

## NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

#### **ACTION PLAN: Scrutiny Working Group – Tree Maintenance**

Recommendations from Scrutiny Working Group (Tree Maintenance ) completed in March 2016.

#### **Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations**

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
September 2015	20 January 2016	13 June 2016	

**Recommendation 1:** In noting its effectiveness, the NBC app. – “Report It”, use is widened and developed so that there is preferably one reporting the whole county or more realistically at least one reporting app. for NBC and NCC.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by:	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Increase the use of the NBC App.	Mick Tyrrell	Senior Officers of both NBC and NCC.	01/04/2016	This action is still outstanding. The NBC App and the NCC reporting system “Street Doctor” are valued by each authority. Further work needs to be undertaken to identify if there is a willingness on

				NCC's part to shut down "Street Doctor" and replace it with the NBC App.
<b>Recommendation 2:</b> A presentation on the Northamptonshire County Council IT Programme regarding damage caused to street furniture, including trees, is given to all Councillors at Northampton Borough Council.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
NCC representative to make a presentation to councillors.	Mick Tyrrell	NCC officer time and availability	01/04/2016	Outstanding
<b>Recommendation 3:</b> When the software that is being used in relation to the Tree Inspection Programme that is being piloted in Daventry is rolled out in Northampton and becomes available for use by NBC, it is used by NBC to record all trees and hedges on NBC and NPH managed land.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
NBC to use the NCC tree inspection system to log its trees.	Mick Tyrrell	ICT would be needed to set up the system. Funding to employ a person to carry out inspections.	01/04/2016	The system is being used by NCC to record the value of each of their Highway trees, should they need to be replaced. Having spoken to NCC, it does not seem that this system is what NBC would want to use at the

				moment, particularly with the enhanced maintenance that will be taking place over the next five years.
<b>Recommendation 4:</b> In the planning process consideration is given to the retention and planting of trees and hedges and the maintenance thereof affording the ongoing right to light to nearby properties. The Tree Planting and Retention Policy be detailed within the Joint Development Framework view to delivering low on-going maintenance costs and that a Policy is adopted to ensure trees are not planted close to properties or in the vicinity of properties alleviating problems encountered by residents as detailed in this report.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Ensure that tree policy is taken into account when planning applications are considered. Include policy in Joint Development Framework.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time	01/04/2016	Completed
<b>Recommendation 5:</b> A Policy of thinning out trees in Parks and Open Space throughout the Borough is adopted and funded over a five year period to ensure that remaining trees are able to reach their full growth and maturity				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Include the thinning of trees in the revised tree policy and identify funding to carry this out.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability, External professional input. Revenue funding	01/04/2016	Funding has been allocated and the thinning of trees is included both in the tree policy and maintenance plan.
<b>Recommendation 6:</b> An on-going Forward Maintenance Plan for trees, recognising the right to light, is developed, funded and implemented over a period. This should be linked to the tree inspection software.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Develop an enhanced maintenance plan and identify 5 years funding to carry this out.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability, External professional input. Revenue funding.	01/04/2016	The maintenance plan has been developed, included in the policy and funded.
<b>Recommendation 7:</b> A revised Corporate Tree Policy, including a Tree Maintenance Policy and recognising the right to light, is developed and adopted. This should be in plain English. It should be an all embracing policy, making reference to relevant Planning, Highways and NPH policies				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Produce a revised Corporate Tree Policy.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability, External professional input.	01/04/2016	Completed

<b>Recommendation 8:</b> Full consultation should be undertaken on the revised Corporate Tree Policy, including the Maintenance Policy therein.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Carry out consultation on the new policy and maintenance plan.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability	01/04/2016	The revised policy and maintenance plan is based on best practice and British Standards, also ensuring that the requirements of O&S are taken into account. There was therefore very little that could be consulted on when drafting the policy.
<b>Recommendation 9:</b> Parish Councils should be consulted in developing the new Tree Policy and encouraged to adopt the policy in respect of land in their ownership.				
<b>Action</b>	<b>Implementation/responsibility by</b>	<b>Resources required/available</b>	<b>Target date</b>	<b>Achievement/Completed</b>
Consult with Parish Councils.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability.	01/04/2016	The revised policy and maintenance plan is based on best practice and British Standards, also ensuring that the requirements of O&S are taken into account. There was therefore very little that could be consulted

				on when drafting the policy. Most Parish Councils have very little or no responsibility for trees in their parish, but will be sent a copy of the tree policy and encouraged to adopt it as necessary.
<b>Recommendation 10:</b> A review of the effectiveness of the Corporate Tree Policy, including the Tree Maintenance policy therein, takes place within five years.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review tree policy after 5 years	Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Officer and Member time.	01/04/2021	Review date to be agreed and programmed in.
<b>Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>				
<b>Recommendation 11:</b> The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and	n/a	Monitoring to take place 0n 13 June	

Programme 2016/2017	Scrutiny Committee		2016	
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