

Appendix C – summary of stakeholder workshops: March 2023

1. Engagement workshop 1 (part 1): Protection and management of existing trees

- Many other relevant strategies in development – reference and link
- Tree protection can be a challenge, given limits of Tree Protection Orders and other Legislation
- Lots of community activity and enthusiasm around tree protection, inc. Tree Champions, citizen nature incentives, tree sponsorship), but ‘red tape’ creates barriers for groups and individuals who want to undertake grass roots activity.
- Lack of information sharing (e.g. isn’t clear to communities who are managing areas of woodland or newly planted trees, which can result in their neglect
- Desire to see improved information and knowledge sharing across key stakeholders
- Opportunity to engage private landowners and residents with trees in private gardens to ensure they understand the value of trees
- Strategy to reflect the significant areas of woodlands across the city
- Climate impacts and ash dieback are also a key challenge for protecting Bristol’s tree canopy

2. Engagement workshop 1 (part 2): Opportunities to work together to better manage and protect the existing tree canopy

- Work in partnership to share existing knowledge and information
- Review best practice and case studies
- Increase collaborative working, working with highways, utility companies etc.
- Include business leaders (as investors and landowners) in the conversation,
- private landowners to understand how best to manage trees on their land and have a plan in place for investing in trees
- Improve communication with communities and improve two way dialogue and ensuring that ambassadors and champions have a voice
- Draw together the range of policies and strategies to develop an overarching management plan and vision
- Agree shared principles that support the ambition

3. Engagement workshop 2 (part 1): Opportunities to work together to plant more trees

- Need also focus on quality of trees not just about quantity
- Challenges around new trees dying or the wrong tree in the wrong place which then results in its removal
- Focus on tree canopy target could overlook the wider benefits of other greening,
- for example shrubs, hedges and other planting that delivers biodiversity, climate and air quality
- Need to shift thinking and language to landscape and habitats
- Some opportunity mapping carried out by academics and postgraduate students from Bristol University and by the Council and there is open source data that can be used to understand the existing tree canopy
- Number of funding opportunities, but it was also felt that there was a need to

- involve private organisations to help with funding and get buy-in
- Land availability and competing priorities for land use are a challenge, both in terms of maintaining and protecting existing trees as well as planting new trees (e.g. housing, space for play, food growing, car parking)

4. Engagement workshop 2 (part 2): Growing Bristol's canopy – Critical success factors:

- Breaking out of siloes
- Formal partnership agreements
- Formalising and creating shared processes (e.g. shared templates)
- City leadership and leadership from other key stakeholders such as University
- Learning from best practice
- Knowledge and access to information
- Mapping of available land
- Buy in from across the city, including those not usually in the conversation
- Visual campaigns and communications strategies
- Recognition (e.g., awards)

5. Priorities (to deliver most benefit)

- Street Trees (including tree pit innovation)
- Community Empowerment
- Retaining Trees
- Building on partnership approach (NHS, Universities and Utilities)
- Utilising open / green space
- ensure they understand the value of trees
- Strategy to reflect the significant areas of woodlands across the city
- Climate impacts and ash dieback are also a key challenge for protecting Bristol's tree canopy