

GROWTH & REGENERATION
Economy of Place



Decision Report for Highway Tree Removal Proposals

To: Director: Economy of Place

Date: 15 December 2025

Highway tree removal proposal:

Broadmead Transport Project

Project summary:

This work is part of the Broadmead Transport Project to improve bus and active travel routes and public transport. This falls under the wider City Centre transport corridor project, set to create a large amount of pedestrianised or pedestrian priority streets and 1km of new protected cycle lanes.

Removal of trees:

3 trees need to be removed in order to make space to create the cycle path, move the pedestrian crossing and add the right-hand turn from Union Street to Haymarket. 2 of these trees also need to be removed to enable a section of the Bristol heat network to be installed.

Consultation:

Public engagement on the wider project designs was undertaken in August and September 2024.

The tree felling consultation ran from Monday 3 November 2025 to Monday 1 December 2025 and was advertised on the council website:

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/ask/projects/tree-management>.

Notices were put on the street trees affected, and copies of the notices were available at the council offices for the 28-day period.

Consultation Summary:

The consultation has now completed, and 119 comments were submitted following the publication of the notice.

The comments have been categorised into nine themes and summarised in the table below:

Theme	Summary of Comments	% of responses
Objection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The removal of mature / established trees should not be allowed	66%
Supportive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">The transport improvements and new tree planting outweigh the loss of three trees	22%

Environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees are required for mitigating impacts of climate change • Mature trees are important for combating air pollution, providing habitat for birds and invertebrates, and shade and a more pleasant outlook for people who work, walk and spend time in the area 	21%
Lack of justification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of trees is unnecessary • No need for the infrastructure and could spend the money on other initiatives/services 	19%
Alternative options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the designs to accommodate retaining the trees 	17%
Councils approach to tree management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns over the number of trees being removed due to transport projects and development • Trees should be replaced, not felled where possible 	13%
Neutral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Disappointed trees are being removed but positive that they are being replaced 	12%
The wider project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of support for the wider project. • Concerns over removal of general traffic lanes and vehicle access to Broadmead. 	11%
The replacement trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of climate-resistant species rather than native due to increasing temperatures and climate change • Would prefer even more trees to be planted 	3%

Note: percentages may not add up to 100% as comments can be allocated to more than one theme.

Consultation Outcome

Having considered all comments received, officers remain of the opinion that the proposed tree felling is necessary and therefore it is recommended that the proposals should proceed.

Reasoning

The removal of the trees is necessary to enable improvements for walking, wheeling, cycling and public transport in this area as part of the City Centre transport improvement project. The design chosen is the only feasible arrangement due to space constraints around this already very busy junction that must accommodate general traffic lanes, a variety of different bus movements, (around 30,000 per day), as well as significant cyclist and pedestrian flows.

Due to the size of the trees to be felled, it is not possible for them to be replanted elsewhere and survive. The whole project is aiming to install circa 30 new trees, plus new planting beds, which is beyond the standard set in the Bristol Tree Replacement Standard which would require 11 trees would need to be planted to compensate for the loss.

The species of the new trees to be planted is yet to be determined and the choices will align with Bristol City Council's existing policies and strategies. Consideration will be given to relevant concerns, such as prioritising native species, sourcing trees from local nurseries, creating more habitats, and providing sufficient canopy cover to mitigate climate change effects.

The felling will be scheduled outside of bird nesting seasons where possible. Should felling be necessary within the nesting season, the trees will first be examined by an ecologist to assess whether felling can take place, with felling delayed if any bird nesting is identified.

Approvals:

Director: Economy of Place

Signature:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Meam", written on a light blue background.

Date: 15/01/2026