



**AGENDA ITEM:  
SUMMARY**

<b>Report for:</b>	<b>Strategic Planning and Environment Overview and Scrutiny</b>
<b>Date of meeting:</b>	<b>02 February 2021</b>
<b>Part:</b>	<b>1</b>
If Part II, reason:	

<b>Title of report:</b>	<b>Tree Policy &amp; Implementation</b>
Contact:	Cllr John Birnie, Portfolio Holder for Environmental services Craig Thorpe, Group Manager (Environmental Services) Luke Johnson, Team Leader, Trees and Woodlands
Purpose of report:	To review the updated Trees and Woodlands Policy covering 2020 to 2025
Recommendations	That the report is noted.
Corporate Objectives:	To provide a Clean, Safe and Green Environment
Implications:	Contribution to Climate Change Agenda Implications of CAVAT system
Risk Implications	
Community Impact Assessment	NA
Health And Safety Implications	None arising from this report.
Consultees:	None.

Background papers:	
Glossary of acronyms and any other abbreviations used in this report:	CAVAT (Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees)

## **Background**

### **1.0 Introduction**

The existing Trees and Woodlands policy is due to expire and therefore a full review was required to consider implications to the Council's commitment to the Climate Change Emergency.

Due to the current pandemic there have been more residents working from home and therefore more complaints received around TV / satellite reception and loss of light, however Trees and Woodlands do not undertake works on trees for these reasons. Hence residents are increasingly wanting to undertake works to trees adjacent to their properties using, in some cases, unlicensed arboricultural companies without any consideration given to the environmental credentials and value of the tree.

It is the wish of the Trees and Woodlands service to implement an existing tree valuation system which would enable to Officers to place a monetary value on any tree that has had unauthorised works undertaken to it and make an associated charge directly against the resident who ordered the work.