

North Kesteven District Council



**North Kesteven**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

# Tree Strategy 2020

A district where everyone has flourishing landscapes



The Council will therefore be most supportive of landscaping proposals that take account of the following:

## 2.1 Species and diversity

In the interests of biodiversity and resilience, developers are encouraged to incorporate an increasingly broad range of species into landscaping proposals. This approach is likely to enhance and safeguard canopy cover in the longer term, whilst simultaneously contributing to tackling climate change.

Whilst developers should design landscaping schemes to maximise the number of trees planted, the Council strongly supports the planting of larger species where feasible. This may reduce the number of trees that can be planted due to larger trees requiring more space to grow. However larger trees can have a greater visual impact in the streetscene compared to smaller species, produce greater canopy cover over time, and generally deliver more environmental benefits such as absorption of carbon and other harmful pollutants, and surface water run-off.

Emerging government policy is strongly advocating for developments to deliver biodiversity net-gain in the near future. By combining trees with other forms of naturalised planting, developers are more likely to be able to deliver this. The Council is therefore likely to support landscaping proposals that incorporate opportunities for biodiversity net-gain.

## 2.2 Planting specification

With the exception of new and replacement hedgerows and woodlands, the Council will generally expect new planting to be comprised of 'heavy standard' sized trees. These trees usually have a girth of 12 – 14 centimetres, and are container-grown making them suitable for planting most of the year. Trees of this specification are also better established, and with appropriate planting techniques and aftercare are less likely to fail.

All new planting will be expected to be planted and cared for in accordance with industry best practice. The Council will, by use of planning conditions, require new planting to be replaced if, within a period of 7 years from the initial planting date, it is destroyed, removed, uprooted or dies.

## 2.3 Multi-functional planting

The Council recognises the importance of providing multifunctional open spaces, and in particular acknowledges the role trees can play in reducing surface water flooding. All major developments are required to utilise 'sustainable urban drainage systems' (SUDS); the Council strongly encourages developers to design SUDS that incorporate trees to improve water absorption and land stability, whilst simultaneously providing high quality and biodiverse recreational and amenity space.