SYNTHETIC PROGRAMME BRIEF · PRODUCT OPERATIONS · 2026

Launching the neighbourhood heat pilot

A six-month operating plan for a small council pilot. The source is rich in ordered phases, dependencies, and measurable outcomes.

Why this pilot

The council wants to test a repeatable model for cooling public streets before committing to a city-wide programme. The pilot covers four streets, two schools, and one transport interchange. Success means lower peak temperatures, fewer heat complaints, and a costed plan that can be repeated elsewhere.

Phases

1. **Map and prioritise.** Survey heat exposure, shade, foot traffic, and existing trees. Select four streets and two school frontages. Publish the selection criteria.
2. **Design and procure.** Choose species with the parks team, confirm irrigation and maintenance contracts, and order trees and shade structures. Community groups review the plan.
3. **Install.** Plant in winter, install temporary shade at the transport interchange, and begin the watering schedule. Record every location and cost.
4. **Measure.** Track surface temperature, canopy cover, rain interception, complaints, and maintenance hours. Compare with two control streets.
5. **Review and scale.** Publish a costed playbook. Recommend either expansion, redesign, or stop.

Timeline and owners

Month	Milestone	Owner	Decision
January	Street selection and baseline	Climate team	Approve four sites
February	Species and procurement	Parks + finance	Release budget
March	Community review	Engagement	Resolve objections
April	Planting week	Parks contractor	Confirm completion
May–July	Watering and monitoring	Parks + climate	Monthly review
August	Evaluation and playbook	Programme lead	Scale or stop

Risks

- Dry spring or irrigation failure. Mitigation: contract a backup watering crew.
- Community opposition to tree pits or parking loss. Mitigation: publish trade-offs and co-design two sites.
- Measurement gaps. Mitigation: baseline sensors before planting and two control streets.
- Cost overrun. Mitigation: fixed-price procurement and a 12% contingency.

Success measures

The pilot will report canopy cover, peak temperature reduction, rainfall intercepted, maintenance hours per tree, complaints, and cost per site. A traffic-light review at month five decides whether to continue. The final report should fit on one page and include a clear recommendation.

> **Operating principle.** Plant for shade, measure for trust, and publish the cost. A pilot that cannot be repeated is not a pilot.

Prepared as a synthetic benchmark source for infographic design testing. All names and figures are illustrative.