A case study on building a tree section through austerity

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Presentation content:

- Where is Camden?
- General statistics - Camden
- Tree section timeline
- What makes a resilient Tree section?
- The Future….
- “You are lucky”
Where is Camden?
General information about Camden:

- Geographical area of borough – 21.8 km²
- Number of residents – 220,300
- Population density – 101 residents per hectare
- 8th most populated London borough
- Green space (inc. 69 parks) 1.6 km²
- 28,750 trees ‘actively’ managed
- 10 to 15,000 managed trees in nature conservation sites
- 1 x Tree manager & 5 x Tree officers
Historic time line:

First Tree Officer
- 1972
- Some street tree programme maintenance

Budget reduction
- Mid 1980s
- Loss of DLO

Tree Foreman appointed
- 1981
- Very low budgets

Reduced to 1 Tree officer
- 1989
- 1 x Lorry driver

Increase in subsidence claims
- 1989
Historic time line:

- Budget increase & data base
  - 1994/5
  - Street tree budget increase to £300k

- All depts. have cyclical programme maintenance
  - 1995-1998

- SLA’s in place
  - 1995-1998
  - TO’s increase to 9
  - Stable Client dept budgets

- 1999 – 2000 Street tree budget under pressure, reduced to £130k

- Best Value Review
  - First Tree Strategy
  - 2001/2
Historic time line:

Corporate Tree Planting programme introduced
• 2004, £50k

Decreasing street tree budget to less than £100k
• 1999-2007
• Claim reserves significantly increasing

Risk management programme introduced
• 2007-2008
• Decrease in Tree officers 2009/10
• Remove/re-instate planting budget

Stability in street/parks tree budget £500k
• 2011/12 – to date

i-Tree V6
• 2017
What makes a resilient Tree Section?
What makes a resilient tree section?
Maintenance

- Ad hoc
- Programmed
- Regime
- Planting
- Equipment
The Future....

Adapted from Kenney et al. 2011 Criteria and Indicators for strategic Urban Forest Planning and Management. Arboriculture & Urban Forestry 37(3): 108-117
Performance Indicator

Adapted from Kenney et al. 2011
“You Are Lucky”

- Plan for the future 5 to 10 years, (or more)
- Think strategically
- Build a resilient Tree section
- Build a Tree section with a high political & management profile
- Multi-skilled Tree officers
- Build a quality tree database
- When financial cuts/pressures hit - rebuild
The End