

REPORT TO: Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 21st September 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Operational Director – Community and Environment

PORTFOLIO: Environment and Urban Renewal

SUBJECT: Working Party Review of Coppicing Works

WARD(S): Borough-wide

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on progress with the work of the Working Party that was established to review the Council's coppicing works programme.

2. RECOMMENDATION: That:

- 2.1 Members of the Board receive and comment upon the report.**

3. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 At their meeting of 22nd June 2022, Members of the Board received a report setting out details of the Working Party that was established to undertake a review of the Council's coppicing works programme for the management of structure planting across the borough. Members were advised that the Working Party consisted of Councillor Mike Fry as Chair, and Councillors Angela Ball, Tony McDermott, Bob Gilligan, Andrea Wall and Noel Hutchinson.
- 3.2 The first meeting of the Working Party took place on 12th July 2022. At the meeting, Paul Wright, Operational Director – Community & Environment, delivered a presentation to Members on structure planting. Members were provided with details of what structure planting is and how the Council manages its plantations. Members were advised of the importance of managing structure planting, as if it was not managed, it would ultimately fail and die. Members were also advised of some of the issues that the Council faces as a result of its management of structure planting; including, but not limited to, public perception of works undertaken.

- 3.3 Following a general discussion on the Council's programme for the management of structure planting, and a number of matters raised by Members, it was agreed that the next step would be for a field study visit to be arranged for Members to observe previous structure planting works that have been carried out at a number of locations across the borough. As well as taking in sites that have had intervention at various stages over recent years, Members will be taken to sites where intervention is planned as part of this year's works programme. The field study visit is due to take place by the end of September.

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications associated with this report.

5. OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no financial or other implications arising from this report.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

No direct impact

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

No direct impact

6.3 A Healthy Halton

No direct impact

6.4 A Safer Halton

No direct impact

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

No direct impact

7. RISK ANALYSIS

- 7.1 None identified at this time.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 8.1 There are no equality or diversity issues as a result of this report.

9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

- 9.1 Environment & Urban Renewal Policy and Performance Board Report - Working Party Review of Coppicing Works - 22nd June 2022.