



CABINET

18TH JANUARY 2018

AGENDA ITEM (10)

THE MANAGEMENT OF TREES OWNED BY THE COUNCIL - UPDATED POLICY

Accountable Member	Councillor MGE MacKenzie-Charrington Cabinet Member for Planning and Licensing Services and Cirencester Car Parking Project Councillor NJW Parsons Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Forward Planning
Accountable Officer	Sophia Price Heritage and Design Manager 01285 623000 sophia.price@cotswold.gov.uk

Purpose of Report	To consider and approve an updated policy in relation to the management of trees owned by the Council.
Recommendation(s)	(a) That the Updated Policy for the Management of Trees Owned by the Council be approved; (b) that the Head of Paid Service, in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Member(s), be authorised to make future amendments to the Policy, provided that such amendments are not of a significant nature.
Reason(s) for Recommendation(s)	To ensure that trees owned by the Council are managed in a sustainable and safe manner, to provide an environmental resource for, and to enhance, the landscape and townscape of the District
Key Decision	No
Recommendation to Council	No

Financial Implications	There is already a budget for tree management; this report does not recommend a change to that budget
Legal and Human Rights Implications	None
Environmental and Sustainability Implications	The implementation of this policy should enhance the environment and sustainability.
Human Resource Implications	None

Key Risks	If the Council's trees are not correctly managed, they could become a safety risk. The policy enables a consistent approach to tree management to ensure that the public can be clear where the Council will or will not take action.
Equalities Analysis	No effect on protected groups identified.

Related Decisions	Cabinet - 19 th March 2009 - Approval of Original Policy (following a Motion to Council and a public petition)
Background Documents	Existing tree management principles - http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/243135/cdctree-principles-final-Oct2012.doc
Appendices	Appendix 'A' - Policy for the Management of Trees Owned by the Council (2018)

Performance Management Follow Up	(i) Implement the Cabinet's decision(s) (ii) On-going monitoring of tree management.
Options for Joint Working	Discussions are underway to consider the introduction of similar policies at West Oxfordshire and Forest of Dean District Councils.

Background Information	
1.	In March 2009, Cabinet approved "policies for the management of trees owned by the Council", and these have been subject to some minor amendments since 2009. The current policy is available on the Council's Web-site http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/media/243135/cdctree-principles-final-Oct2012.doc
2.	It was considered appropriate to review the policy to take account of Officers' experience over the last eight years of implementation, and to ensure that the policy remains fit for purpose. The updated policy is more comprehensive than the previous version, for example in highlighting what tree management actions will be taken when members of the public contact us.
3.	This Council owns approximately 115 sites that support trees, from car parks and cemeteries to trees around our offices and on small areas of land and verges. It is not possible to give an accurate estimate for the number of trees, but it is likely to be in excess of 1,250 plus some areas of woodland and hedgerows.
4.	The tree management budget is £18,430 per year. The Tree Officers in Heritage and Design (Planning and Strategic Housing) are responsible for managing the trees owned by the Council, including undertaking tree condition assessments, producing tree site management plans, preparing site management specifications, appointing appropriate tree contractors and ensuring that the works are undertaken in line with the specifications and contracts, with Estates Services providing support on land ownership data, boundary locations etc.
5.	The implementation of the Tree Management policy contributes to the Council's priorities by helping to 'Protect and enhance the local environment whilst supporting economic growth'.

(END)