

<b>Report title</b>	<b>Officer Update report</b>
<b>Report author</b>	Helen Clark, Corporate Head of Environmental Services
<b>Department</b>	Environmental Services
<b>Exempt?</b>	No

**Purpose of report:**

- **For information**

**Synopsis of report:**

**To update members of the committee regarding works carried out at Cabrera Trust.**

**1. Context and background of report**

- 1.1 Cabrera Trust Management Committee 13<sup>th</sup> July 2023.  
Riverside walk 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024.

**2. Report**

**2.1 Progress on works outstanding from 2023.**

- 2.2 Unfortunately, resources in Green Spaces were stretched over 2023/2024 The former Green Spaces Manager and former Tree Officer having left the team. The remaining Green Spaces team of 1.5 Officers is presently being supervised by the Corporate Head of Environmental Services.

- 2.3 With respect to incursions on Cabrera Trust land, Green Spaces Officers have spoken to colleagues in legal services with respect to the correct wording of any correspondence. Legal services have agreed to draft a standard letter in due course for use in future. This letter will have to be amended on a case-by-case basis but will provide a legally compliant first draft.

**3. Tree works on Cabrera Trust**

- 3.1 The in-house grounds maintenance team have started a programme of upskilling to broaden the scope of works deliverable in house. They are now skilled to undertake tree works at ground level and up to shoulder height.
- 3.2 Consequentially the team were in a position to remove two fallen trees on Cabrera Trust land since July 2023. This work would previously have been carried out by a contractor, hence providing savings for the Trust.
- 3.3 Work was also carried out to fell two Ash trees which were at risk of falling into Wellington Road.



- 3.4 Works are scheduled to raise the crown of a tree with branches resting on a neighbouring property's roof. Costs for both these work orders are to be confirmed.

#### **4. Policy framework implications**

- 4.1 The works ensure safe enjoyment of this open space which fits with the corporate business plan Health and Wellbeing agenda.

#### **5. Resource implications/Value for Money**

- 4.1 Not applicable

#### **6. Legal implications**

- 6.1. The report being for information only does not directly raise legal issues.
- 6.2 Encroachments do need to be dealt with as soon as possible avoid losing the land and they need to be dealt with lawfully to avoid challenges. As such, initial letters need to be carefully drafted to be effective.
- 6.3 Damage caused by trees during a natural event will be covered by the recipient, however, the Trust will be responsible for any damage due to lack of maintenance of the trees on their land, so regular surveys need to be carried out to ascertain required works and complete these works within a reasonable time.

#### **7. Equality implications**

- 4.2 None

#### **8. Environmental/Sustainability/Biodiversity implications**

- 8.1 Maintaining the Cabrera Trust land will enhance biodiversity.

#### **9. Risk Implications**

- 8.2 Not maintaining the land will risk a loss in biodiversity and potentially insurance claims from neighbouring properties.