in this plan, notably:

- **E**xpansion of woodland and tree canopy cover increase
- **P**rotection from loss or damage, including resilience building
- **I**mproving the quantity and quality of tree and woodland management
- **C**onnecting people to nature and the urban forest

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](#) and London Environment Strategy.

4 London context

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

5 What we will do

Expansion

Woodland and Tree Planting

- Support delivery of financial incentives such as Countryside Stewardship, Woodland Carbon Fund and alternative funding sources such as the woodland carbon code
- Support the delivery of the GLA programmes on woodland creation and tree planting
- Develop a woodland creation campaign with GLA to promote the benefits and opportunities in London. *This may include documents explaining the funding opportunities and a woodland creation event highlighting potential in London, funding opportunities and good practice*

Protection

Tree Health

- Deliver the 2018 Oak Processionary Moth (OPM) operational plan including control and surveillance, stakeholder liaison and communications
- Support continued OPM evidence building and future policy thinking
- Promote a strategic, collaborative approach to tree health in the capital e.g. biosecurity

- *Hold a tree health event to update stakeholders on the latest news and scrutinise a particular aspect of tree health*
- *Promote biosecurity and the Keep It Clean campaign through social media*

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.*
- *Comment on major infrastructure and planning projects affecting the urban forest*
- *Promote forestry regulations to raise awareness of the requirements of e.g. a felling licence*

Resilience

- *Promote i-Tree studies and other evidence work that informs strategic activity*
- *Promote good practice / policy - borough tree strategies, woodland management plans and sustainable management*

Improvement

Woodlands into Management

- Process Countryside Stewardship and other grant scheme applications / claims
- Continue to support and develop London Wood Enterprise Network activity
- Promote the benefits of sustainable woodland management, why tree cutting is good and why management plans are the foundation of sustainability; support the Great North Wood HLF Project
- *Promote the new Wood Enterprise directory and factsheets through social media*
- *Run Woodland Management workshops for Tree officers and Community groups to increase understanding of woodland management and silviculture, including the benefits of active management*

Connecting People

- Data, evidence and advocacy work – produce, share and disseminate information that advocates the benefits of the urban forest, threats to it and action required
- Chair the London Tree Partnership to enable a collaborative approach to urban forest management, working with partners to develop a partnership plan
- Support the National Park City initiative to engage Londoners in nature and the urban forest, encouraging greater awareness, enjoyment and potential involvement in its care. This will include NPC Week and the London Tree & Woodland Awards
- *Promote the work of the London Tree Partnership and the Urban Forest plan once it has been developed*
- *Deliver key urban forest messages during the London Tree & Woodland Awards*
- *Produce a London urban forest briefing*

Other Activities

We will develop and deliver joint plans with Environment Agency and Natural England. Where capacity permits, we will also be involved in other activities such as policy and planning influence and ensuring good practice is implemented

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.

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