



Policy and Finance Committee

Date: 17th June 2019

Title: Tree Management Policy Review

Purpose of the Report: To endorse the recommendation from the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee in respects of updating the Tree Management Policy to ensure it remains fit for propose.

Contact Officer: Ian Haynes, Head of Grounds and Environmental Services

Corporate Objective/s	None	
Implications:		
Financial	√	Within existing budget
Human Resources		
Operational/Service delivery		
Procedural/Legal	√	Updated due to High Court and Court of Appeal judgements.
Risk/Health and Safety		

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

Should members be minded, the proposals are:

- 1.1 To note the report.
- 1.2 To Consider and Recommend to Council to endorse the revised Tree Management Policy for 2019 - 2022.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 4th June 2018, the Grounds and Environmental Services Committee approved and adopted the current Tree Management Policy. The policy identified the Town Council's approach to the management of trees on

land owned by Leighton-Linslade Town Council and intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors and Council employees to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of our trees.

- 2.2 Due to a recent High Court and Court of Appeal judgements the Council's current tree management service procedures has been reviewed and it is believed that it requires an amendment.

3. CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The parish trees are of immense environmental and aesthetical value to the Town and its residents. They brighten up our parks and open spaces, provide a habitat for wildlife, act as the Town lungs and even help to reduce the rising temperatures caused by climate change. Leighton-Linslade Town Council recognises these benefits, seeking to preserve healthy trees and encourage the planting of new trees where possible.
- 3.2 Whilst the majority live and grow without incident, a number of trees located in densely populated areas pose challenges and risks that need to be managed. This policy outlines how we intend to increase the number of trees across the parish, how we intend to manage the tree stock effectively, and how we reduce the risk that certain trees pose to the public.
- 3.3 The Town Council is only responsible for trees positioned on land owned by the Town Council.
- 3.4 This tree policy does not cover trees in private ownership which are outside Leighton-Linslade Town Council's control. Trees in private ownership are the responsibility of the private landowner. The policy also does not cover Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Areas or high hedge legislation which is administered by the Central Bedfordshire Council's Planning Department.
- 3.5 The overall aim of the tree policy is to ensure that our tree stock is retained, enhanced and increased in the most proactive manner whilst ensuring the health, safety and well-being of the public and property.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 Members are minded to endorse the Tree Management Policy with the new two year rolling inspection programme. In doing so it is believed that the Town Council will continue to have a clear, professional and transparent method for managing the Town Council's tree stock.

5. CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 It is clear that the tree management policy is still fit for purpose. However, the Town Council has the flexibility and in-house expertise to consider and change our tree inspection regime.

