



AGENDA ITEM: 9

SUMMARY

Report for:	Cabinet
Date of meeting:	24 March 2015
Part:	1
If Part II, reason:	

Title of report:	Trees and Woodlands Policy
Contact:	Councillor Julie Laws, Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services and Sustainability Author/Responsible Officer : Colin Chambers - Team Leader Trees and Woodlands, David Austin – Assistant Director Neighbourhood Delivery
Purpose of report:	To consider and approve the draft Trees and Woodlands Policy.
Recommendations	That Cabinet approves the Trees and Woodlands Policy.
Corporate Objectives:	Clean and safe environment Community capacity Dacorum delivers
Implications:	<u>Financial</u> There are no additional resource implications in respect of the adoption of this policy.
'Value For Money Implications'	<u>Value for Money</u> Following a procurement exercise, two Hertfordshire based companies have been awarded contracts for tree work in the Borough.
Risk Implications	Falling trees, or parts of trees, present an unavoidable hazard but they are a manageable risk. This policy outlines the robust arrangements that are in place for tree inspections and tree safety management.
Health And Safety Implications	The health and safety implications are contained within the policy.
Monitoring Officer/S.151	Deputy Monitoring Officer: No comments to add to the report.

Officer Comments	S.151 Officer No comments to add to this report.
Consultees:	Strategic Planning and Environment and Overview Scrutiny Committee Corporate Management Team
Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	“The Council” Dacorum Borough Council

Background

1. Trees are a vital component of the Borough’s biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage. The Council is responsible for approximately 33,000 trees sited on Highways land, in parks and on Public Housing land.
2. The draft Trees and Woodlands Policy is attached as **Appendix A** to this report.
3. A summary of the policies contained therein are as follows :
 - **Policy 1** The Council will value our heritage of trees, both those retained from past agricultural land use and those planted as part of our townscapes.
 - **Policy 2** The Council will, wherever possible, retain and enhance tree cover within the Borough landscape.
 - **Policy 3** The Council will undertake and record routine tree inspections, to the tree stock for which it has a responsibility.
 - **Policy 4** The Council will undertake such works as considered necessary to maintain public safety within areas of public access.
 - **Policy 5** The Council will endeavour to take some action in response to residents’ concerns about trees, however, felling or pruning work will be constrained by:
 - Good practice as defined by BS 3998: 2010 – ‘Tree work – Recommendations’
 - Available Funding
 - The Council’s system of prioritising work
 - Existing site management plans
 - **Policy 6** Where major programmed works are proposed the Council will provide information to local residents.

- **Policy 7** Management of Borough woodlands will be undertaken to achieve the following objectives:
 - Public safety and access
 - Nature conservation
- **Policy 8** On land for which it has responsibility, the Council will, where able, plant a new tree to replace one that has been lost.
- **Policy 9** In order to provide residents with excellent value, the Council will procure the highest quality of tree work services at the most competitive rates.
- **Policy 10** On land for which it has responsibility, the Council will identify ancient trees and undertake any work needed to retain or restore their historic, aesthetic and conservation value.

Appendix A – Draft Trees and Woodlands Policy