

## **Report to the Cabinet**

**Report reference: C-004-2009/10.**

**Date of meeting: 13 July 2009.**



**Epping Forest  
District Council**

**Portfolio: Housing.**

**Subject: Housing Tree Maintenance Budget.**

**Responsible Officer: Roger Wilson (01992 564419).**

**Democratic Services Officer: Gary Woodhall (01992 564470).**

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### **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

**(1) That, in order to complete the major tree work and shrub maintenance project on Housing-owned land, at Ninefields, Waltham Abbey, a Supplementary Estimate for 2009/2010 in the sum of £38,000, to be funded from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances, be recommended to full Council for approval.**

### **Executive Summary:**

At its meeting on 10 November 2008 (Minute 101 refers), the Cabinet agreed a Supplementary Estimate for 2008/2009 in the sum of £64,000, funded from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances for major tree works on housing land. Around £38,000 was for work on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey.

It was also identified that further work to trees and shrubs will be needed in this area in 2010/2011, which will cost in the region of a further £38,000, which would be brought to the Cabinet's attention in the next budget cycle.

However, as all of the work planned for this year on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate has now been completed, the Cabinet is asked to agree that a Supplementary Estimate for 2009/2010 in the sum of £38,000, to be funded from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances, be recommended to Full Council for approval. This will enable the work to be completed, one year earlier than originally anticipated.

### **Reasons for Proposed Decision:**

To complete much needed tree and shrub maintenance works on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey, one year earlier than originally anticipated.

### **Other Options for Action:**

To not complete the additional tree and shrub work on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey one year earlier than originally anticipated.

To make alternative amounts available for the works needed.

### **Report:**

1. At its meeting on 10 November 2008 (Minute 101 refers), the Cabinet agreed that, in order to clear the backlog of major tree work on Housing owned land, a Supplementary Estimate for 2008/2009 in the sum of £64,000, funded from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances, be recommended to full Council for approval. Around £38,000 was for urgent tree felling work and extensive maintenance work to shrubs, on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey.

2. The budget for major tree works on housing land for the current year is £107,000.
3. In addition to major tree works, some basic tree work and replanting is undertaken on housing estates, funded from a separate grounds maintenance budget. The budget for basic tree work for the current year is £31,000.
4. It was also identified that further work to trees and shrubs will be needed on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate in 2010/2011 which will cost in the region of a further £38,000, which would be brought to the Cabinet's attention in the next budget cycle.
5. However, as all of the work planned for this year has now been completed, the Cabinet is asked to agree that a Supplementary Estimate for 2009/2010 in the sum of £38,000, to be funded from Housing Revenue Account (HRA) balances, be recommended to full Council for approval. This will enable the much needed additional work to be completed one year earlier than originally anticipated.

**Resource Implications:**

A Supplementary Estimate of £38,000 for 2009/2010, funded from the Housing Revenue Account (HRA).

**Legal and Governance Implications:**

Housing Act 1985.

**Safer, Cleaner and Greener Implications:**

The proposed work would substantially improve the environment for residents living on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey, which is in need of further tree and shrub maintenance works.

**Consultation Undertaken:**

In the summer of 2008, a survey form was sent out to 382 residents affected living on the Shernbroke Road side of the Ninefields Estate, Waltham Abbey, of whom 106 responded (28%). Around 80% of those surveyed agreed that the work should be undertaken. All Ward Members were consulted.

**Background Papers:**

A report from Leisure Services setting out the required shrub work at Ninefields, Waltham Abbey, & Tree Survey results. Report to Cabinet on 10 November 2008 & Minute (101) of that meeting.

**Impact Assessments:**

In future years, some of the trees identified for felling could present a risk to both the public and properties should they remain. There appears to be no impact of the report's recommendations upon the Council's statutory duty to promote equality throughout the District.