



Association of Directors of
Environment, Economy, Planning & Transport

ADEPT President's Awards 2022

Entry form

Award category:	Shaping places for people
Title:	Value of Trees – Re-establishing Trees on the Highway
Entrant:	Leicestershire County Council
Main contact name:	Andy Jackson
Email address:	andy.jackson@leics.gov.uk
Partner/s (if applicable):	Multiple, including funding partner Rees Jeffreys, borough councils, environmental organisations and developers
Headline summary (150 characters, c. 20-25 words) Value of Trees is a project to develop a toolkit that will help local authorities re-establish trees on or near to the highway.	

Please note we need **at least one supporting image** per award submission.
Supporting images should be attached separately as jpg or png files.

Please paste links to any supporting video evidence here

Link 1	
Link 2	



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500-word project outline (please ensure you do not exceed the word count and address all the judges' criteria – for more info see [here](#))

There are a number of challenges in ensuring the continued presence and resilience of trees along our highway network; not least the prevalence of tree pests and diseases such as ash dieback, climate change, concerns over highway safety and the issue of responsibility for their future maintenance.

As part of a six-month Value of Trees (VoT) project, Leicestershire County Council engaged consultants Treeconomics to develop a bespoke toolkit for the County that can be applied by other organisations and that aims to address these concerns. The toolkit offers guidance for the delivery of high-quality tree planting schemes near the highway that will provide multiple benefits for communities.

The toolkit comprises four components:

1. **A 'Leicestershire Edition' Species Selection Guide** that contains 350 species and that will provide developers and designers with a palette of trees from which to work for different locations.
2. **A Valuation Matrix** in which these species are characterised by parameters such as ecosystem services, biodiversity value and environmental tolerances.

The species have also been assigned an ecosystem services monetary value in relation to carbon storage and sequestration, air pollution absorption and storm water run-off retention over 30, 50 and 100-year periods.

3. **A Design Guide** to best practice in terms of stock selection, planting matrices and density and post planting care with consideration for four planting scenarios within grass verges and hard surface locations.
4. **Life Cycle Costing** for all four tree planting scenarios from design to aftercare (including ancillary costs such as traffic management).

The project's mantra is "the right tree in the right place", ensuring trees thrive in their chosen location. It provides a blueprint for tree planting and management that can be applied by third parties and in house design. It will offer a sound understanding of the costs and benefits of trees, and a robust argument for the continued funding of their planting and maintenance.

The ultimate project aim would be to provide a better quality of life for county residents; LCC perceives that the key benefits would come from applying the toolkit for delivering planting schemes that play a central role as a component of green infrastructure. In addition to their integral beauty, trees deliver ecosystem services including carbon sequestration and storage and reduced flooding. They are also known to provide significant benefits for health including cooling urban areas, improving mental health and wellbeing and reducing fine particulate matter air pollution.



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VoT has been developed collaboratively with stakeholders including LCC ecology, forestry and economic growth teams and developers, environmental organisations and local planning authorities. This collaboration has helped the team to understand some of the potential opportunities and problems in delivery of the approach and where gaps in information exist.

The next phase of the project is to promote the toolkit more widely and apply it to a live project to obtain feedback on the usefulness of the documentation and matrix and capture any data that relates to benefits derived from using the information.