

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 13 December 2018  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Enterprise, Community & Resources  
**SUBJECT:** A Strategy for Halton's Trees and Woodlands  
**PORTFOLIO:** Physical Environment  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to have the '**A Strategy for Halton's Trees & Woodlands**' document adopted as policy.

**2. RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board adopt the 'A Strategy for Halton's Trees & Woodlands' document (Appendix 1) as the Council's policy with regards to the management of its tree and woodland assets.**

## **3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **Background**

3.1 On 5 September 2013 the Executive Board agreed that '*The Council develop a new tree strategy that clearly articulates how the Council manages its tree stock whilst adhering to guidance and recommendations set out in the National tree Safety Group - Common sense risk management of trees 2010*'. This was a recommendation of a Tree & Woodlands working group that had reported to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 12 June 2013.

3.2 Further work was carried out by the Tree and Woodlands Working Group in 2015 which reported to the Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board on 23 March 2016. The 2016 report contained 7 recommendations including '*Rec. 1 - The Council develop a tree strategy that clearly articulated how the Council managed its tree Stock*' and that the strategy be taken to the Executive Board. The '**A Strategy for Halton's Trees & Woodlands**' document (appendix 1) has been produced in response to the Executive Board decision of 5 September 2013 and the Tree Working Group recommendation of 23 March 2016.

## **4. A Strategy for Halton's Trees & Woodlands**

4.1 The strategy follows the principles that were developed by the Member led Tree and Woodland Working Group.

- 4.2 The intention of the strategy is to clearly articulate how the Council manages its trees and woodlands within the resources that it has. It sets out exactly what we will and won't do in relation to tree and woodland management.
- 4.3 The strategy explains how the Council will inspect its trees and woodland and how it will prioritise its work programme.

## **5. FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The resource implications of this report have already been put into place via other decisions made in relation to trees and woodlands by the Executive Board on 5 September 2013.

## **6. POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Adoption of the strategy will make it the Council's policy with regards to Trees & Woodlands.

## **7. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **7.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Trees and Woodlands contribute towards the positive development of children and young people by creating pleasant environments in which play and learning can take place.

### **7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

None identified

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

Trees and Woodlands contribute significantly to health. .

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

The strategy contributes towards a safer Halton as it sets out how the Council will inspect and maintain its trees to ensure a safe environment for all.

### **7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

Trees and woodlands have a significant positive impact on the attractiveness of the Borough. An attractive environment encourages inward investment.

**8. RISK ANALYSIS**

There is significant risk in not having a tree and woodland strategy. The **'A Strategy for Halton's Trees & Woodlands'** wood mitigate the risks associated with these assets.

**9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

There are no equality and diversity issues.

**10.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None