

REPORT TO:	Housing & Community Services	AGENDA ITEM: 10
DATE OF MEETING:	13th October 2011	CATEGORY: DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	Mark Alflat Director of Operations	OPEN/EXEMPT PARAGRAPH NO: OPEN DOC:
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SUBJECT:	Tree Management Policy	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	District-wide	TERMS OF REFERENCE: HCS10

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 To adopt the proposed Tree Management Policy.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 This report is to seek Committee approval for the adoption of a Tree Management Policy (attached at Annexe A) for the management of the Council's tree stock.

3.0 Detail

3.1 There has previously been no strategic approach to the management of trees and woodland on Council land within the District and as a result there is a real risk that the pace of development and reactive management will have a detrimental impact on the quality and quantity of the Council's tree stock.

3.2 In order that a proactive and consistent approach to tree management can be undertaken, it was deemed necessary to produce a Policy framework for decisions.

3.3 The Tree Management Policy sets out the Council's approach to retaining, managing and enhancing the tree stock for the benefit for all who live and work in South Derbyshire.

3.4 It is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, officers and professionally interested people to establish a clearer, consistent and more structured approach to tree-related issues.

3.5 The Policy has been designed for the following purposes:

- To act as a source of information about issues affecting trees within the District
- To provide a policy framework for decisions made by the Council that affect trees
- To support the main vision of the Council to make South Derbyshire a better place to live, work and visit

3.6 The Policy will improve communication by making clear the reasons why decisions are made and actions are taken. This aims to increase the awareness and

appreciation of trees within the district, and their importance in shaping the character of the area.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The Councils expenditure on tree management is held within the general grounds maintenance budget and the delivery of the proposed policy is dependent upon that resource. Generally works are carried out by the Grounds Maintenance Team to minimise costs and to maximise efficiencies.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The Policy meets the Value for Money theme of the Corporate Plan and meets the strategic objective of ensuring that proper arrangements are in place to enable resources to be used efficiently and effectively. Improved knowledge of the condition of our own tree stock will enable sufficient resources to be allocated, and a clear policy to guide decisions on work to be carried out will ensure best use of funds.

5.2 The delivery of the Policy would also contribute to supporting the strategic objective of the Safe and Secure theme; the reduction of potential risk caused by the proper treatment of dead, dying, dangerous or problem trees will help provide safe and clean neighbourhoods.

5.3 Communication implications – the draft tree policy has been out to public consultation, advertised in the media and on the Council website. The adopted Policy document will be uploaded onto the Council website available for download. This meets strategic objective VP 04 of the Value for money theme; communicating and engaging with our communities to ensure the Council is delivering services appropriate to them.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The implementation of the Policy will help deliver the South Derbyshire Partnership's Sustainable Community Strategy by making improvements in the management of Open Space and local sites to benefit their value to people and wildlife, which will be met through the positive management of the Council's tree stock.

6.2 The proactive and policy-led approach to tree management outlined in the Policy will lead to an increase in the percentage of people who feel South Derbyshire is an attractive place to live.

7.0 Conclusions

The adoption of the Tree Management Policy will help communicate a clear and consistent message to Officers, Members, Partners and the residents of South Derbyshire about how and why we manage our tree stock and ensure that we manage our resources effectively.

10.0 Background Papers

Annexe A – Tree Management Policy