

## 6.0 GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE STEWARDSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

Once implemented and passed from the contractor, the ongoing stewardship of the green infrastructure will be critical in ensuring the perpetuity of 'place'.

A landscape management plan will be established and agreed. The document will be dynamic, determined under the guidance of the management companies.

## MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

At this stage it is key to establish the principles of maintenance and the review procedures that the chosen Landscape Contractor will be required to undertake. Detailed landscape maintenance specifications and a landscape management plan will be submitted and they will encompass the following:

### REVIEW PROCEDURE

Timing and responsibility of reviews and method of reporting to ensure the correct communication channels are set up at the start of the project.

### GENERAL OPERATIONS

The following principles will need to be established:

Working notice, reinstatement procedures, the use of any specialist firms/methods for the control of mammalian pests in line with the environmental health policy of the Local Authority and the use rain water for irrigation means, depths required, watering times and removal of arisings as part of any operation on site. The protection of areas affected by maintenance operations and the safety of Maintenance & Management operatives and members of the general public will need to be explained in a method statement.

The Landscape Maintenance Contractor shall give 3 working days notice to the Client before the application of herbicide, the application of fertilizer, watering and each site maintenance visit. The Landscape Maintenance Contractor shall reinstate to its original condition any damage or disturbance to soil structure, planting, grass, fencing, hard landscaping, structures or buildings. The Landscape Maintenance Contractor shall employ specialist firms/methods for the control of mammalian pests in line with the environmental health policy of the Local Authority.

The Landscape Maintenance Contractor shall use portable mains water when watering and will ensure that the planting is wet to the full depth of topsoil, will not damage or loosen plants. With compacted soil loosen or scoop out, to direct water to rootzone. Watering is to be

carried out as necessary for the continued thriving of all planting. Unless specified otherwise

The Landscape Maintenance Contractor will dispose of arisings as follows; biodegradable arisings to an approved tip, grass cuttings to an approved tip, tree roots and stumps to an approved tip, shrub and tree prunings to an approved tip and litter and non-biodegradable arisings to an approved tip. Extraneous rubbish not arising from the contract work will be collect and removed from site.

The Landscape Maintenance Contractor is to protect areas affected by maintenance operations using boards/ tarpaulins. Do not place excavated or imported materials directly on grass.

### SEMI-MATURE, ADVANCED NURSERY STOCK AND STANDARD TREES

The planting, establishment, pruning and ongoing maintenance of these trees will need to be clearly specified. Prune to remove dead, dying, diseased branches. The Maintenance Contractor is to advise Landscape Architect of any major works required and if necessary obtain an assessment from an approved arboriculturalist. Remove suckers from base. Check condition of stakes and ties. Adjust as necessary to prevent rubbing of bark and to ensure tree is upright. Firm up trees which have suffered frost heave or are affected by strong winds. Ensure that sufficient water is applied to maintain healthy growth. Dependant on location, apply N.P.K. slow release fertiliser (at rates recommended by the manufacturer) on annual or two-yearly basis.

### ORNAMENTAL SHRUB PLANTING

The planting, establishment, pruning and ongoing maintenance of these shrubs both generally and specifically will be clearly specified. The intention is to encourage the establishment of planting to provide continuous cover using a balanced mixed shrub layer. Keep all beds weed free by hand weeding and/or use of approved herbicides. Fork over beds as necessary to keep soil loose with no low or high spots. Clear soil and/or mulch from adjacent hard surfaces. Until review period (year 5) apply a 15 : 15 : 15 N.P.K. slow

release fertiliser during March/April in accordance with manufacturers recommendations.

Prune shrubs to remove dead, damaged or diseased branches, dead flower heads, etc. Prune to maintain shape appropriate to the species with additional shaping or height maintenance as specified in the tables. Apply sufficient water to maintain healthy growth. Maintain beds rubbish and litter free.

### GRASS AREAS

The planting, establishment and ongoing maintenance of grass areas and any proposals for replacement will need to be clearly specified. Generally maintain turf in a manor appropriate to the intended use to a height of 30mm. Maintain a healthy vigorous sward, free from disease, fungal growth, discolouration, scorch or wilt. Prevent waterlogging and compaction. Repair damage due to trampling, abrasion or scalping during mowing. Within ornamental turf and lawns maintain reasonably free from moss, thatch, weed, frost heave, worm and mole casts with edges neat and well defined. Litter and fallen leaves remove regularly to maintain a neat appearance.

Before mowing The Landscape Maintenance Contractor is to remove litter, rubbish and debris. Following mowing the Landscape Maintenance Contractor is to leave a neat and even finish, without surface rutting, compaction or damage to grass.

Neatly trim around obstructions and sweep clear and remove arisings from adjoining hard areas. Do not use mowing machinery closer than 100mm to tree stems. Use nylon filament rotary cutters and other hand held mechanical tools carefully to avoid damage to bark.

