

# ITEM 4

Time commenced – 6.00pm  
Time finished – 7.15pm

## **Communities Scrutiny Review Board**

18 March 2019

Present: Councillor Naitta (Chair)  
Councillors Cooper, A Holmes, Hudson, Nawaz, Peatfield, Sandhu

In Attendance: Chris Fraser – Streetpride Area Manager  
Steven Mason – Democratic Services Officer  
Douglas Monaghan – Arboricultural Officer

### **32/18 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Afzal.

### **33/18 Late items introduced by the Chair**

There were none.

### **34/18 Declarations of Interest**

There were none.

### **35/18 Minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 February 2019 were agreed as a correct record.

### **36/18 Tree Management**

The Board received a report of the Strategic Director of Communities and Place on Tree Management. The report was presented by the Streetpride Area Manager and the Arboricultural Officer.

It was reported that the Board had considered the Tree Management Policy and Strategy at its meeting in September 2018. It was reported at that meeting that the policy and strategy were due to be revised and Members had requested that the draft policy be brought to a future meeting.

Members considered the draft Tree Management Policy and Strategy attached at Appendix 1 of the report.

Members discussed instances of trees on Council land that had dropped leaves on adjoining properties and highlighted that some persons at risk would struggle to clear the leaves. It was noted that if heavy leaf fall was reported to the Council, it would be looked at on a case by case basis. Members agreed that at Section 6

of the draft document– Common Tree Enquiries/Nuisances – Trees Dropping Leaves - wording should be added to include the possible provision of assistance to persons at risk in relation to leaf fall and gutter filling.

Members discussed problems that could be caused by loss of light. A Member of the Board described an example where loss of light had caused damp in a Derby Homes property. It was reported that if the property was managed by Derby Homes, the matter would be referred on to the Council for it to assess for any damage caused to the property by the loss of light and take action accordingly.

Members considered the different types of maintenance pruning employed by Arboricultural Officers.

Members agreed that in relation to Section 6 of the draft policy – Common Tree Enquiries/Nuisances – Loss of Light – the words "extreme circumstances" should be removed and that wording should be inserted to explain that a decision to undertake work would be made on a case by case basis or in mitigating circumstances.

Members considered the important role Neighbourhood Officers played in highlighting tree related issues and that these officers needed to be made aware of any vulnerable people affected. It was also noted that recommendations in relation to tree works required could be made through Neighbourhood Boards.

Members agreed that at Section 5 of the draft policy – Types of Maintenance Pruning – wording should be added in relation to pruning taking place when street lights were replaced with new ones.

Members discussed the various problems that could be caused by overhanging tree branches. It was reported that officers would judge any instances on their own individual merits.

Members discussed instances of trees not being right for an area, such as very tall mature trees in residential streets. Members noted that in these circumstances, whether a tree was safe or not was the only judgement to be made and that trees would not be removed for cosmetic reasons.

Members agreed the following extra recommendations:

- That Planning officers should ensure that when trees are to be planted at new housing developments, they are appropriate for that setting.
- That Neighbourhood Boards should be utilised to help identify where trees can be planted and where there are concerns about trees.
- That officers should consider the arboricultural service offering a commercial service, at some future date.
- That Councillors should have the opportunity to meet with Arboricultural Officers and the Streetpride Area Manager, periodically, to raise any

concerns about trees.

- That the Tree Management Policy should remain a live document, to ensure that it is updated when necessary.

**Resolved:**

- 1. To note the contents of the draft Tree Management Policy and Strategy;**
- 2. to agree that Planning officers should ensure that when trees are to be planed at new housing developments, they are appropriate for that setting;**
- 3. to agree that Neighbourhood Boards should be utilised to help identify where trees can be planted and where there are concerns about trees;**
- 4. to agree that officers should consider the arboricultural service offering a commercial service, at some future date;**
- 5. to agree that Councillors should have the opportunity to meet with Arboricultural Officers and the Streetpride Area Manager, periodically, to raise any concerns about trees; and**
- 6. to agree that the Tree Management Policy should remain a live document, to ensure that it is updated when necessary.**

## **37/18 Work Programme for the 2018/19 Municipal Year**

The Board considered a report of the Strategic Director of Corporate Resources presenting the proposed work programme of the Board for the remainder of the 2018/19 municipal year.

Members noted the work programme that had been undertaken in the 2018/19 municipal year.

**Resolved to note the report.**

MINUTES END