

ITEM 7



COUNCIL CABINET
17 MAY 2005

Report of the Planning and Environment Commission

Response to the Planning and Environment Commission's Review of the Council's Tree Management Policy

RECOMMENDATION

1. That Council Cabinet ensures that the meeting of the Planning and Environment Commission on 2 June 2005, or the first meeting of any successor to the Planning and Environment Commission, is provided with a detailed report setting out:
 - a) The actions it is proposed to take in response to the recommendations made by the Commission in the report on its review of the Council's Tree Management Policy.
 - b) The reasons for proposing those actions.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Background

- 2.1 The outcomes and recommendations of the Planning and Environment Commission's review of the Council's Tree Management Policy were reported to Council Cabinet at its meeting on 21 December 2004.
- 2.2 Having considered the Commission's report, Cabinet decided 'To welcome the report and request the Director of Commercial Services to provide a response by the end of March 2005 after the recommendations had been fully assessed'.

Issue(s)

- 2.3 No response was provided to the Planning and Environment Commission by the end of March 2005 but on 6 April 2005 the Chair of the Commission was sent the e-mail shown in Appendix 2 of this report.
- 2.4 The lack of a proper response to the report of its review of the Tree Management Policy was discussed by the Planning and Environment Commission at its meeting on 21 April 2005. Members were concerned that no response had been made to the Commission within the time period specified by Council Cabinet. Members were also concerned that they

had not been kept informed of any actions proposed by the Director of Commercial Services.

Conclusions of the Commission

2.5 The Commission resolved to ask Council Cabinet to provide a response to the report to the Commission's meeting on 2 June 2005.

Recommendations of the Commission

2.6 That Council Cabinet ensures that the meeting of the Planning and Environment Commission on 2 June 2005, or the first meeting of any successor to the Planning and Environment Commission, is provided with a detailed report setting out:

- a) The actions it is proposed to take in response to the recommendations made by the Commission in the report on its review of the Council's Tree Management Policy.
- b) The reasons for proposing those actions.

Reasons for Commission's Recommendations

2.7 To apprise members of the Planning and Environment Commission, or of any successor to that Commission that might be approved at the Annual Meeting of the Council, of the actions proposed by the Director of Commercial Services in response to the recommendations made by the Commission.

2.8 To give the Commission opportunity to comment on any actions proposed by the Director of Commercial Services.

For more information contact:	David Romaine 01332 255598 e-mail david.romaine@derby.gov.uk
Background papers:	Background Papers - None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Copy of e-mail sent to the Chair of the Commission

IMPLICATIONS

Financial

1. None arising from this report.

Legal

2. None arising from this report.

Personnel

3. None arising from this report.

Equalities impact

4. None arising from this report.

Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities

This report has the potential to link to the following of the Council's Corporate Objectives, Values and Priorities:

Objectives:

- Healthy safe and independent communities
- A diverse, attractive and healthy environment

Values

- Be open, transparent and honest in everything we do
- Adopt new ways of working wherever these will help us do things better and provide value for money, customer focussed services

Priorities

- Improving customer service in the city centre and locally

Appendix 2

From: Sandra Storey
To: John Ahern
Cc: David Romaine
Subject: Overview and Scrutiny – Tree Management Policy
Date: Wed 06/04/2005: 1329

It was my intention to have taken a report to Cabinet in March regarding a response to the O & S report on the Tree Management Policy. I wanted to give you an update.

As you will be aware from the budget settlement, resources have been allocated to implement an inspection programme of trees on highway verges and on parks near to car parks, footpaths, play areas and where there is reasonably heavy pedestrian usage. This work has commenced. We are in discussions with colleagues about the approach to be adopted on housing land.

My principal reason for not being able to have presented a report is regarding the ability to challenge the decision of an Arboricultural Officer not to undertake work to trees. The proposal to refer disputes to Area Panels is considered to be unworkable. This is due to several factors including the number of potential disputes, the pressure that could be exerted upon councillors, a consistency of approach across the city, the necessity to have site visits, the time available at Area Panels and the budget available for cosmetic work to trees. It was this issue that led to my request for Overview and Scrutiny to examine the Tree Management Policy. I am in the process of evaluating what, if any, options may be practically applied and when, this is complete, I will report to Cabinet.

J Winters