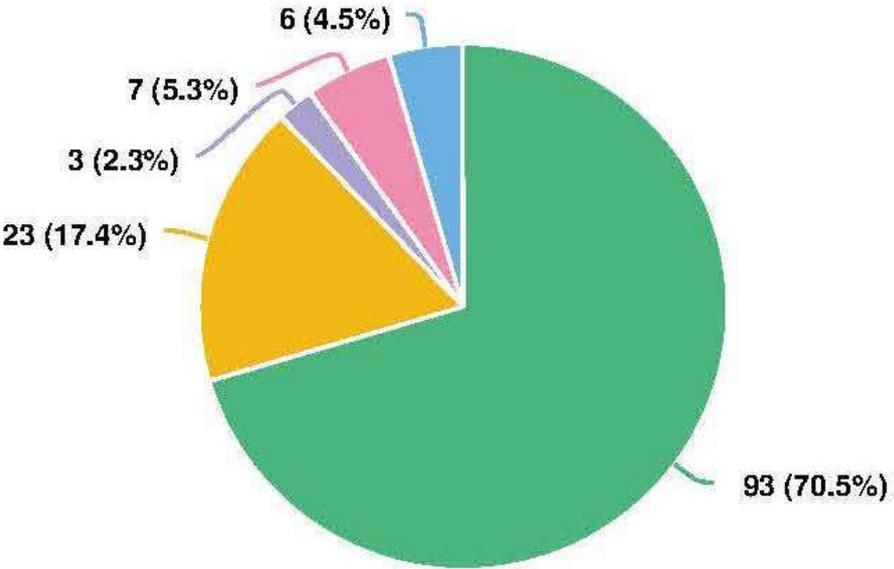


Tree Policy Consultation Report

A total of 503 people accessed the campaign which ran from 17th August to 9th October 2020. 130 responded online, 5 emailed a response and 368 people were aware, informed but chose not to comment. The consultation included a survey with questions and a free text box for further comments, 3 quick polls requesting feedback on certain elements of the whole project and the Tree Policy Document which was available to download or view online which 396 used that option.

The consultation was promoted across social media and was available on the Councils interactive consultation portal <https://yoursay.southend.gov.uk/> it was also made available in a hardcopy format if requested.

1. How much do you agree or disagree with the main aims and objectives of the draft tree policy?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

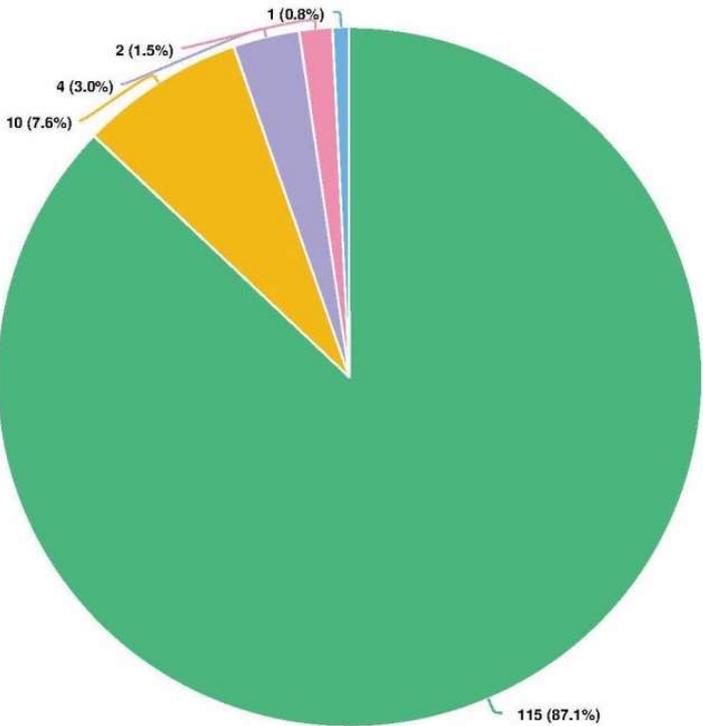
Summary

Overall 87.9% agreed or strongly agreed with the main aims and objectives. There were 26 comments in the free text commenting that the 15% canopy target should be higher. Suggested targets ranged from 17% to 25%.

In response

The target increase in tree canopy cover is based on local climactic conditions as set out in the policy, likely available land to plant trees and reflects independent expert view on canopy cover in coastal towns (The Canopy Cover of England’s Towns and Cities: baselining and setting targets to improve human health and well-being, K.J. Doick et al)

How much do you agree or disagree with the statement that trees bring many benefits to Southend?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Summary

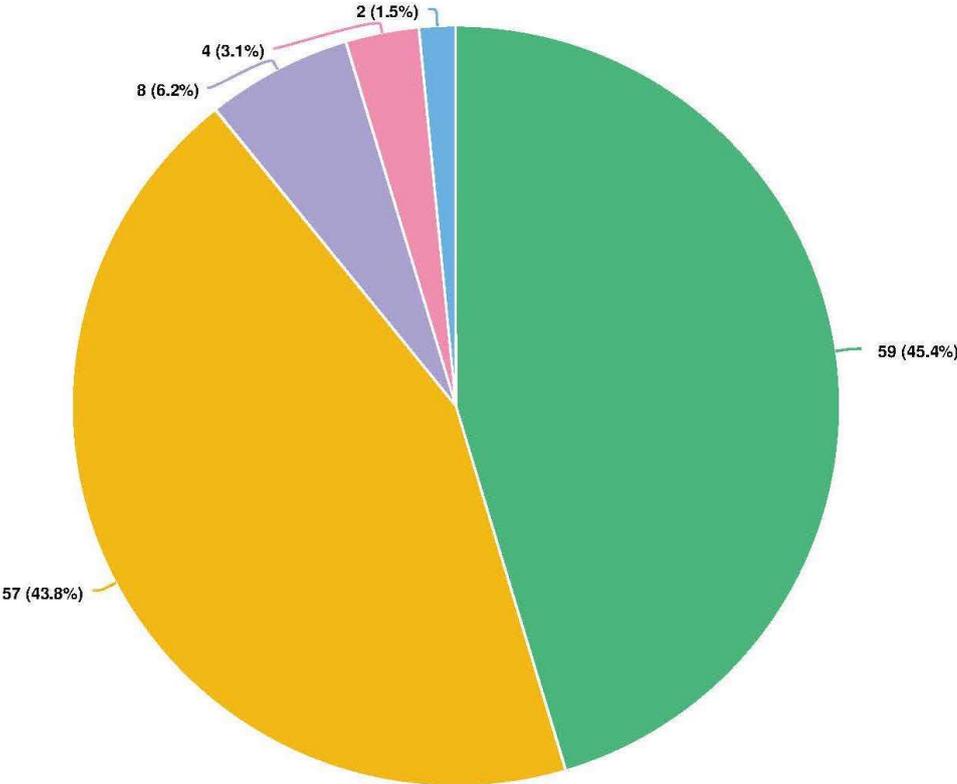
Overall 87.1% strongly agree with the statement that trees bring many benefits to Southend.

Comments in the free text recognised benefits to air quality (2), quality of life (2), education (4), wildlife (3) and for food (1).

In response

The policy sets out the many and varied benefits of trees in an urban environment.

2. How much do you agree or disagree with the policy statements of the reasons that trees are pruned



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Summary

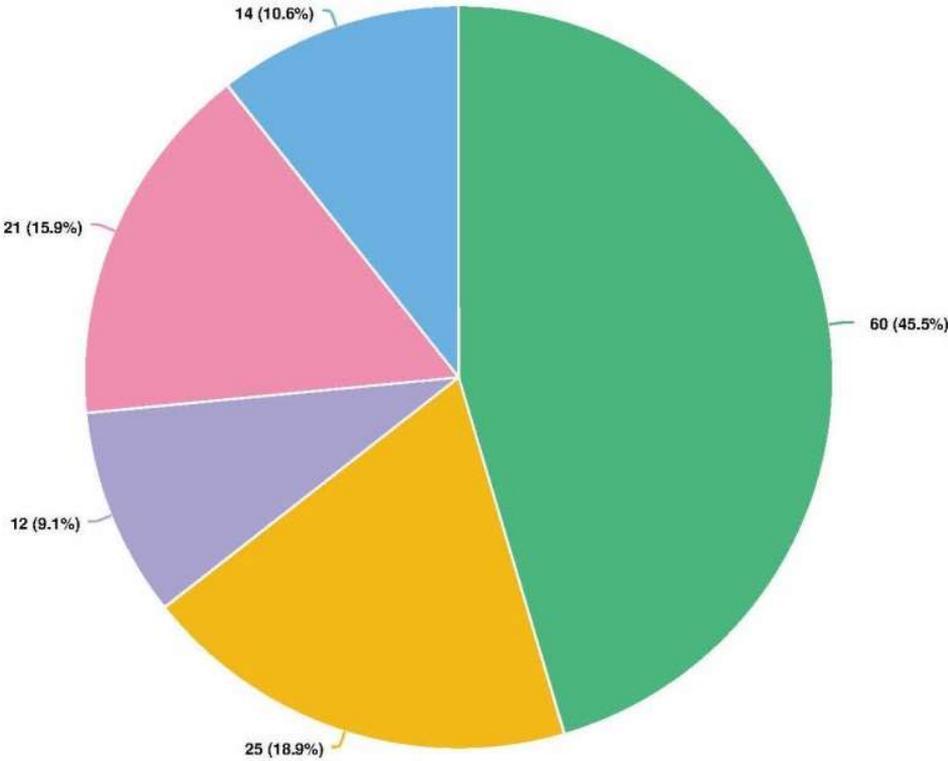
This was a single response question the overall majority agreed with the policy statement but it split with 45% strongly agreeing followed closely by 43% agreeing.

Within the free text three comments recommended that the practise of pollarding is reviewed.

In response

The policy states that pollarded trees will be pruned back to their previous pollard points. This is because new growth branches on pollard trees are less well attached and more prone to failure. Maintaining the pollard regime is therefore based on the health and safety of residents and property.

3. How much do you agree or disagree with the policy statements on the reason why trees will not be pruned?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Summary

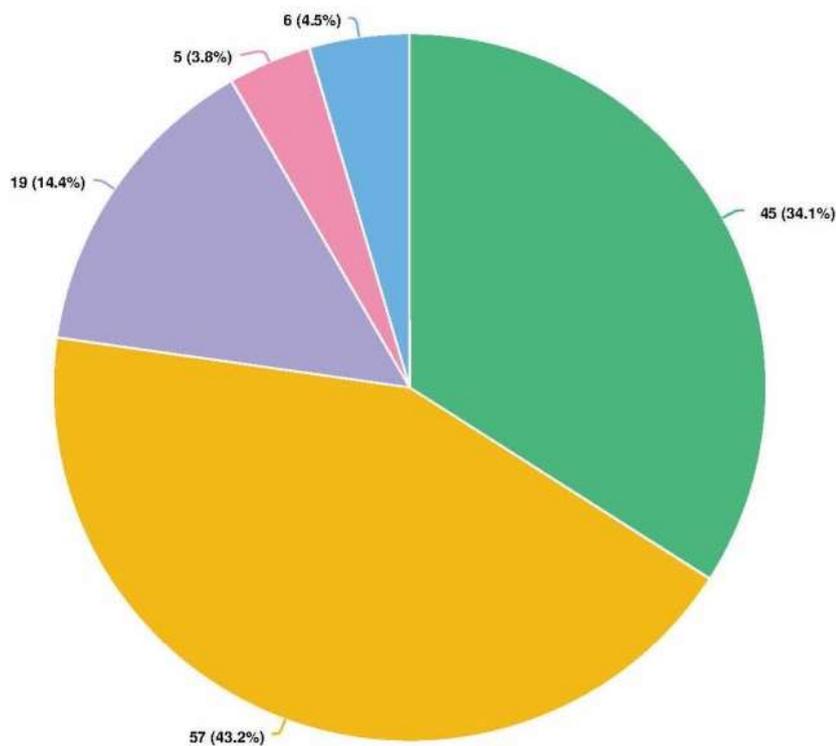
Overall 64% either agreed or strongly agreed with the general approach to tree pruning.

Comments in free text wanted to see trees pruned for solar panels (3), TV reception (1), for fruit fall (1), leaf fall, honeydew (1), phone lines (1), too big (2), damage to footway (2).

In Response

The Policy sets out the council’s legal requirements in maintaining its trees. In the UK there is no legal right to light reaching a property whether this relates to shading or solar panels. TV reception is not guaranteed by a TV license. Leaf fall, fruit fall and the presence of aphids are naturally occurring events and an inevitable seasonal result of having trees. Branches will be pruned if they are heavily rubbing phone lines but pruning has no effect when they are only lightly touching lines. Engineering solutions will be considered to retain trees implicated in damaging pavements as set out in the policy.

4. How much do you agree or disagree with the policy statements on the reasons why trees sometimes need to be removed?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Summary

Overall 77% either strongly agreed or agreed with the statements on tree removal.

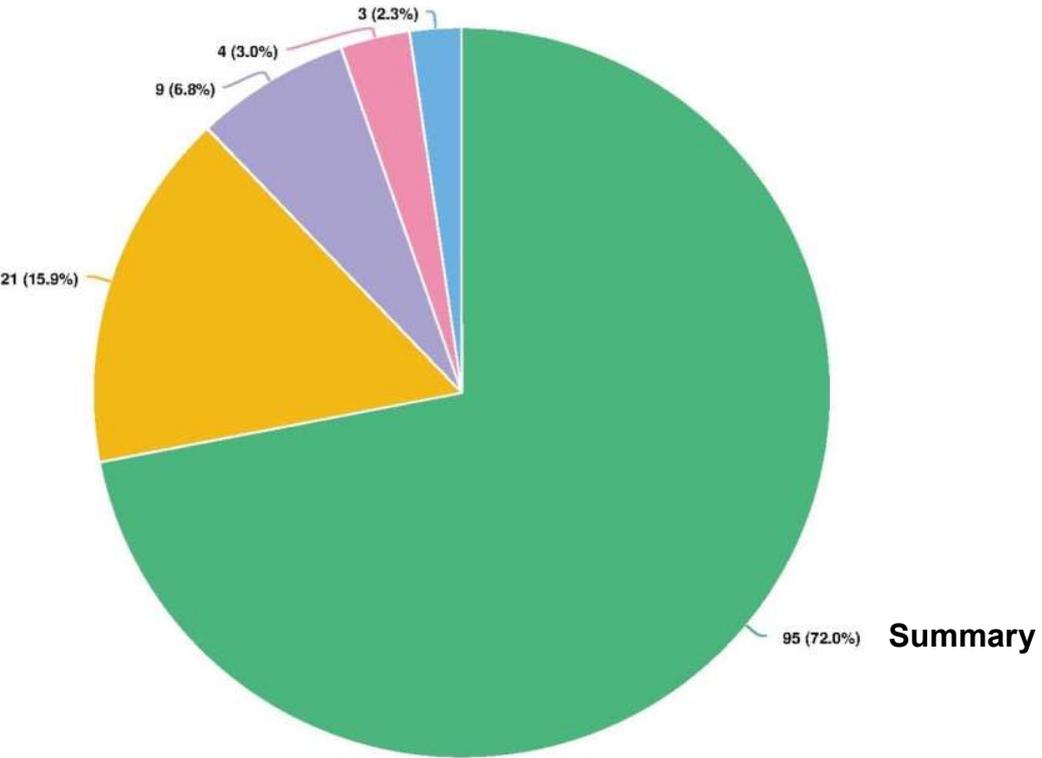
Within the free text there were views expressed both for and against the removal of trees. Two comments supported tree removal but only as a last resort. Two comments suggested trees should be removed because they are too big/may cause damage. One comment suggested tree removal should be planned 5 to 10 years in advance. Three commented on the importance of information being readily available on the reason a tree may be removed.

In Response

The policy sets out a clear aim to manage the existing stock of trees and to extend the overall canopy cover. It sets out specific reasons why trees sometimes have to be removed. While trees in parks and open spaces can sometimes be managed over a period of years as they decline this is rarely possible with highways trees growing in busy locations. This is due to the health and safety risks posed to residents and property.

Engineering solutions will be considered as the first approach to retain street trees as described in the policy.

6 How much do you agree or disagree with the aim to plant more trees in Southend?



Question options

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neither agree or disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

The majority of those that responded agree with the proposed future tree planting based on maintaining and increasing canopy cover to achieve an average of 15 percent coverage by 2050.

Free text comments also suggested the creation of community orchards (1), identify sites for mass planting (2), plant more fruit trees (1), don't plant fruit trees (1), plant native trees (7), provide information of the type of tree selected and why (2), update 2 for 1 planting with 150 plus saplings to replace a mature tree, plant 10,000 trees each year for the next two years (2), commit to woodland creation (1), allow natural regeneration (1), apply CAVAT valuation (2), residents should be able to request trees(1), replace trees with semi-mature specimens (1), right tree, right place (1), do not plant trees in Scheduled Ancient Monuments (1), involve the community in tree planting, monitor planting.

Only one comment was received that no trees should be planted.

Numbers in () are the number of free text comments received relating to the matter.

In response

A number of community orchards have already been planted and the policy sets out to continue this practise.

The council will seek to identify suitable sites for larger scale planting of trees and the creation of new woodland or extension of existing woodland. This is necessarily limited by suitable sites being available and the existing use of land i.e. sports grounds, meadowland, formal gardens, space for public events etc. Whip planting schemes or natural regeneration are both considered appropriate methodologies depending on the nature of the site. Scheduled Ancient Monuments will not be considered as suitable sites.

The policy sets out that native species will be planted in woodland creation schemes and will adopt the 'right tree, right place' for other locations. This approach considers the overall size and form of a tree for its location. Information on tree planting locations and the tree species planted is being listed on the council's website.

The policy sets out how CAVAT will be applied in conditioning replacement trees. Many trees are planted each year in response to resident's requests. Residents can also donate trees at a subsidised rate through the donated tree scheme. Information is posted on the council's website providing links with advice and recommendations on selecting trees to plant in private gardens.

Semi-mature specimens are planted in major schemes. It is not possible to plant semi-mature species in most roads as the size of the root ball is too big for the space available.

The council has involved residents in various community tree planting days in the past and aims to continue to do so in the future.

The policy identifies key measures in an annual progress review.

Comments	
1.	East Beach needs more trees. The lack of native flora in this area is a tragic waste of a diverse eco-system.
2.	I think it's a shame the policy aims have been grouped together in this consultation. Whilst I understand the need for this in terms of making the consultation brief, I have found myself agreeing that trees do not need to be pruned if they are blocking solar panels whereas I am not sure I do agree. I have also agreed to tree removal if 'the tree is an unsuitable species for its location and is being removed as part of a phased removal, or total removal and replanting programme.' I don't agree with this unless the decision is a mutual one with local people i.e. who determines 'unsuitable species'. I am also concerned about the vicious pollarding of a beautiful cherry tree on Chelmsford Avenue that has killed the tree. The tree has neither been removed or replaced. As someone who requested we plant more trees on Chelmsford Avenue (we did - thank you SBC) it is important to understand what happens when our trees die and how they can be replaced. When the trees were planted on Chelmsford Avenue I contacted the tree officer and asked about the species once it was done. There is a lot of shared learning that could be done within streets and neighbourhoods when planting new trees e.g. the type of tree that can be selected and why, the benefits locally and to the climate, ongoing care and maintenance. It would be great if the tree officers could work with other organisations or council depts to provide some pop up learning at tree planting events and works. The other thing that

	would be great is a tree trail around Southend. We have some wonderful trees - a map with tree species, facts, history would be a great project for schools/Southend Adult Community college/Trust Links to work together on. Monkey Puzzles at Cuckoo Corner, Fig in Priory Park, Cedar or similar in Chalkwell, Palms on the seafront etc.
3.	I think we should be planting as many trees as we can. They make the area nicer and lessen our environmental impact
4.	Trees should be pruned for things such as phone lines, as phone lines become brittle and could be a life lines for older generation
5.	Some trees are now just too big for pavements they make it dangerous when it brings the ground up, they cause an obstruction so people have to walk in the road to keep social distancing . The roots ruin front gardens and can cause subsidence. Also prevent people from using their front gardens as off street parking.
6.	Larger trees that cause obstruction/damage on pavements & potential subsidence would be removed
7.	When trees are removed, if they are in a clump together, as in Neil Armstrong Way, a whole green has been left bare until replanting, however creative the planting will be, it has left the immediate area empty for the first time in possibly 30 years. That is a real shame.
8.	15% in 30 years is an increase of 2.8 trees a week - not exactly a challenging target! Also the survey is flawed as there are up to 10 individual statements in some questions but you only allow one answer.
9.	Please plant fruit trees wherever possible. I would like to see information on each tree about the type of fruit and when it's ripe. This way members of the public will feel empowered to harvest some of the fruit. It is more important than ever to grow and eat as local as possible, and what better way then utilising the council's tree growing policy as part of this!
10.	Residents should be able to ask for trees to be planted in certain areas and a reply given back if this is possible
11.	I have noticed the increase in tree planting which is fantastic but I wondered where there needs more trees planted & it's not possible, could some other form of greenery be planted instead? Such as bushes or wildflowers.
12.	I agree with some elements of the questions but not others wheras there is only the option to agree or disagree?
13.	1. Avenues, such as where I live, are lined with trees. When a tree is removed for any reason it should be replaced with an appropriate alternative tree as soon as conditions permit. The very essence of an Avenue is the presence of trees; these trees, for some, will become a nuisance due to leaf drop etc so people should consider this before moving to such a road. Applications by the public to remove trees from the street should be declined, with no right to appeal, unless it is to do with safety. 2. Consideration should be made when trees are planted near street lighting: will it eventually infringe on the efficiency of the street light? 3. Years ago many mature trees were removed from The Cliffs along Southend seafront. This catastrophic move has meant areas of the cliffs being closed to the public for years and the annihilation of the band stage due to subsidence. Replanting with deep rooted trees should be a priority for the council along that same stretch and any other areas in the borough that have similar problems. 4. Council could offer the public free saplings to plant in their own gardens. 5. Perhaps smaller species of tree would me more suitable for the narrower streets of the town which also have

	narrow pavements or pavements which have given way to slopes for parking making the way for pedestrians and vehicles alike to be compromised. Sycamore, wych elm and the like are not suitable for such roads. 6. Native trees should be first preference when planting the street verges.
14.	To plant trees that are of a suitable size for the roads they are in. To request that residents trim lower growth which can block footpath
15.	Please get local schools involved in street planting to encourage understanding of the importance of street trees
16.	15% increase by 2050 seems unambitious for such a populous council area. I would challenge the council to aim for a 15% increase by 2030 Where possible there should be native species of trees as this is better for wildlife. Where suitable there should be trees with edible crops to provide free fruit for people, birds and animals. This will encourage more interaction with the trees and hopefully encourage people to value and protect the trees in their area
17.	No more trees should be planted in Southend until the Council start and continue to remove their mess instead of it blowing into everyone's property because they can't be bothered to remove fallen leaves and seem to find it green to blow grass cuttings and dust everywhere instead of cleaning it up.
18.	Public consultation should be utilised for any major tree works
19.	It may be a separate policy but I also believe we need to promote and protect wild flower meadows and other food sources for pollinators.
20.	I agree with the policy regarding trees however the council should look at the undergrowth and ivy around our trees.
21.	An inclusion of wildlife areas which would include parks and woodlands/nature reserves. Ponds should also be encouraged as a means for amphibians to flourish. Also I would like bylaws to be implemented in regards to dog owners being responsible for keeping their dogs on leads whilst walking in nature reserves such as belfairs woodland. At present, this is not being heard to.
22.	The aim for 15% coverage would be more meaningful if accompanied by the current figure (apologies if I have missed it) Also, 2050 seems an awfully long way away, can we not be aiming for something a bit more relevant, like, say, 2030.
23.	When planting trees on footpaths please do not plant fruit trees as the fruit makes the pavements slippery and gets onto footwear. Otherwise the more trees that are planted the better.
24.	It would be useful if the policy had information on the type of trees that will be planted
25.	I think all new properties built should have some version of green spaces even if its a roof garden or green wall including trees as part of its planning agreement. Any housing association buying up properties should also provide a green space or donate to local green spaces
26.	Go further, faster!!!!... to achieve a minimum average of 15 percent coverage before 2050.
27.	I would question whether the 15% coverage target by 2050 is ambitious enough a reform (if a reform at all). Why not push for a higher percentage, seeking a significant and eye catching shift in Southend tree coverage, to not only influence council policy but importantly to capture the attention of residents (shaping their behaviour) and attracting potential investment (e.g. Southend, the new garden city)?

28.	Awaiting replacement of tree (outside Shoebury Road) requested Autumn 2019
29.	Planting saplings does not of itself compensate for the loss of mature trees, as it may take 20 years or more to provide an equivalent diversity of ecosystem and habitat as was provided by a mature tree. The loss of so many mature trees in Southchurch Boulevard is an example of that - new trees planted (assuming they survive vandalism or drought) will take several decades to replace those beautiful mature trees taken down. Also, to describe trees in Southend as an urban forest seems a bit fanciful. A forest requires dense planting of hundreds of trees together, not isolated trees lining streets. Wildlife needs genuine areas of woodland to survive and flourish. Isolated trees are better than no trees, but can't begin to replace genuine forest
30.	15% is an unambiguous target, should be more like 25%. Spaces where new trees are planted need more protection. Trees should be part of planning process, how many affected, how many to be planted. Use former common land i.e. gunners park, Fossets, to reforest.
31.	I'd suggest the tree planting needs to be significantly higher than 15% in 30 years. I think that is a very small percentage for what could be done in the area. This needs to be reevaluated. There are certainly people in the area who are happy to take responsibility that the Council cannot shoulder, so we can plant more trees, increase more wildlife diversity and improve habitats. If it's been recognised that we have worse air pollution than London despite living near the Estuary, something much more radical on our green space needs to be done.
32.	Reinstate trees in Southchurch Avenue, York Road.
33.	Planting trees in parks is a good idea but trees should be removed from roadsides and near houses. The trees in my area have grown too big causing pavement damage, wall damage and soiling of houses and cars by aphids and birds causing constant misery.
34.	The council to monitor and ensure all utility companies are responsible for protecting trees when carrying out work in the street and, where deliberate or accidental damage occurs, the company is to replace the tree/s within an agreed time frame. (So many healthy trees in my street have been lost this way over the last twenty years without any accountability).
35.	Any trees planted must be cared for and appropriately watered when young. Adjoining neighbours sometimes take care of street trees, perhaps this could be encouraged. Vandalism to trees should be treated as serious damage. The policy of leaving parks open at night is not desirable. Labels on trees in parks and Tree guides would encourage interest and knowledge. There are many interesting trees in Southen Parks and in the streets, but few labelled. Maybe a tree trail, say in a park or round some streets would be good. We also have some special trees and memorial trees that could be highlighted.
36.	Ensuring that appropriate trees are planted on highways. Too many recently planted trees are inappropriate for their location and are causing damage to footpaths and property.
37.	Plant MORE trees. Re question 4, some of these need blanket refusals need unpacking. Pruning should be allowed if a tree blocks sunlight or satellite reception, if no other alternative solutions are available. A bit of real life application and compromise is required.
38.	I am not sure what this survey hopes to achieve. Seems a waste of time!

39.	It is unclear from your survey whether it is 15% per year, or 15% by 2050 - 15% by 2050 isn't many trees!. You also mention 'by planting more trees than are removed' -- there needs to be a more specific target, as it might be that only one tree is removed in a particular year, so planting 2 trees is not a very stretched strategy is it??.... 15% per year would be a good target - is that what you mean? AND PLEASE help your residents who are currently blighted by trees in neighbours gardens blocking light, dropping leaves and general encroachment. Please advise residents NOT to plant any tree that could cause neighbour hood problems in years to come -- trees seem to live longer than people!! My example are Mountain ash trees and a huge Silver birch tree that were planted in my near neighbours garden years ago and have grown to huge heights, and cause untold problems in the neighbourhood with sunlight being blocked, orange berry droppings and huge amounts of leaves dropped late autumn..... the neighbour involved will not listen to neighbours concerns, and it causes bad disputes. For example, from around May thru to October, his trees block sun into our garden. So, trees in gardens must come with a health warning.... Perhaps the council could take control of trees in peoples gardens that become a problem!!!.
40.	Reduce height of trees and allow residents to prune trees near their properties.
41.	It is important, after all we learnt from all those painful times that we had join that kill full disease that might of kill everyone who is alive and living, that, we never take away the life of a living breathable, glorious creature (like a tree) just because you want to built it in a spacious place, or remove one to put another instead, or they can't be there because of this and that..... so on and so on.....so you will not going to be dead over a small flue disease yourself from the beginning. So you kill a tree because one of them is giving illness to others, so kill other human beings whose ill like whose got viruses or hard illnesses so they won't give them to others too!! Please let us bear this in mind that trees and green areas from before and then, are most part of importance in building our LAND SCAPE Planning in our architectural studying and planning, and it can never ever be hurt, cut, removed for any kind of reasons that so could humans can live easier without them before we all go away from any kind of diseases and never come back again.
42.	Can we do more to celebrate our oldest trees which might be a way of protecting them if privately owned and not otherwise protected? I am thinking of the beautiful old copper beeches in Leigh Park Road. Can a directory of street trees be made available so you can look up the trees in your street and why they were chosen and when they were planted? Eg There are walnut trees in Recreation Avenue -beautiful-why were these chosen? More information about street trees should be available to the public'. I think a lot of people would be interested. But generally keep up the good work . Street trees give me so much pleasure and can transform streets which otherwise look like car parks
43.	Trees are a deterrent to parking on verges and pedestrian pathways - especially important as signing of illegality and enforcement in residential roads is virtually non-existent. Trees which fall or are removed should be replaced as a matter of course - the one which fell in front of my house some 18 years ago is still missing despite my requests, my offer to contribute to cost and undertake to water.

44.	I think there should be better leaf cleaning on roads with older forest trees (London Plane especially) which lose some of their leaves in summer. My son lives in Avenue Terrace and this lovely road is spoilt by the amount of leaves. I think householders could be encouraged to do small things like rub out the side shoots (when safe to do so I'm not suggesting they get a ladder) as they grow before they become too big and the tree fella has to come and remove them. Some householders might be happy to bag leaves if they are given sacks. I think the Council if they haven't already done so should commit to the retention of the forest trees planted in Victorian and Edwardian times so they don't get a "Sheffield situation". I know they take a lot of effort pollarding etc but are part of our heritage. I live in Redcliff Drive and a resident had e-mailed the Council about maybe having some trees but received no answer. We certainly are willing to have some trees so long as it is possible.
45.	I would like larger trees planted or protected in cages when they are planted as the current small / younger trees are vandalized and killed as soon as they are planted. There are still too many enormous trees in streets which are not regularly pruned.
46.	To plant more varied native species of trees and perhaps include some educational details. I.e. when planting an oak inform the public how many insect species it can host, how long it can live and how much carbon dioxide it can turn into oxygen.
47.	I notice pruning roadside trees have been neglected these past three months and as a result the trees have overgrown untidily!
48.	I would like to see trees planted all along the High St. Nothing improves the look of a place than the presence of trees and other greenery.
49.	The council should be take more action where tree branches, and shrubs, or hedges on private land and gardens overhang or intrude into public carriageways or footpaths. As I go about the Borough I have often noticed examples of this. Similarly, at road junctions hedges extending over the footpath often unsafely restrict the view of drivers causing them to move out into a busier road before they can see approaching traffic.
50.	It's all very well talking, but what about some action, particularly with pruning oversize trees
51.	Whether you plant trees financed by others or at your own costs, we have seen young saplings vandalized or left to die by not being watered. They must be watered and must be better protected if we are to see an increased population of trees. We would be happy to encourage local business support, but they need some confidence that they will last and their financial support protected
52.	Please consider Dane Street, Shoeburyness for new trees. It is a bare street with no trees currently. They would need to be on the council house side of the road.
53.	I am concerned that the council has removed trees for a variety of reasons in Fillebrook Avenue and failed to replace them. Additionally bushes and trees in the beds in the road are not properly maintained. They are given a 15 minute "chop down" twice a year.
54.	I don't understand why we have such a low aim as 15%.
55.	New trees, where possible, should be native species, and not too liable to die if more hot dry weather becomes the norm...a difficult combination, but possible.

56.	Some of the existing trees are too big in certain circumstances. They should be replaced with more suitable trees
57.	New tree coverage should far-exceed 15% by 2050. Perhaps Southend council should discuss with Rochford Council about expanding existing woodland in the area.
58.	15% coverage is a far too low as a target. It should be at least 20%.
59.	Community advice and guidance about what trees are suitable for which locations. Many residents may be interested in having a tree in their garden but may not know which trees are most suitable for the location and may therefore end up either not planting any at all or may plant trees which are unsuitable for the location and later cause problems for themselves and others. Access to affordable trees/saplings which are suitable for such locations as described above. I recall years ago the Council provided the opportunity for individuals to purchase hedge plants at a very good rate (unsure if it was due to surplus supply or encouraging development of new hedgerows, but something similar would be good). Actively promote schemes like the Woodland's Trust 'free trees for schools and communities' https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant-trees/schools-and-communities/ and support engagement with such schemes through granting permission where the Council is landowner. Help raise awareness about trees and tree varieties. For example more people have visited parks in recent months and many might have admired the trees, but sadly won't know what the tree is or anything about it. Greater awareness and knowledge may bring greater respect. More greenery such as trees in the town centre. Community fruit trees or community orchard such that locals could benefit from the harvest. Sponsor a tree schemes.
60.	I'd like to see a higher target. I'd also like some consideration of planting shrubs along verges, particularly near/on the route to schools where they can help to protect children from traffic pollution.
61.	Consideration MUST be given to the size to which a tree will grow - too many footpaths, verges and properties in the town are being damaged and in some cases are dangerous due to the size to which the trees have grown. Additionally, many remedial works following tree removal are substandard, with bulk root systems left in place that still raise and damage the surrounding area
62.	
63.	FOOTPATH DAMAGE MUST BE ASSESSED - CAUSED BY TREE ROOTS AND A BULGE - LIFT LIMIT MUST BE APPLIED :- Path damage outside Nos. Briarwood Drive L-O-S is excessive.
64.	I'm sorry but 15 % by 2050 is terrible and not nearly enough!! We're in a Climate Emergency! More needs to be done to stop building on flood lands and green belt land. It takes years for trees to be established enough to make a difference to our air quality. Please do more. Literally our lives depend on it!
65.	15% Canopy cover by 2050 is not enough. It is a reasonable aim, but you need to be aiming higher and you also need to acting on this now. You have considered tree planting but haven't considered the use of rooftop spaces.
66.	There should be a focus on planting in areas with lighter canopy cover. There should be a tree for residents scheme, such as the trees for baby scheme in Cambridge. There should be education resources to encourage children to go out and observe trees.

67.	1. I would like to see a policy on leaving some dead trees in appropriate safe places for the benefit of nesting birds and other wildlife to use, even if this means fencing them off for safety (with educational information available of course). Also a policy for allowing for bird and bat boxes on appropriate trees (perhaps this could be a sponsor scheme like benches). 2. In order to encourage home owners to install solar panels, there needs to be some consideration of their needs if trees block light to the panels. 3. If mature trees are removed for development reasons, then replanting should include more mature trees not just whips. 4. Where possible, native trees should be used. 5. I think that a target of 15% is quite low for 2050, and we should be more ambitious!
68.	The type of new trees that are planted should be considered. In my road, the trees are very old and lovely but some drop huge conkers which can cause accidents and some drop a sticky sap. The trees are large so a build up of leaves can be a problem and slippery on pavements despite residents all doing their bit to sweep up, dispose of etc. it can be hard to keep on top of this so we do need more street cleaners in the autumn when they drop. Also, we have a problem with roots pulling up the pavement which again is dangerous.
69.	I widely support the majority of the policies, aims and objectives outlined in this consultation. Clearly, nearly all of the UK is deficient in tree canopy cover which seriously needs addressing. I am therefore pleased to see this consultation being rolled out. I do feel that to many people in the borough are either ignorant or have disregard for trees and the environment generally, which is a pity. Hopefully education can play a role in increasing the tree canopy significantly in Southend borough and nationally in the forthcoming years. Good start! :-)
70.	I think that Southend could plant a lot more trees than this. For example my children noticed down Southend high street there are no trees. Wouldn't it look lovely and be great for the environment to put trees down there? At the moment it looks barren and unattractive. I love the fact that areas like Belton way has been let as a nature reserve and it should be encouraged to have these places where nature can be largely untouched.
71.	As part of planning I would like all new housing developments must have provision for tree planting. Please continue to plant trees in the borough wherever possible.
72.	Plant more native trees such as Rowan, Silver Birch, Alder.
73.	We need more trees in Southend, particularly in areas dominated by concrete/buildings like the High Street. More trees and pedestrianised areas would help to make the high street a more attractive area to meet, eat, drink and socialise outside, hopefully attracting businesses and revitalising the tired and frankly ugly area. More flora please!
74.	I would prefer if it is possible to plant more native species, there are smaller trees that would fit in the urban landscape. I think in particular the dark red leafed "cherry" trees do not fit in and are somewhat depressing. There seems to be a lot of "tarmac" right up around the base of the trees which is then lifted as the tree grows causing very uneven pavements eg along Pall Mall in Leigh. When planting new trees it would be good if biodegradable covers around the trunk could be used, as a lot of trees have previously been planted with plastic wraps, which remain in place and eventually fall off and become rubbish, eg around Garons.

75.	Please do not remove the Horse chestnuts in Victoria Avenue- can't anything be done to treat them? Please accompany tree planting with woodland plants and flowers to create wild areas.
76.	15% is too small a figure and the Council should be far more ambitious in its tree planting for the benefit of humans and wildlife and for averting extreme climate change.
77.	Q1 15% should be our target now for 2050 it should be 21% as recommended by Natural England etc. Further to this what is the definition of an urban forest? Q3 Insurers can over implicate trees and removal can also effect movement/subsidence/ the water table and trees' hydrology. Q5 Decaying trees are absolutely fundamental for fungal/invertebrate life: these are at the base of food chains. Where safe or made safe to decay in situ as in Chalkwell Park sweet chestnut south west border, this would be good ecological practice. Re footpath damage: if a beautiful mature tree unique to its place is removed a canopy equivalent should be the criteria for its replacement(s).
78.	I would like the target for overall canopy cover to be increased from 15% to 25% by 2050, and for there to be a commitment to continuing to increase that cover beyond 2050.
79.	I agree on most parts above. However, the council must ensure that thorough due diligence by an independent professional is carried out before any tree removal is performed. This due diligence must also be carried out on any company carrying out the works on the tree and reviewed regularly. I also question whether the target of 15% by 2050 is sufficient enough. I would be interested to hear of any specific target areas and how this will be monitored to ensure the target is met.
80.	MORE TREES THE BETTER
81.	I have also read the submission from the local group Once Upon a Tree and I fully endorse all of their recommendations. I would like this endorsement to be recorded
82.	In conservation areas there should be a duty of care to look after trees in private ownership. Planning permission is required to do any maintenance on trees in these areas whether or not they have TPPOs and this possibly deters people from looking after their trees
83.	If the council has decided to remove any tree I think residents should be given the specific reasons why and should be allowed to object if they disagree. Planting saplings which may not all survive doesn't make up for removing mature trees.
84.	When a mature tree is removed, you also displace the shade the tree produces together with the Wild life and the ability to store the carbon omitted by vehicles, if the trees are replaced by new trees, the new trees need to be semi mature trees. This will encourage the return of the Wild Life, give shade to the pedestrian, and help reduce the vehicle omission's
85.	I believe the canopy cover target should be far higher than 15%. The Eu average is 35%. I think we should be aiming for 17% by 2025 and 20% by 2030. I think it would be a more effective target if the council were to commit to planting a certain volume of trees within the immediate future. For example, it could carry out a 'Great Tree Plant Challenge'; residents could be empowered to plant 10000 trees by end of 021 and a further 10,000 trees by 2022.

86.	I believe the following reasons should be good enough reasons to prune a tree. The tree is blocking TV and satellite reception And The tree is blocking sunlight reaching solar panels placed on a neighbouring private property.
87.	I was astonished to see such a weak target. From 12% to 15% by 2050 is appalling. It is beyond me how a target like that could be proposed. Please work with all residents and let's get this sorted within the next two years. Please launch "The Great Tree Plant" in 2021, with the aim of getting residents to plant trees on grass verges, private gardens and designated parts of public parks and other public land. The work will be done by residents, with guidance provided by the council on tree species, watering and tree care. The Council target should be changed to plant 10,000 trees in 2021 and another 10,000 trees in 2022. I am very happy to help get residents organised and get the tree planting done.
88.	15% is still fairly low in comparison with national and neighbouring country averages. I would be in favour of increasing both the cover, and the speed with which it is introduced.
89.	I'd love to see some more tree in my street. Avenue Road. I'd also like to see trees properly maintained when newly planted. So many times I've seen new trees planted but not watered. Within a few month they are dead. Also more native tree. Long lived tree in parks like cedar and yew trees
90.	The more trees the better, is 15% coverage sufficient? Also could suggest local homes adopting a newly-planted tree nearby for watering etc.
91.	As members of the Essex Wildlife Trust we agree that more trees are required, but the policy has to include planting the right tree in the right place – large trees should only be planted in parks or other open spaces. The current policy places a financial burden on all residents as the removal or pruning of trees is paid for by them. Where it can be shown that appointed experts have applied a policy which then requires rectification, (and if it can be shown that the tree species is inappropriate), the cost of pruning or tree removal should be debited to the salaries of those responsible, if they have acted in error. In all matters the residents should be consulted prior to planting any trees; particularly on public highways.
92.	Every residential street in the area should be considered for tree planting and that residents in them should be consulted regarding the suitable locations and type of tree!!
93.	15% from 12% in 20 years is insufficient and will probably represent a relative drop against the 2050 average - not good ! Re purposing peripheral land could yield faster forestation and healthier trees - Cherry Orchard Jubilee Country Park (in Rochford) - over 35 acres planted with 32,000 trees during winter 2008/09 (so they say) - come on Southend !! SBC should demonstrate more sympathy towards its venerable housing stock, which may have shallower foundations and sectional ceramic pipe drains that were the adequate norm when they were built. All new tree planting required to have significant and positive support from close householders. Southend's seaside climate is not sunnier and dryer than the Adriatic where you will find splendid forested areas just back from the coast and towns with majestic trees providing shade. More trees in car parks - public & private - Western Esplanade's central reservation parking area could host many trees (I think it has just one) - move the lighting pillars to the pavements and replace them with trees. A good policy report but the subject and plan needs more public consultation and debate.

94.	15% tree cover by 2050 is not at all ambitious and you should be looking to have that level of cover already, I'd say 2025 at the latest.
95.	There is an abundance of open space/ parks to plant more trees which can only enhance the local area for the future. Keep planting southend Council.
96.	<p>1. Request the council make available sites for mass planting of Trees, over the next 1-5 years, including community woodlands pocket forests etc. Also to request that every tree removed from a street over the past 25 years should be replaced without delay. 2. Recognise Tree planning is a 100 year lifecycle – anticipated removal and replanting needs to be done systematically 5-10 years before removal to have any impact under the CAVAT value system. This would save the council the equivalent of £10,000's just by being pro-active To this end tree inspections need to be undertaken with a short medium and long term view – the omission of this approach has dramatically altered many Southend streets; undermining the Councils own tree policy and depriving a generation of SBC residents the many benefits that street trees bring. 3. Removing a street tree should be a matter of last resort - Ensure that the reasons for removal are clearly defined, in line with the 5 D's and that all other options have been explored before removal – including the “Safe useful life expectancy tree assessment” method – where trees that have disease or dieback can be managed more effectively over time whilst replacements (in line with the CAVAT system) are planted in the same vicinity many years before the removal of the effected tree. CAVAT reference: https://ltoa.org.uk/resources/cavat Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees (CAVAT) was developed by Chris Neilan and the London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) in 2008 and is regarded as one of the principal methods of tree valuation in the UK. CAVAT is now being presented for the first time in a formal publication in the Arboricultural Journal. Here is a link to the article, which is free to download https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03071375.2018.1454077. The reasons given for felling trees (adapted from Sheffield Tree Action Group) Southend Borough Council (SBC) have often stated that street trees are only removed as a 'last resort'. This reflects national best practice guidelines, which recommend that all other reasonable solutions be considered before a tree is removed – the option of last resort... The general criteria for removing trees are: 1. Dangerous 2. Dead 3. Diseased 4. Dying 5. Damaged (seriously) This classification system is not standard within the industry, nor is it an accepted system for categorising street trees. Regardless, some of these categories are easily addressed – OUaT do not oppose the removal of trees known to be absolutely dead or dangerous. If a tree is diseased or dying then, if after a thorough survey, felling is required for safety reasons or to prevent the spread of disease to other trees, then OUaT would not object. The emphasis is on the word 'thorough' and we would expect the survey process to be transparent and for there to be accountability. 4. Develop new tree policy in line with current and emerging UK Government (DRFRA), Tree Council, Woodland Trust and Forestry Commission policies so that Southend is up-to-date and aligned with UK policies with an evidence based tree policy system. 5. To develop a modern tree policy with more info graphics in line with The Trees and Design Action Group (TDAG). Engaging the TDAG as a step to producing a coherent and modern tree policy in line with current best practice. 6. Acknowledgement of the iTree calculation system for Southend and to be explicit in exceeding the recommended minimum Tree Canopy Cover (TCC) in Southend and Leigh-</p>

	<p>on-Sea. 7. Acknowledgement of UNWHO pollution measurements in Southend that are exceeding the recommended level of UNWHO maximum pollution index of 10 - by comparison, In 2016 Southend measured 11, equal to London, and in 2018 this had increased to 12, now one of the highest in the UK 8. Establish an independent Tree Review Panel made up of public and professionals without contractors or council members for the most celebrated local trees 9. Ensure that cosmetic tree removal does not happen (e.g. for amenity views) Ask for remedial highway and pavement solutions to be sought before removal is considered – Highways Dept. must inspect the highways and make sure these and underground services are “compatible with the tree” not the other way round – following Relevant NJUG guidelines is recommended. (The National Joint Utilities Group) 10. 2 for 1 replanting policy needs updating taking account of the CAVAT tree value system - to replace a mature tree requires the planting of 150+ saplings in the immediate area – or fewer trees if replanting 10-15 years in advance of planned/managed felling 11. Full disclosure of the genuine reasons for removals and improved record keeping going forward – all reports should be publicly available. 12. To review unnecessary hard pollarding at the wrong time of year (we appreciate difficult if pollarding was originally carried out when the tree was young, often decades prior) 13. Request that in light of the climate emergency that removed trees are NOT CUT FOR FUEL UNLESS DISEASED, but rather the whole tree removed by HIAB and taken to a sawmill for processing. This timber can then be used and it’s carbon locked in by using the timber for memorial benches and even OAK for the pier deck where appropriate – Once Upon a Tree</p>
97.	<p>1. It would be helpful to have clarity around what constitutes a tree strategy and a what constitutes a tree policy. 2. A strategy would refer to aspirations and targets however: a) An increase in canopy cover from 12% to 15% in 2050 appears unambitious. This equates to an increase in 7500 trees over a period of 30 years (c250 trees per year) b) Other councils break down their figures into ‘Administrative areas’ and Urban Fringes’ (e.g. Plymouth). This approach could be adopted to promote the increase in canopy cover to reflect all aspects of the town, and guards against the achievement of 15% cover being achieved by primarily planting a few thousand trees in one remote urban location. 3. The tree-planting strategy a) would need some development to ensure it focuses more on aspirations and facilitation mechanisms that encourages optimum opportunities for planting, with a proactive and sophisticated range of options for stakeholder engagement across the community (businesses, public sector organisations, community groups, and the general public). b) Currently this strategy tends to highlight the reasons tree planting cannot occur, and this tends to detract from a sense of vision and community engagement. c) There could be more options for the community to start the dialogue. The current strategy tends to put the onus on the Council to start these discussions. It might be helpful to develop opportunities for dialogue, to support any tree-planting programmes initiated by the Council. This would promote creativity and ownership from within different elements of the community The linkage between this policy and the two documents referenced could be made clearer. The first section appears to be a rationale for pruning and removing trees. This creates a strong focus on risk management, and tends to undermine the aspirations (with the potential excitement) for a greener Southend in the future. As such this document could act to dampen community enthusiasm. 4. Tree-planting plan</p>

	<p>Once the strategy and plan are developed with more clarity, a plan would be needed to help direct and monitor progress. This plan should also incorporate a focus on wards already identified as having low coverage.</p> <p>5. Tree-planting budget It is clear that the Council is taking the greening of the town seriously, and as such it would be appropriate to see a ringfenced budget set aside specifically for tree planting. Separate to the budget for maintenance. We would also recommend that the budget for planting was sub-divided into wards identified by the plan.</p> <p>6. Monitoring and evaluation This strategy should be regularly monitored to ensure that it is achieving its aims, rather than being left to run for 30 years. As such the plan/strategy needs to have specific points for review built into it. This would include regular full reports to the Council, against the targets. Finally, we would consider building those targets into individual officers' annual appraisals.</p>
98.	<p>While I recognise that councils currently have a lot of strain on their resources, I don't think 15% is ambitious enough. We should aim for at least above the 17% average, regardless of local peculiarities. I think often tree planting is seen as a nice extra, and I understand that, but given the urgency and reality of the climate crisis, and the immediate local threat of air pollution, both rightly recognised by the council itself, we should view it as a vital necessity. So I agree with more planting; I disagree that 15% is enough. I also would like to say that we need to focus on maintaining young trees as well as planting new ones - they've vulnerable in the first two years, and the policy shouldn't be to plant, hope for the best and then plant more, but to care for and water them properly. Again, I realise that you are unlikely to have enough staff and money to do this as well as you'd like to. But I think the public could be mobilised! Perhaps making the process of planting/dedicating memorial trees (or just personal trees, it doesn't need to be for a death) could be made cheaper and easier, so children and families could have their own trees to care for near their houses or schools?</p>
99.	<p>The information and explanation of the strategies are informative and citing the principles and research on which they are based is useful. The general presentation of the policy is clear and demonstrates a commitment to greening our urban environment. However, the target tree coverage of 15% in 30 years time is dangerously low. We need to match the national average recommended urban tree canopy coverage for coastal towns of 15% in the next FIVE years. We need this tree coverage now followed by more urban trees year on year. On some of my responses I selected 'agree somewhat' because although I support the principle of additional planting, the targets quoted are thoroughly inadequate. If the targets were higher I would have marked them 'agree completely'.</p> <p>re. allowing tree removal when trees are damaging private property - there should be an exception if the tree pre-dates the building. If a house has been built too close to an existing council-owned tree then the housebuilder is at fault. The current house owner presumably noticed the tree was present when they bought the property. The mature trees must be prioritised. If a resident's garden wall is compromised, the question should be whether a wall is necessary as a property boundary marker? Would a fence not be sufficient? I note and applaud your guidance are requirements for proof that the tree is in deed the cause of any damage. Suggestion: page 28 states that requests for replacement trees, made by householders, are taken into account. Please can a method for making this request please be outlined here?</p>

100.	<p>Please note I have stated I strongly agree with no 1 and no 6 as it's blatantly obvious that more trees need to be planted. However, bearing in mind that the council have declared a climate emergency, 15 percent by 2050 is too little too late. Please be informed by the science and treat the issue with the importance it deserves by initiating a huge tree planting program. I have stated neither agree or disagree with the pruning and felling questions as the council does not have a good record in this respect often having felled trees stating one of the reasons stated in the question when in fact the tree did not need cutting. The council needs to separate any link between the arboriculturalists who make felling decisions with a company paid to fell. Many thanks</p>
101.	<p>I am making these comments on behalf of the Woodland Trust. Your tree policy is very comprehensive, covering trees on both public and private land and it sets out a strong case for the importance of trees, the need to retain existing trees where possible and to plant more of them. The document is very well presented with good use of graphics and artwork, which will make it more likely to be read and understood by councillors and members of the public. There are, however, one or two spelling/grammatical errors: for example in several places "practise" is used where you mean to say "practice" (ie where it is the noun, rather than the verb). Your list of the benefits of trees is excellent, although in the paragraph on air quality benefits, it might be useful to recognise recent research at Birmingham University Forestry Institute which shows that trees do absorb pollutants into their leaves but a bigger effect comes from rows of trees or shrubs acting as a barrier and thus shielding people from sources of air pollution, such as alongside busy roads. It is great that you have mapped the tree canopy in each ward of the council and identified where canopy cover is low. However, we would like to see you make a positive commitment to expand tree canopy cover specifically in these areas, as well as setting an overall canopy cover increase target for the town as a whole. You state that you want to increase tree canopy cover from 12% to 15% by 2050 but we think this is a very unambitious target and we would like to see it increased. Areas where there is new housing development are an ideal opportunity to build in high levels of tree cover from the start: in our Emergency Tree Plan published earlier this year we talk about the need to plant more trees to tackle the climate and biodiversity emergencies and advocate a target of 30% tree canopy cover in new housing development. The strategy talks about increasing canopy cover where street trees and other standard trees are removed: you could also do as some other councils have done and require two or three new trees to be planted for every one removed, as close to the site of the original tree as possible. The section in the strategy on woodland is quite short: it is great that you are committing to protecting ancient woodland in particular but we would also like to see you commit to new woodland creation, as a means of helping you achieve a more ambitious tree canopy cover target. A good location for new woodland creation is next to existing woodland (particularly if it is ancient woodland) and natural regeneration should be considered as an option where it is feasible, although tree planting is also a good way of stimulating community participation. I hope these comments are useful. I would be happy to discuss them further with you and also talk to your officers about how the Woodland Trust can help you deliver your tree policy when it is finalised . - Woodland Trust</p>

102.	The aspiration Edda to be to plant many more trees - the 15% goal is too little. Engage local residents, businesses and services (churches, hospitals, schools etc) and far more is achievable. Make links with RSPB/Essex Wildlife Trust and the MoD. All have land that can be used.
103.	Yes. I live on Hildaville and I am so disappointed that we aren't on the council's leaf fall and you haven't looked after the tree outside our property. It's shameful when you happily take care of trees in Chalkwell and yet here in Westcliff you don't seem to care.
104.	Native tree species especially rare and specimen trees should be planted.
105.	I'm am very sad and angered to see a beautiful white blossom tree as been cut down in my road burdett ave I don't know why this was sanctioned as the tree was asset to our road and it's loss is a complete disaster and completely unnecessary . And don't make out it was diseased because it wasn't I have lived in burdett ave for 21 years and it hasn't changed. Your tree policy is terrible why are you trying to completely ruin Southend by turning it into a money grabbing concrete jungle with no soul.
106.	I would just like to make a point about the replacement of trees on the highway. I completely understand the occasional need for complete removal of a mature tree. My concern is about species replacement. Could there not be something emphasised in the policy that ensures that in the case of larger species, a like for like replacement tree is planted. Nothing makes my heart sink more than seeing majestic limes or oaks felled and replaced with birch or rowan. The limes trees in Woodside and Belfairs Park Drive and the oak trees on London Road outside of Chalkwell Park all play a major part in giving character to those areas. Lesser substitutes take everything away from the street character. I do hope we are not seeing the demise of oaks, limes and London planes as significant roadside trees within the Borough. Thank you for all of your efforts in this matter.
107.	I would like to see us double the amount of trees that we panted last season this season. We have made a terrific start so let's redouble our efforts this year.