

# **Report to Safer Cleaner Greener Scrutiny Standing Panel**



**Date of meeting:** 1<sup>ST</sup> July 2010

**Portfolio:** Environment

**Subject:** The new Tree Strategy

**Responsible Officer:** Laura MacNeill (01992 564223).

**Democratic Services Officer:** Adrian Hendry, (01995 564246)

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## **Recommendations/Decisions Required:**

- (1) To agree the content and outline of the document;**
- (2) To agree that the existing printing paper specification and distribution outlets be retained; and**
- (3) To consider whether a draft document should be submitted to the Standing Panel for agreement prior to its publication**

## **Report:**

1. At the meeting of this Panel in September 2009 Members discussed the content of the present document tree strategy entitled "Tree – Information, objectives and policies". Views were put forward as to new topics for inclusion in the next version of the strategy as well as revision of the existing content. It was agreed that the new document content was to be widened so as to be more informative on general issues.

2. Officers were asked to discuss the format and content of the document at the Green Infrastructure Working Party and report back to this Panel. This review was undertaken at meetings in November and March. The outcome of that review and recommendations of the document content is set out below:

- The Council  
Outline the terms of reference and responsibilities etc of the Council's Green Working Party and Management of Green Infrastructure Working Policy.
- Safer Cleaner Greener Strategy  
To include issues on:
  - Access to open spaces and Local Nature Reserve
  - Local tree strategies
  - Countrycare partnership projects
  - Management of Roding Valley Nature Reserve
  - Local Nature Reserves
- Managing Natural Resources.

Explain how the Council will be assessed with regard to commitment to the Key Line of Enquiry (KLoE) with regards to trees/green infrastructure etc.

- Management of Habitats to increase biodiversity.  
Demonstrate the Council's commitment by reference to:
  - Epping Forest Country care
  - Biodiversity Action Plan
  - National Indicator 197. The District has set a target of getting 81 Local Wildlife Sites into positive conservation management by March 2011
  - Local Nature Reserves
  - Publicity and website
  - National campaigns
- Trees their functions and management.  
To include:-
  - Description and strength and weaknesses analysis of the current treescape, together with an assessment of opportunities
  - Arboretum and tree trail 5 year development plan
  - 50 Favourite tree project update
  - Tree surveys update
  - 5 year pilot to introduce elms into the District
  - Trees in housing tenants gardens and clarification of responsibilities
  - Carbon footprint issues and initiatives
  - Character assessment and sensitive study report
  - Use of technology to plot the trees in the district
  - Valuation of the Council's tree stock
  - Tree Wardens' Role
- Contact Numbers
- Glossary
- Index

3. It is proposed that the document will cross reference with the information held within the Council by giving web site references etc, so the reader can get the detail of any specific subject. This will keep the document to a manageable length but retain its usefulness as a reference point.

#### **Resource Implications:**

The cost of the printing and distribution of the document will depend on the numbers produced and outlets for distribution. It is recommended that the printing and paper specification of the present document is retained. The present document is on the Council's web site and is available at all public reception areas and at Libraries and Town and Parish Council reception areas. If this approach is retained there will be no budgetary implications.

#### **Timetable:**

Once the document content is agreed then officers will work towards a March 2011 completion. Members are requested to advise whether they wish to see any draft documentation before it is sent for publication