Streets Ahead Public Briefing Note - 9 October 2013

- The Streets Ahead project is a 25 year project that will improve and maintain the city's roads, pavements, streetlights, street trees and street scene.
- Most of the improvement works will take place in the first five years (2012-2017) and this improved standard will be maintained for the remaining 20 years of the contract.

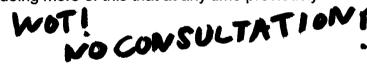
Streets Ahead - Tree Replacement

- Streets Ahead is responsible for the 36,000 street trees (there are 2 million trees in the City so street trees are less than 2%).
- We are replacing trees that are dead, dying, diseased, dangerous or causing damage to the roads or pavements – and will do this throughout the 25 year project - this will help with the regeneration of the city's street tree stock leaving them in a good condition for generations to come.
- We have a legal duty to maintain a safe and clear highway
- Street trees will only be removed as a last resort the number of highway trees will not reduce.
- We will try root barriers and other engineering methods where possible.

Streets Ahead - Tree Maintenance

- Our street tree maintenance process includes:
 - Pruning trees
 - o Removing deadwood
 - o Removing lower growth to open up pavements and roads
 - o Keeping the trees disease free and managing insect problems.
 - o Through Streets Ahead we are now doing more of this that at any time previously

Streets Ahead - Tree Removal Process



- 1. Trees which need replacing are identified by tree experts from the Council and Amey
- 2. Replacement species is determined from list of highway appropriate trees
- 3. Information about removals is provided to the public via:
 - Community Roadshows
 - Letters to properties and residents in the immediate vicinity of the tree
 - Public and community meetings
- 4. Tree information notice are displayed on each tree proposed for replacement approximately two weeks before the tree is removed
- 5. In some cases we are arranging local 'tree walks' to discuss specific areas
- 6. Remove the tree and its roots
- 7. Take the timber away (we will help where we can with requests for use of timber)
- 8. Build a new tree pit
- 9. If necessary wait for planting season
- 10. Plant a new tree
- 11. Maintain it to a good standard or replace it if vandalised



Meadowhead

- This is a specific Road Improvement Scheme, and not part of Streets Ahead
- Work to improve Meadowhead Roundabout began in July 2012.
- Work includes:
 - o re-shaping the roundabout;
 - o widening traffic lanes on certain approaches to reduce congestion
 - o improving pedestrian crossings to enable use by cyclists.
- The road safety audit of the roundabout scheme raised the problem of current trees impairing driver visibility.
- A full survey of the roundabout was undertaken by tree experts and an ecologist beforehand to make sure that the trees did not serve as a particular habitat for birds and bats.
- This found that none of the trees were suitable for bat roosting all were graded as being in the least favourable category for habitat value.
- A public consultation exercise was undertaken in 2009 when the scheme was proposed
 a leaflet was sent out outlining the scheme including the need for tree/vegetation removal on the roundabout. No adverse comments were received at that time.
- The scheme was then delayed due to funding cuts
- There have been some comments that the tree removal has resulted in a glare for drivers from the setting sun. This is not unusual at roundabouts
- A tree replacement programme is being developed to replace trees removed from the Meadowhead roundabout.
- The trees will be replanted on the roundabout and surrounding locations and will be planted in the next available planting season.
- The trees that will be planted will be species that are suitable for the highway, particularly driver visibility and safety.