



DERBY CITY COUNCIL

AREA PANEL 5 6 July 2005

Report of the Director of Commercial Services

PROPOSED OPERATION OF TRIAL FOR COSMETIC WORK TO TREES

BACKGROUND

The Council's Tree Management Policy allows cosmetic work to trees such as pruning of no more than 15% of the crown usually when a tree is blocking light. The existing base budget is inadequate to accommodate cosmetic work and is fully committed to works addressing health and safety risks. Councillors had become frustrated that there was no means of appealing against the decision of the Arboricultural Officers to not carry out work. It was recognised that the Arboricultural Officer's decisions were influenced by the availability of the budget as well as tree management issues.

PROPOSAL

A budget virement of £5000 is made from the grounds maintenance budget to Area Panel 5 for cosmetic work to trees.

People wishing to appeal against the decision of the Arboricultural Officer would be advised of the right to do so by the Arboricultural Officer and that they should contact their ward councillor.

If the ward councillor believes the appeal is merited, the Area Panel Manager should be advised. The Area Panel Manager will request an estimate from the Arboricultural Officers for cosmetic work to the tree or trees.

No estimate for work outside of that permitted under the Tree Management Policy will be provided. The appeal will be heard by the Area Panel meeting and only Councillors will be allowed to vote.

Once the budget has been committed, no further cosmetic work can be commissioned.