



## Notice of a public

### Decision Session - Executive Member for Culture, Leisure & Tourism

**To:** Councillor Reid (Executive Member)

**Date:** Monday, 18 December 2017

**Time:** 4.30 pm

**Venue:** The Thornton Room - Ground Floor, West Offices  
(G039)

## A G E N D A

### Notice to Members – Post Decision Calling In:

Members are reminded that, should they wish to call in any item\* on this agenda, notice must be given to Democratic Services by **4:00 pm on Wednesday, 20 December 2017.**

\*With the exception of matters that have been subject of a previous call in, require Full Council approval or are urgent, which are not subject to the call-in provisions. Any called in items will be considered by the Customer and Corporate Services Scrutiny Management Committee.

Written representations in respect of items on this agenda should be submitted to Democratic Services by **5.00 pm on Thursday, 14 December 2017.**

#### **1. Declarations of Interest**

At this point in the meeting, the Executive Member is asked to declare:

- any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests;

- any prejudicial interests;
  - any disclosable pecuniary interests
- which they may have in respect of business on this agenda.

**2. Minutes** (Pages 1 - 6)  
To approve and sign the minutes of the Decision Session held on 23 October 2017.

**3. Public Participation**  
At this point in the meeting, members of the public who have registered to speak can do so. The deadline for registering is **5.00pm on Friday, 15 December 2017**. Members of the public can speak on agenda items or matters within the Executive Member's remit.

To register to speak please contact the Democracy Officer for the meeting, on the details at the foot of the agenda.

**Filming, Recording or Webcasting Meetings**

Please note that, subject to available resources, this meeting will be filmed and webcast ,or recorded, including any registered public speakers who have given their permission. The broadcast can be viewed at <http://www.york.gov.uk/webcasts> or, if recorded, this will be uploaded onto the Council's website following the meeting.

Residents are welcome to photograph, film or record Councillors and Officers at all meetings open to the press and public. This includes the use of social media reporting, i.e. tweeting. Anyone wishing to film, record or take photos at any public meeting should contact the Democracy Officer (contact details are at the foot of this agenda) in advance of the meeting.

The Council's protocol on Webcasting, Filming & Recording of Meetings ensures that these practices are carried out in a manner both respectful to the conduct of the meeting and all those present. It can be viewed at

[https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/11406/protocol for webcasting filming and recording of council meetings 20160809](https://www.york.gov.uk/downloads/file/11406/protocol%20for%20webcasting%20filming%20and%20recording%20of%20council%20meetings%2020160809)

**4. Update on the Arboricultural Management of Council Trees** (Pages 7 - 22)

This report explains how the council manages its own, or 'public', trees and seeks approval for an updated policy for the management of these trees.

**5. Urgent Business**

Any other business which the Executive Member considers urgent under the Local Government Act 1972.

Democracy Officer:

Fiona Young

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For more information about any of the following please contact the Democracy Officer responsible for servicing this meeting:

- Registering to speak
- Written Representations
- Business of the meeting
- Any special arrangements
- Copies of reports

Contact details are set out above.

**This information can be provided in your own language.**

我們也用您們的語言提供這個信息 (Cantonese)

এই তথ্য আপনার নিজের ভাষায় দেয়া যেতে পারে। (Bengali)

Ta informacja może być dostarczona w twoim własnym języku. (Polish)

Bu bilgiyi kendi dilinizde almanız mümkündür. (Turkish)

یہ معلومات آپ کی اپنی زبان (بولی) میں بھی مہیا کی جاسکتی ہیں۔ (Urdu)

 **(01904) 551550**

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City of York Council

Committee Minutes

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MEETING	DECISION SESSION - EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & TOURISM
DATE	23 OCTOBER 2017
PRESENT	COUNCILLOR REID

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**43. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Executive Member was invited to declare at this point in the meeting any personal interests not included on the Register of Interests, and any prejudicial or disclosable pecuniary interests, which he had in the business on the agenda. No interests were declared.

**44. MINUTES**

Resolved: That the minutes of the Decision Session held on 25 September 2017 be approved and signed by the Executive Member as a correct record.

**45. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

It was reported that there had been no registrations to speak at the session under the Council's Public Participation Scheme.

**46. EQUALITY OBJECTIVES**

The Executive Member considered a report which proposed a set of updated equality objectives for the Council, in accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

A peer assessment carried out by the Local Government Association (LGA) in January 2015 had rated City of York Council as 'Excellent' within the Equality Framework for Local Government. Some development areas had also been identified and these formed the basis of the proposed objectives, which were to:

- Better understand our diverse communities and their needs

- Strengthen community participation and influence in the decision-making process
- Improve customer experience to respond to people's different needs
- Strengthen our position as an equal opportunities employer and service provider
- Strengthen the Council's leadership role in developing and sharing good practice.

Full details, with a delivery plan including key and supporting actions, were set out in the the annex to the report.

In response to questions from the Executive Member, Officers confirmed that the objectives were intended to be incorporated into everything the Council did and that it was good practice to seek a peer assessment from the LGA every four years.

Resolved: (i) That the equality objectives set out in the annex to the report be agreed.

Reason: In accordance with the requirements of the Equality Act and to ensure that the Council plays its part in delivering York's Equality Strategy: 'A Fairer York' and achieving its vision of an equal, inclusive and welcoming city where everyone can reach their own individual potential, access opportunities and realise their aspirations.

(ii) That a report on progress against the objectives be brought to the Executive Member in a year's time.

Reason: To assess the effectiveness of the key and supporting actions towards delivering the objectives.

#### **47. YORK LEARNING SERVICES SELF-ASSESSMENT**

The Executive Member considered a report which presented a high level summary of York Learning's Self Assessment Report (SAR) for the academic year 2016/17. The Executive Member was invited to comment on the findings before publication of the full report in November 2017.

The summary was attached as Annex 1, with performance data for the service, comprising classroom-based accredited

programmes, apprenticeships, and community learning, at Annexes 2, 3 and 4. It was noted that there were some areas of concern with the service's performance, specifically due to a decrease in achievement within apprenticeships in 2016/17. Improvement actions were already being taken to reverse this decline.

With regard to Annex 1, the Executive Member noted the increased demand for GCSE English and maths, which Officers confirmed was due largely to more adult learners requiring these qualifications. She also praised the increase in achievement rates for 16-18 year olds and suggested that future reports should clarify the grades used to measure the service's effectiveness.

**Resolved:** That the findings of the services self-assessment report be noted and that the report be taken to the relevant Scrutiny committee for their input.

**Reason:** To help monitor the service and ensure robust governance arrangements.

#### **48. COLD CALLING CONTROLLED ZONES**

The Executive Member considered a report which set out a plan to introduce and administer new Cold Calling Controlled Zones (zones) in the city and review existing zones on a more sustainable basis.

In a zone, residents collectively agreed not to deal with traders who called uninvited at their door to sell products. Current zones had worked well, but the earliest ones were now 10 years old and in need of review. The demand for new zones continued, despite a decision in 2015 to stop introducing them due to service pressures. Currently, a zone could only be brought in where more than 50% of residents expressly agreed and no residents opposed it; this second condition had proved problematic where the majority were in favour of a zone in their area.

Four options were presented, set out in paragraph 12 of the report:

**Option A** – seek funding of at least £25k for an officer to deal with the zones. This was the ideal option, but funding was unlikely in the short term.

**Option B** – create a ‘pay as you go’ product to enable communities to introduce, administer and review zones, with charges on a ‘cost recovery’ basis starting at around £450. This was the recommended option.

**Option C** – give the community access to the materials needed to create their own zones, through the CYC website. This could lead to uncontrolled introductions of zones and reduce their effectiveness.

**Option D** - retain the existing position, with no new zones introduced. This would deny the benefits of zones to residents in other areas.

Whichever option was chosen, a review of existing zones would take place free of charge and zones that had no support would be discontinued.

The Executive Member expressed support for the concept of zones in general, and the sense of security and confidence they could provide. She was concerned that the review be carried out in such a way as to assist residents in keeping existing zones where these had proved beneficial.

- Resolved:
- (i) That Option B be approved and a ‘pay as you go’ product be created, enabling communities to introduce, administer and review Cold Calling Controlled Zones, as described in paragraph 12(b) of the report.
  - (ii) That efforts continue to seek funding for a part-time officer to deal with the zones.
  - (iii) That both communities and Councillors be given access to the materials needed to create and review zones, and that these be designed to ensure that residents and Councillors are confident that they have the backing of City of York Council.
  - (iv) That display materials which could be used at Ward Committee meetings be provided.
  - (v) That Officers liaise with the police so that PCSOs are involved in the process.
  - (vi) That the rule *‘that no residents oppose the zone’* be replaced with *‘that fewer than 5% of households within the proposed zone object’*.

Reason: To ensure that zones can continue to be introduced in a controlled manner in those areas where a majority of residents are in favour of their introduction and that residents are given as much support as possible in introducing and maintaining the zones.

Cllr A Reid, Executive Member

[The meeting started at 4.30 pm and finished at 5.00 pm].

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**Decision Session – Executive Member for  
Culture, Leisure and Tourism**

18 December 2017

Report of the Assistant Director, Transport, Highways and  
Environment)

**Update on the Arboricultural Management of Council Trees****Summary**

1. This report details how the Council manages its own or “public” trees as well as proposing updates to the Council’s policy for the maintenance of public trees.

**Recommendations**

2. The Executive Member is asked to agree the updated policy for the management of the Council’s public trees.

**Reasons:**

- To ensure that the Council’s duty of care toward tree management and protection remains consistent and transparent and that resources are used to the best effect.

**Background**

3. A healthy and sustainable tree population plays a major role in creating an attractive and vibrant landscape where people want to live. In addition, trees provide a range of social, economic and environmental benefits including:
  - a) Combating climate change by absorbing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere
  - b) Mitigating the effects of climate change by reducing floodwater run off through interception and absorption and providing shade
  - c) Offsetting air pollution by removing particulate matter
  - d) Providing a habitat for wildlife
  - e) Contributing to a quality of environment that promotes physical, social and psychological wellbeing.

4. Council owned trees have an estimated replacement value of £200 million based on the Capital Asset Values for Amenity Trees (CAVAT) methodology. See <http://nato.org.uk/cavat> for more details. York's highway or street trees are valued at approximately £89 million alone.
5. 25,000 Council trees have been indentified, surveyed and mapped. Data from the tree survey can be found on the Council website maps for public use [https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20058/trees\\_and\\_hedgerows/544/trees\\_in\\_conservation\\_areas](https://www.york.gov.uk/info/20058/trees_and_hedgerows/544/trees_in_conservation_areas); this includes location, species and "owning" service department. The trees map layers now provide vital public information on private protected trees in conservation areas and covered by Tree Preservation Orders. Property developers and arboricultural contractors are now able to see where our protected trees are in York.

### **Current Management arrangements**

6. The Council has a responsibility for the care and safety of trees on the land it directly manages. This includes highway verges, car parks, housing estates, parks, gardens, amenity spaces, river banks, sports grounds, nature reserves, closed churchyards and several woodlands.
7. Responsibility for the management of the Council's trees sits with the Arboricultural Manager who is based in the Public Realm Service. Day to day tree work is then carried out by 3 council employees and suitable specialist arboricultural contractors. The cost of using external CHAS arboricultural contractors continues to increase year on year. (CHAS is a health and safety accreditation scheme used by public bodies). There are currently only two available in York with CHAS registration. One concentrates on the annual stem clearing work each summer; the other will carry out dangerous pruning and dismantling work.
8. The Arboricultural Manager provides help and technical advice to our Design and Conservation staff. Advice on private tree protection in relation to the planning process, Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Areas is provided by our Design and Conservation service.
9. The majority of the Council trees are inspected on a four yearly cycle; this takes place between April and December. Trees that are part of woodland planting are generally not actively inspected unless

they are along footpaths. In addition to the four year inspection, specific trees may be re-inspected following gales or when issues are passively spotted by staff or reported by members of the public.

10. The four yearly inspections regime informs the EZYTREEV database work programme, together with reactive concerns which arise during the year. Based on the adopted Policy prioritisation is given to work of an urgent nature where the risk of tree failure or accident is greatest. For example in early November 2017 the outstanding EZYTREEV database work programme included:

Priority	Nature of work / task	Timescale	Number of tasks
Emergency	Storm damage, road blockages,	As necessary to make safe	none
1 a	Very Urgent. Dangerous high risk hazards. Predicted failures imminent. Full collapse, limbs, decay, defects in	To be done within 3 months	2
1 b	Dangerous hazards. Predicted failure attention needed within 6 months. Full collapse, limbs, decay, defects	To be done within 6 months	42
1 c	As above but within 12 months in low risk areas, plus recognised maintenance issues e.g. stem Clearing, crown lifting, bus shelter clearance etc	To be done within 12 months	161
2	As above but within 24 works to benefit the trees such as formative pruning, guard removal.	May be required within 12-24 months time	691

3	Recommended works to benefit the trees such as formative pruning, guard removal.	May be required within 24-48 months time	1,024
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This ongoing EZY programme does not include the weekly unforeseen work which often requires urgent attention. These tasks can include 24 hour emergency call outs for tree failures, police and public reports, highway obstructions, and storm damage during and after bad weather. Neither does it include the cyclical as and when required works as trees grow. For example each year epicormic growth is removed from up to 2,600 limes which affect highway visibility. Work also includes improving clearances over footpaths, cycle routes, road signs, street lamps, traffic lights and along bus routes when required.

11. The existing staff structure, available budget and the need to delivery wider service priorities (for up to six months arboricultural staff can be called up to supplement the summer grounds maintenance workforce) meaning that only Priority 1a tasks are attended to. For example during November averages of 15 tasks per week were undertaken. Over the course of the year some 400 Priority 1 tasks are completed
12. Priority 2 tasks from the preceding year will also be added to the work programme, depending on the reassessment of risk by the Arboricultural Manager.
13. The adoption of the Policy in 2016 has helped explain how work is prioritised and why work is often categorised of being low priority. For example, there is a perception amongst some residents that trees can be dangerous just because they are large. Requests for work to reduce the size of a tree and complaints about perceived tree nuisance are received several times a day. On inspection the majority of this requested work is non urgent low priority – Priority 3. Accepted nuisance issue work found is put on the work programme as priority 1 to be completed within 12 months.
14. On hearing that the work is of low priority or would be damaging to the trees, residents are often left disappointed with this level of service provided by the Council. To mitigate this, a number of Ward Committees are now seeking to directly fund work to trees. In

recognition of this and experiences of using the policy over the last 18 months a number of updates are proposed. These are detailed in the following paragraphs.

### **Proposed Policy Updates**

15. Policy Statement 3 – Risk Assessments this has been updated to provide more details on the outcome of inspections and how this affects whether work is carried out to a tree or not.
16. Policy Statement 17 – this is a new policy and creates a mechanism for Ward Committees to fund work to trees which would not normally be carried out by the service as it is of a lower priority based on the inspection regime set out in Policy Statement 3.
17. Policy Statements 18 and 19 are new statements that set out the management of trees in woodlands and formal parks and gardens. For example, the previous policy was silent on the need to manage trees in relation to the historic design of a formal park.
18. Policy Statement 20 - this is a new policy that sets out a mechanism for the Assistant Director (Transport, Highways and Environment) to approve a decision to fell a tree which is in contravention of the Policy e.g. tree for road widening. Under such circumstances the decision will be taken in consultation with Ward Members and the Executive Member, and recorded in the Officer Decision Log.
19. The full policy and the proposed amendments and additions are provided as Annex 1.

### **Options and Analysis**

20. For the reason set out in preceding paragraphs careful management is required if the Council's tree stock is to be maintained in a safe and sustained manner for future generations. The options open to the Executive Member are:

Option a) to accept proposed amendments.

Option b) to suggest other amendments.

### **Council Plan**

21. The Arboricultural management policy contributes to the following Council Plan priorities:
  - Delivering frontline services for residents is the priority
  - Residents are encouraged and supported to live healthily

- Focus on the delivery of frontline services for residents and the protection of community facilities.
- Focus on cost and efficiency to make the right decisions in a challenging financial environment.

### **Implications**

22. **Financial:** The management of the tree stock is funded through existing service budget.
23. There are no **Equalities, Crime and Disorder, Human Resources, Legal, Information Technology, Property** or **Other** implications arising from this report.

### **Risk Management**

24. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy the main risks that have been identified associated with the areas of work covered by the policy proposed in this report are those which relate to governance, i.e. stewardship of the Council's tree assets, and legal and regulatory, i.e. relating to health and safety. Measured in terms of impact and likelihood, the risk score has been assessed at 10 which equates to "Low". This is acceptable but means that regular monitoring is required of the operation of the new arrangements.

### **Annexes**

Annex 1 –Arboricultural Policy for the management of City of York Council trees.

### **Background Papers**

*Decision Session – Executive Member for Culture Leisure and Tourism 24 June 2016 Review of Arboricultural Management of Council Trees*

<http://democracy.york.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=736&MId=9549&Ver=4>

**Contact Details**

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	<b>Report Approved</b>	✓	<b>Date</b> 08.12.17.
<b>Specialist Implications Officers:</b>			
<b>Wards Affected:</b>			<b>All</b> ✓
<b>For further information please contact the author of the report</b>			

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## **Annex 1**

### **Arboricultural Policy for the management of the City of York Council's Public Trees**

**This document contains information on tree risk management, tree protection, tree replacement, tree maintenance and tree related insurance claims.**

The following policy statements constitute the City of York Council's Arboricultural Policy for public trees and aims to give clear statements to aid the Council in meeting its duty of care, legal and health and safety obligations whilst not exposing itself to any undue liability.

#### **Overall Policy**

##### **Policy Statement 1**

The Council will sustain, protect and manage its public trees responsibly to ensure that it meets its statutory responsibilities without posing unreasonable risk to people or property. In so doing the Council will aim to increase the number and diversity of the trees it cares for.

##### **Policy Statement 2**

The Council will protect York's public trees from damage and unjustified removal with the aid of arboricultural protection guidelines and relevant legislation including The Town and Country Planning Act. The Council will enforce protection and seek to prosecute where tree protection related contraventions have occurred.

#### **Risk Management**

##### **Old Policy Statement 3 to be replaced**

The Council will carry out Public Tree Risk Assessments under the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 including the inspection of trees in or near public places to assess whether they represent a foreseeable risk to persons or property, and to take remedial action as appropriate.

The Council currently uses the Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) method to assess tree risks. QTRA quantifies the risk of significant harm from tree failure in a way that balances safety with tree values. QTRA also helps determine lower risk sites may not require

detailed tree inspections. For such sites, the city is divided into areas and inspections carried out on a 4 yearly rotation.

### **New Policy Statement 3**

The Council will carry out Public Tree Risk Assessments under the Management of Health and Safety Regulations 1999 including the inspection of trees in or near public places to assess whether they represent a foreseeable risk to persons or property, and to take remedial action as appropriate.

The Council will use a combination of Active and Passive tree inspections to monitor the health of trees and to determine if any work is required. Any unacceptable risks are most likely in high usage public areas subjected to active inspections. Low occupation and usage areas have a lower risk so they are subjected to passive inspections. Active scheduled inspections are carried by qualified Arboricultural inspectors on a 4 yearly rotation with one quarter of the city inspected each year.

If, during an inspection, safety work is identified it is allocated a risk rating which will then estimate how soon the work has to be carried out. If a tree defect has a high risk of harm then work will be carried out between 1 and 12 months depending on the risk rating. If a risk is determined as tolerable it may not be addressed until the next risk assessment.

When required to further quantify and measure a risk inspections may use a nationally recognised risk assessment such as Quantified Tree Risk Assessment (QTRA) or VALID. Such systems quantify the risk of harm or likelihood of failure in a way that balances safety with tree values and benefits.

Passive tree inspections and reports are those carried out daily by the public and council staff when travelling around the authority area. The Arboricultural Manager will assess any Passive reports and determine if an Active inspection is required and any resulting work.

### **Policy Statement 4**

The Council will maintain a computer based tree management and mapping system which that records position, species, and maintenance and inspection history. The current system is provided by Ezytree.

York's public tree survey is an ongoing process as new trees are planted and other removed. Information such as location, species and service department of public trees will be made available via the Council's web site.

### **Tree removal and pruning**

#### **Policy Statement 5**

The Council will only prune or remove trees for sound arboricultural reasons such as:

- Being identified by arboricultural risk assessment as a danger and in need of safety related work.
- Proven to be a cause of damage which is not resolvable (PS13).
- Considered by the Arboricultural Manager to be inappropriate species for the location

Or:

- When removal is required as part of an agreed management or thinning programme with mitigation such as replacement agreements.

#### **Policy Statement 6**

The Council will not prune, cut roots or remove trees (where no work has been identified under PS5 or PS13. for the following reasons:

- Encroachment into or over a neighbouring property (since the property owner already has a common law right to prune back to their boundary)
- To prevent roots entering private drains that are already broken or damaged
- To increase light levels or change the view into or out of a private property
- To reduce or remove the perceived nuisance issues caused by birds, insects, falling debris, leaves, blossom and fruit, or pollen
- To make way for new highway cross-overs (drives) or front garden parking
- To address interference with solar collection, satellite dishes, TV reception or telephone cables
- Because a tree is perceived to be too large or tall

- To address a perceived risk that a tree may or may not cause damage
- Disturbance to pavements, kerbs, garden paths and walls. (In these cases engineering solutions will be sought in the first instance ensuring that the tree can be maintained)
- Neighbour disputes due to perceived nuisance from a tree

### **Policy Statement 7**

The Council's arboricultural staff and contractors' tree work will comply with the "British Standards for Tree Work 3998 2010" except where safety considerations may overrule them. When undertaking any maintenance works near to trees all internal and external contractors and operatives must adhere to the national tree protection guidelines as set out in this document.

### **Policy Statement 8**

Where possible advance notice will be given regarding important trees identified for removal. This will normally be an explanatory notice posted on the tree or near its location.

### **Trees within the Council's housing land**

#### **Policy Statement 9**

##### **Communal shared gardens**

The Council will manage communal garden trees in accordance with the standard criteria set out in Policy Statements 5 to 8.

##### **Non-communal tenant gardens**

Tenants are responsible for maintaining trees within their gardens in accordance with the tenancy agreement. Tenants must not themselves, or arrange for anyone else, to damage, heavily prune or cut down trees and hedges within the boundaries of the property without first obtaining the approval of their estate manager. The estate manager will seek advice from the Arboricultural Manager before granting permission for such works.

If a Tenant or an estate manager thinks a tree may be dangerous, the Arboricultural Manager will inspect the tree. If the tree is then judged to be nuisance or dangerous it will be pruned to reduce risk. The Arboricultural Manager will also offer advice on suitable trees species for

gardens. Trees that are very large, fast growing or conifer species will not be recommended.

### **Protection for trees from adjacent works**

#### **Policy Statement 10**

When undertaking any works near to trees all internal and external contractors and operatives must adhere to the national and local tree protection guidelines as set out in this document.

#### **Policy Statement 11**

The Council will ensure that all non Arboricultural work taking place near trees must be in accordance with national tree protection guidelines.

Utility work must be in accordance NJUG Vol 4 Guidelines for the Planning, Installation and Maintenance of Utility Apparatus in Proximity to Trees: <http://www.njug.org.uk/publications/>

Highway and development site work must be in accordance with "British Standard 5837 2012 Trees in relation to design, demolition and construction":

<http://shop.bsigroup.com/en/ProductDetail/?pid=000000000030213642>

Highway tree protection information can be found in the CYC Highway Design Guide:

[http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200274/road\\_building/409/road\\_building/2](http://www.york.gov.uk/info/200274/road_building/409/road_building/2)

All agents, partners and contractors of the Council will be required to comply with these policy statements.

#### **Policy Statement 12**

The Council will seek compensation from anyone responsible for damage to or removal of any public tree to the tree's monetary value. This value will be calculated using the recognised valuation system called Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees, CAVAT. CAVAT provides a method for managing trees as public assets rather than liabilities. The council reserves the right to replace any damaged trees like for like if possible and recharge those responsible.

### **Claims against the Council**

#### **Policy Statement 13**

All tree related insurance claims made will be processed by our insurance section. CAVAT values of trees will be taken into account

when evaluating claims. No trees shall be removed or pruned for alleged or potential damage claims until documentary evidence has been presented for investigation by the Council's insurers. Action will be taken to resolve justified claims and retain any trees if deemed possible.

### **Tree replacement**

#### **Policy Statement 14**

The Council will seek to replace all trees lost. Where possible, planting will take place in the same location. Species will be based on site specific conditions including available space, with more beneficial larger species preferred. The council will seek to establish a diversity of species to mitigate against pests and diseases that can threaten a single species. Where development results in tree removal, mitigation planting will be requested based on CAVAT.

### **Community Involvement**

#### **Policy Statement 15**

The Council will encourage and support volunteers and community groups to care for existing trees and plant new trees. Support will be given through officer time and will include training and support for funding bids. Members of the public may request new trees on council land out side their property. Such requests will generally be supported, subject to necessary safety checks.

### **Funding of tree work by third parties**

#### **Policy Statement 16**

It is not possible for the Arboriculture Service to fund all requests for work to public trees. If, however, the task is in line with this Policy, and is specifically approved by the Arboricultural Manager, those requesting the work may use their own qualified and insured tree surgeon. All tree work should be carried out to British Standards for Tree Work 3998 2010. In cases of financial hardship advice will be provided on where assistance may be available.

### **Policy Statement 17 (new)**

To compliment the work of the Arboriculture Service Ward Committees and other similar organisations may fund work to trees. This work be generally be of a lower priority as defined by the Active inspection process and will be overseen and approved by the Arboricultural Manager. Where request may not accord with the general policy the Assistant Director of Transport, Highways and Environment will be required to approve the works in accordance with Policy 20.

### **Woodland and landscape management**

#### **Policy Statement 18 (new)**

For woodland management the Council will encourage natural regeneration and increase species diversity with the minimum of intervention. Where woods are low on species diversity some proactive thinning out may be carried out to allow for natural regeneration or re-stocking. Native plants suiting the site conditions would normally be used to re-stock areas where trees have been thinned or removed.

Site specific proactive intervention may also be possible to keep boundaries, paths and access points safe in accordance with the proceeding Policy Statements within this document.

#### **Policy Statement 19 (new)**

For formal Parks and Gardens the Council will seek to maintain a diverse and healthy tree stock which compliments and maintains the design and layout of the site.

Site specific interventions are possible to keep boundaries, paths, historic features and views, and, adjoining sports facilities in a safe and well maintained condition.

#### **Policy Statement 20 (new)**

In certain circumstances such as highway work or site redevelopment, it may be necessary for the Council to remove trees which is contrary to this Policy. In such circumstances, the Assistant Director of Transport, Highways and Environment in consultation with the Ward Members and the Executive Member will be required to approve such as decision and to record the decision in accordance with the Councils decision making processes.

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