



NEWS RELEASE

18 April 2008

THE JOINT MITIGATION PROTOCOL WILL BE LAUNCHED ON FRIDAY 16 MAY 2008 AT SOUTHWARK TOWN HALL.

The Joint Mitigation Protocol will be launched at 10am at Southwark Town Hall on the morning of Friday 16 May 2008. After the launch the protocol will be available, free of charge, by download from the LTOA website www.ltoa.org.uk.

The Joint Mitigation Protocol is an agreed method of subsidence claims management where trees may be implicated as the cause of building movement. It seeks to establish best practice in the processing and investigation of building damage, benchmarking time scales for responses and standards of evidence. The Protocol group has included and benefited from the input of insurers, local authority tree and risk managers, loss adjusters, engineers and arboricultural consultants. Its principal aims are to speed up the process of claims handling, decision making and mitigation implementation leading to resolution, while at the same time recognising the value of trees in the built environment and providing local authorities with all the investigative evidence required at the beginning of the process.

Andy Tipping, Chair of the LTOA, said “This is the most significant development in this area for many years and will benefit anyone involved in a claim, not least the property owner. This has taken over three years of negotiation between all interested parties and is a real partnership document, signalling a clear move toward a more professional management of this problem”.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

The London Tree Officers Association (LTOA) provides an information network for the exchange of views, experiences and ideas on trees and their management. The Association dates back to 1982 and aims to enhance the management of the Capital’s trees and woodlands. It involves local authority Tree Officers in all 33 London Boroughs from which there are approximately 130 members and an associate membership scheme of approximately 55 members. The LTOA is funded by London Borough subscriptions and an associate member scheme. For more information take a look at the LTOA website at www.ltoa.org.uk.

For further information please contact:

Andy Tipping, Chair of the LTOA, on 0208 359 7838 or 07956 387129 and email: andy.tipping@barnet.gov.uk or Becky Hesch, Executive Officer of the LTOA, on 0207 974 4124 or 07771 976238 and email: executive.officer@ltoa.org.uk.