

CITY BOARD
19 APRIL 2012

ITEM B10

DERBY CITY COUNCIL ARBORICUTURAL SERVICE

Report of the Director of Housing and Customer Services

1. SUMMARY

This report informs the City Board that in December 2011, Derby City Council's Cabinet approved the recommendations of the Strategic Director of Neighbourhoods to amend the Tree Management Policy. This amendment followed a review which identified the need to clarify the work that the Council will, and will not, carry out.

2. RECOMMENDATION

That the City Board notes the report.

3. MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Between August 2010 and August 2011 the Council received approximately 1,000 requests for tree works. Although the majority of works were refused, a considerable amount of Officer time was spent investigating and responding to each request. Reasons for requesting work included:

- to reduce leaf litter
- to improve television reception
- to increase light and reduce shading
- to remove overhanging branches
- to reduce bird droppings or aphid residue
- to remove trees to allow more light to solar panels.

3.2 Some of the requests were met but the report outlined that this was often at the expense of essential work. The report also cites the considerable backlog of work, currently valued at £500,000. By amending the policy, greater priority could be given to this area of works including:

- Unsafe trees
- Diseased and damaged trees
- Trees obstructing footpaths or roads
- Trees touching and damaging buildings
- Trees obscuring street-lamps or road signs.

3.3 The proposal to Cabinet was to decline works outlined in paragraph 3.1 in order to focus on the list in paragraph 3.2. This would enable:

- The backlog to be cleared
- Promote clarity which would reduce requests and allow them to be closed off at the first point of call, generally Derby Direct.
- Offer clarity to elected members in order to save them getting embroiled in such requests.
- Offer up budget savings of £50,000 which could be recovered by carrying out work for schools and other Council departments, which had been refused in the past because of a lack of resources.

3.4 If the £50,000 target is not met then savings would be made by reducing tree planting in 2012/13.

3.5 A copy of the current Tree Management Policy is available on the Council Website. If you would like a copy please contact Julie Wren on 01332 888529.

<http://www.derby.gov.uk/media/derbycitycouncil/contentassets/documents/policiesandguidance/DerbyCityCouncil-Tree-Management-Policy-Jan2012.pdf>

The areas listed below have no implications directly arising from this report:

Consultation
Financial and Business Plan
Legal and Confidentiality
Council
Personnel
Environmental
Equalities Impact Assessment
Health & Safety
Risk
Policy Review

If Board members or others would like to discuss this report ahead of the meeting please contact the author, or Phil Davies, Chief Executive, phil.davies@derbyhomes.org – Phone: 01332 888528

Author: Maureen Davis / Operations Manager / 013328888596 /
maureen.davis@derbyhomes.org

Background Information: Copy of Tree management Policy is available on the Council Meeting Information System (CMIS)

Supporting Information: none.