

Report of the Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change

Tree Strategy Review

1. Purpose of Report

To seek approval for the reviewed and updated Tree Strategy - Management Strategy for trees in Council ownership 2023-2027 in line with the Council Corporate Priority to protect the environment for the future.

2. Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to RESOLVE that the updated Tree Strategy – Management Strategy for trees in Council ownership 2023-2027 be approved.

3. Detail

In November 2023, the Council adopted its first Tree Strategy (in its current form), establishing a comprehensive framework for the Management of trees under its ownership. This strategy outlined how the Council would maintain a healthy, safe stock of trees and enhance tree coverage across the Borough (as far as is reasonably practicable).

Moving forward, it is necessary to review and adjust the strategy, along with its supporting action plan. There have been two changes to the Tree Strategy; the first is the inclusion of a section addressing tree surveys across the Borough. This addition aims to manage risks associated with falling trees/branches in public spaces by taking a zoning approach. To support this initiative, a revenue development bid has been submitted, which will enable the team to implement a five-year programme to assess trees across parks, open spaces, and social housing areas.

The second change is the provision of an updated action plan for 2025/26. A progress update on the actions for 2024/25 can be found in **Appendix 1**. A copy of the revised Strategy and actions for 2025/26 can be found in **Appendix 2** and its supporting change table can be found in **Appendix 3**.

Action plan progress

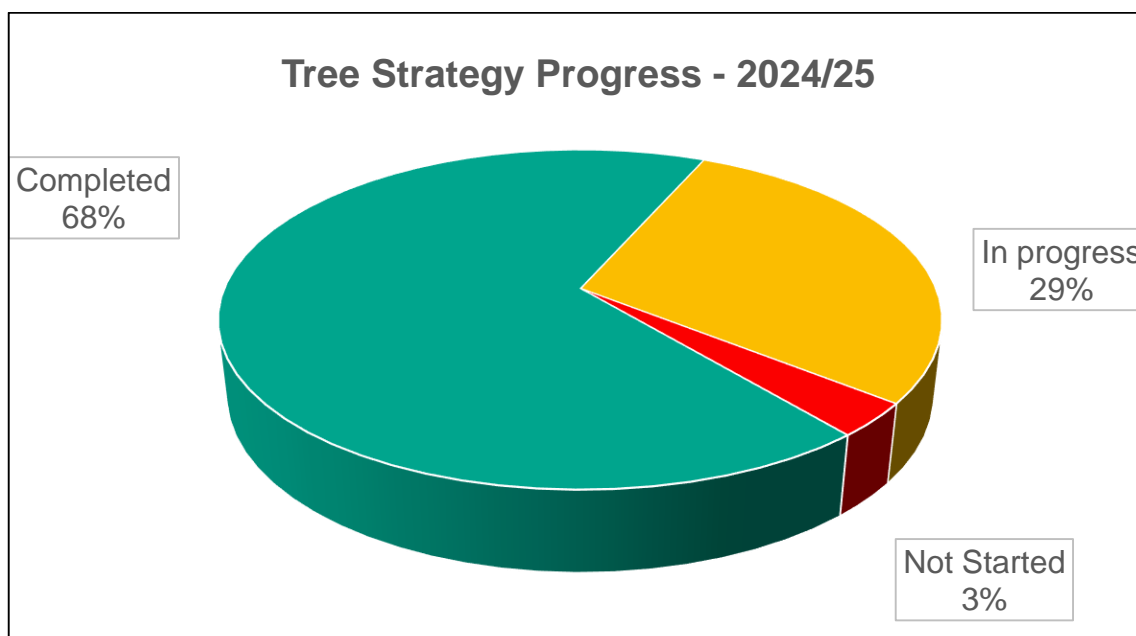
The Environment Service has made significant progress, completing 68% of the 31 actions outlined in the action plan for 2024/25 (Table 1 and Graph 1), which encompasses eight key themes:

- Monitoring
- Management

- Planting
- Biodiversity
- Adaptation
- Mitigation
- Communication
- Health and Wellbeing

Action plan progress	Number of actions
Completed	21
In progress	9
Not Started	1

Table 1: Action Plan progress for the Tree Strategy 2024/25



Graph 1: Action Plan progress for the Tree Strategy 2024/25

The programme themes established in the initial Tree Strategy will remain to ensure continuity. Any actions that have not yet been started or that are in progress but yet to be completed will be rolled over into the action plan for 2025/26.

4. Key Decision

This report is a key decision as defined under Regulation 8 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012, because it effects communities living or working in an area comprising two or more Wards or electoral divisions in the Council's area.

5. Updates from Scrutiny

Not applicable.

6. Financial Implications

The comments from the Head of Finance Services were as follows:

There are no additional financial implications for the Council with costs being contained within existing budgets. Any significant budget implications in the future, over and above virement limits, would require approval by Cabinet.

7. Legal Implications

The comments from the Monitoring Officer / Head of Legal Services were as follows:

The Council has a legal duty to manage and maintain all trees on Council-owned land, in parks and open spaces. The Tree Strategy sets out standards for the management of the tree resource under the stewardship of the Council which comply with nationally recognised codes of practice and will mitigate the risk (e.g. of insurance claims) as well as helping to protect trees and woodlands as a valuable natural asset to Broxtowe.

8. Human Resources Implications

Not applicable.

9. Union Comments

Not applicable.

10. Climate Change Implications

The climate change implications are contained within the report.

11. Data Protection Compliance Implications

This report does not contain any OFFICIAL(SENSITIVE) information and there are no Data Protection issues in relation to this report.

12. Equality Impact Assessment

Not applicable.

13. Background Papers

Nil.