



## EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION NOTICE

### TREE AND WOODLAND STRATEGY – PUBLIC CONSULTATION

**1** EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Cllr Sandreni Bonfante – Executive Member Environment

**2** TITLE OF REPORT

Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy - consultation

**3** DECISION TAKEN

To undertake a formal public consultation of the Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council draft Tree and Woodland Strategy 2024-2029.

**4** IF URGENT, REASONS FOR URGENCY

N/A

**5** DETAILS OF EXECUTIVE MEMBER

Name : Cllr Sandreni Bonfante – Executive Member Environment

Signature



Date this decision was taken

18-07-2024

Date of circulation/publication of this decision

19/7/24

**6** EXPLANATION/BACKGROUND:

- 6.1 The purpose of the strategy is to set out the council's approach to managing its trees and woodland by supporting our changing and growing borough whilst also maintaining and improving the borough's tree stock and natural environment.
- 6.2 The strategy set out how Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council manages its trees and woodlands. The priority is to ensure trees and woodlands are in a safe condition whilst acknowledging that trees are natural resource that grow and change over time.

- 6.3 A formal consultation should be undertaken in order to give stakeholders an opportunity to comment, raise issues or ask for clarification prior to adoption of the strategy.
- 6.4 Legal Implications:
- 6.5 Landowners/managers have a common law duty of care to ensure trees are as safe as reasonably practicable. A tree owner should take steps to ensure that they are aware of whether a tree is likely to cause harm, and if it is, should take appropriate actions as necessary.
- 6.6 Legislation, including the occupiers' Liability act 1957 and 1984 and the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, place a duty on tree and woodland owners to consider the safety of those visiting their land.
- 6.7 The tree and woodland strategy demonstrates that the Council is taking a reasonable and practicable approach to the management of its trees and woodlands.
- 6.8 Financial Implications:
- 6.9 Management of the council's trees and woodlands is undertaken within existing budgets.
- 6.9.1 There is no direct financial cost to undertake a formal consultation.
- 6.10 Risk Implications:
- 6.9.1 The Tree and Woodland strategy demonstrates the Council has considered the risks posed by trees and woodlands and shows a reasonable and practicable approach to the management of those risks.
- 6.11 Equalities Impact Assessment
- 6.12 An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) was not completed because this strategy does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.
- 6.13 Alternative options considered and reasons for their rejection (if any):
- There are no alternatives as a consultation is required as part of the formal process prior to formal adoption of the strategy.

## **7 BACKGROUND PAPERS USED TO INFORM THE DECISION**

- 7.1 Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy 2024 -2029 – Appendix 1

## **8 DETAILS OF ANY MEMBERS OR OFFICERS WHO HAVE DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND NATURE OF ANY SUCH INTEREST AND ANY DISPENSATIONS GRANTED**

- 8.1 None

## **9 ADDITIONAL CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION CONSIDERED**

- 9.1 None

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**Appendix 1 – Draft Tree and Woodland Strategy**

