

Tree Strategy update 2023-30



Need for a Tree Strategy

Research

- ▶ Baseline of current tree stock undertaken using the councils tree data, open source software i-Tree, data from the London Data Store (GLA) and Forestry Research.
- ▶ Internal review of processes and procedures undertaken
- ▶ Benchmarking showed London wide canopy cover is 20%. The Environmental Improvement Plan (2023) aims to achieve England wide target of 16.5% by 2050

Outcomes

- ▶ Need for a tree strategy to outline how H&F can achieve a greater canopy
- ▶ Need for a strategy to understand how H&F can improve services and procedures where gaps were identified.



Tree Strategy - Structure



Strategy focuses on how we get to where we want to be, it is built on top of policies.

Vision

At LBHF, we see a future that is green and sustainable. Our vision at the council is to work closely with our stakeholders to improve the green infrastructure of our borough, preserving and expanding our urban forest for the benefits to all and to contribute to becoming the greenest borough.

This is a long term goal, however, the development of a Tree Strategy provides a road map to achieve specific objectives on 7 year timeline designed to improve the lives of our constituents whilst paving the way for a greener future.



Increasing canopy cover



Preserving and improving our trees



Working with residents and stakeholders

Increasing canopy cover

To achieve our vision, we must increase our canopy cover and aim to go from 14% to 16.5%. To do this we not only need to consider council owned spaces but privately owned spaces. We must consider how to fund this and importantly how what we plant now can increase the canopy to cover in future years. To achieve this there are four key areas that need to be considered below.

Opportunity mapping

Funding

Legacy Planting

Private land

Preserving and improving our trees

Whilst we aim to add to our urban forest, we must make certain that we preserve it, ensuring that it can adapt to the changing climatic condition and regeneration of our borough. To do this, we must ensure that we plant the correct species that not only improve local biodiversity, but also species that can survive in the extreme conditions that we experience, such as extreme heat, drought, and flooding.

In addition, we need to ensure that we adhere to best practice in the management of our trees, and that we update our policies and practices to reflect this. We must also ensure that those regenerating parts of borough also do this.

Increasing biodiversity

Development opportunities

Developing policy

Training

Working with residents and stakeholders

Residents, communities, and businesses are key stakeholders in delivering our objectives. It is reported that as well as environmental benefits, tree cover brings several economic and social benefits, therefore we believe it's vital that we continue to foster partnerships with all our stakeholders and that we build new relationships can benefit our urban forest as well as all stakeholders.

Improving communication

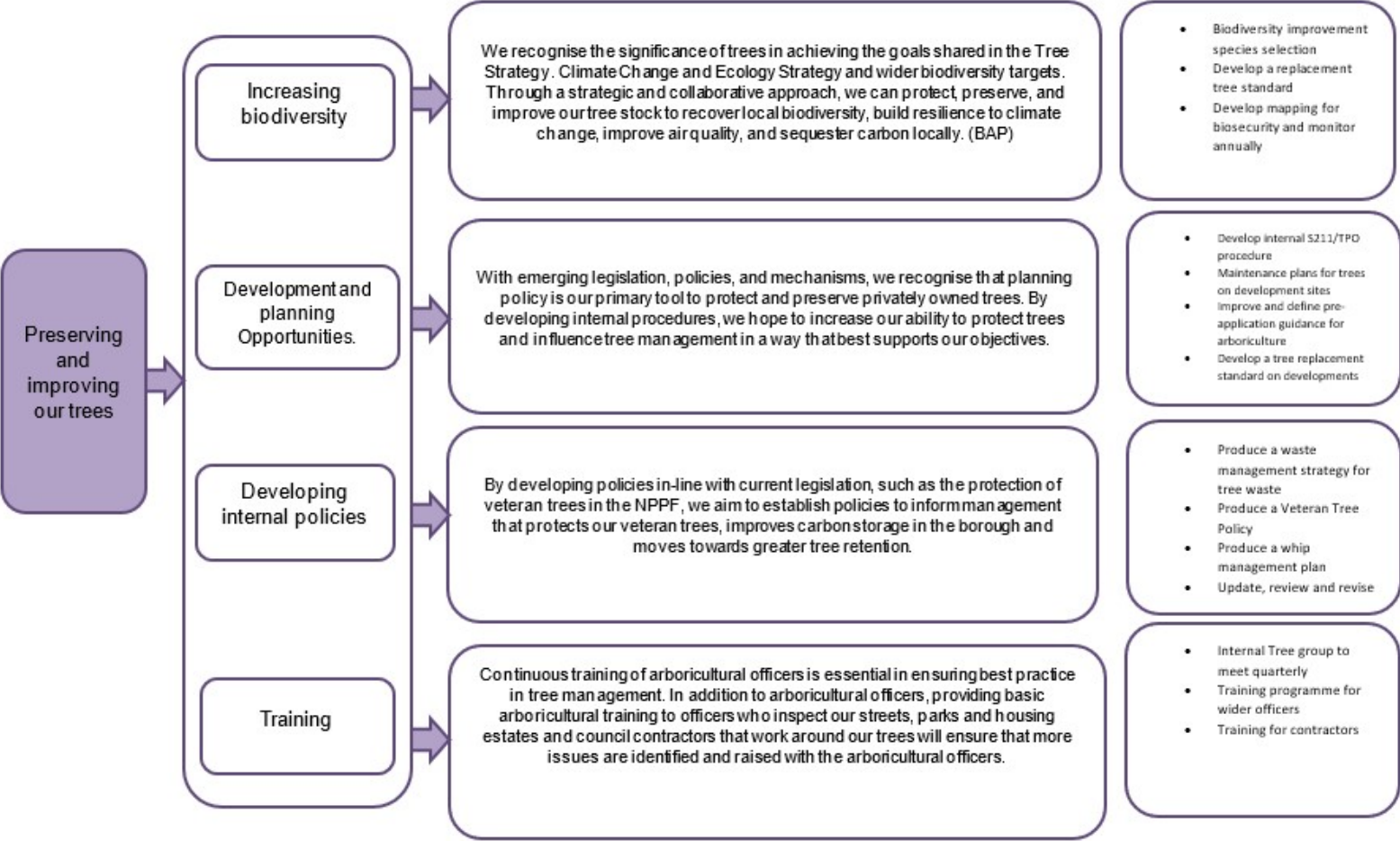
Education

Community projects

Community engagement

Process of developing the vision

(actual diagram not to be in the final document)



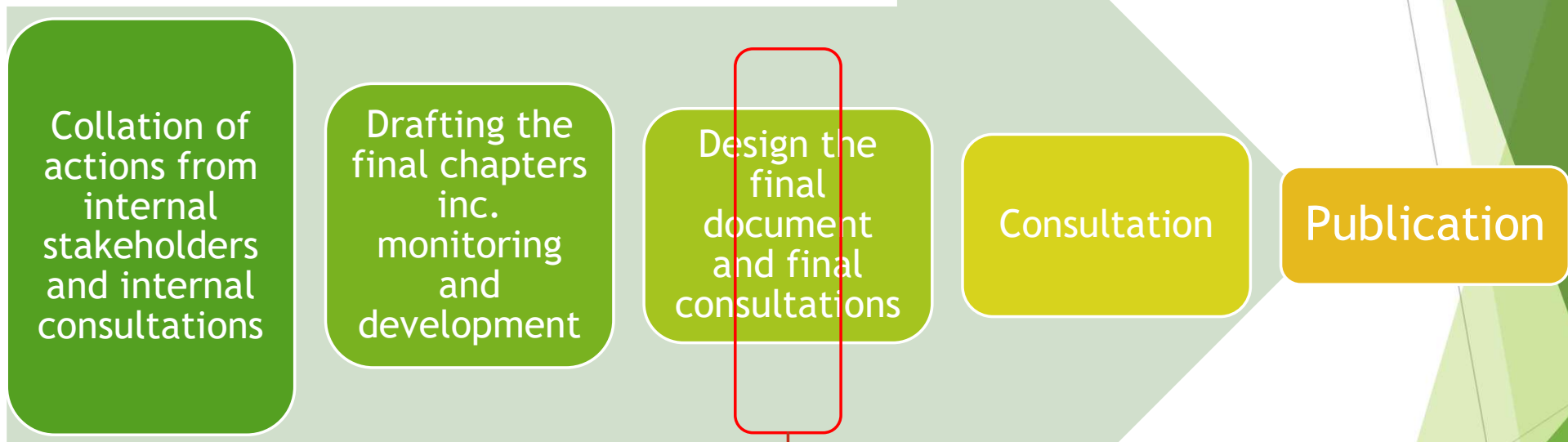
Example of a DRAFT page on delivering the vision

Goal 2 – Funding

To deliver our vision we know that funding is critical, and that we need a plan to fund our vision.



Tree Strategy - Next steps



Referencing document information and gathering supporting information, commissioning design. The Tree Council are supporting us in checking our strategy.

Consultations on-going

Internal

- ▶ Climate Change
 - The Climate Alliance
- ▶ Ecology
 - BNG etc.
- ▶ Parks
 - Friends of groups
- ▶ Planning
 - BNG etc.
- ▶ Housing
 - TRA
- ▶ Communications
 - Graphic design and publication

External

- ▶ Forestry Research
 - Corroborated data
- ▶ Treeconomics
 - Future data collection training
- ▶ Trees for Streets
 - Tree donation scheme
- ▶ Gentian
 - Private tree data
- ▶ Greentalk
 - Curated maps
- ▶ The Tree Council
 - Strategy guidance