

Task and Finish Group Title	Tree and Woodland Strategy
Membership of Working Group:	To be confirmed
Area for Investigation: (Directorate and Service Area)	Cultural Services and Neighbourhood Services
Key Officer Contacts:	<p>Rose Winship Rose.winship@warwickdc.gov.uk</p> <p>Chris Hastie Chris.hastie@warwickdc.gov.uk</p> <p>Dave Anderson David.anderson@warwickdc.gov.uk</p>
Scoping form completed by:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Scrutiny requested by:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Criteria for inclusion in work programme	(If yes please provide details)
Customer Feedback	<p>Citizens' panel results show exceptionally high levels of satisfaction with the district's parks; 92% of users are satisfied with parks and open spaces. Trees and woodlands are an integral element of parks and open space in the district.</p> <p>54% of all calls received through the Customer Service Centre relating to grounds maintenance concern trees.</p> <p>No other formal assessment of feedback has taken place.</p>
Poor performance	There has been insufficient tree planting in the district, leading to an ageing tree population and failure to hit targets set for % of young trees
Area requiring policy development	The current Tree and Woodland Strategy was produced in 1999 and is overdue a review
Value for Money Concerns	There is a need to identify future funding for a tree renewal programme (removal and planting).
Emerging issues; Executive Referral, CAA etc	Insufficient young trees are being planted to ensure the long term, sustainable future of tree cover within the district.
Long term financial benefit anticipated	The District's natural environment is a significant factor in attracting inward investment and contributes positively to the quality of life of the District's residents.

	<p>If this is to be sustainable in the future then resources need to be allocated to deliver a Tree and Woodland action plan which will include a sustainable tree renewal programme.</p>
Corporate priority	<p>Sustainable Community Strategy includes: “The built and natural environment has been protected and enhanced” with a priority “to protect and promote parks, open spaces natural habitats”</p> <p>WDC Corporate Strategy refers to delivery of a sustainable and quality environment and of making the district an attractive place to live and work.</p> <p>Recent examples of these strategic objectives influencing actions are the the last 18 months of Oakley Wood and the remaining part of Crackley Wood.</p>
<p>Summary of overall anticipated benefits and intended outcomes</p> <p><i>[Give a brief description of what we hope undertaking the review will achieve e.g. Improved performance, amended policy, efficiencies or increased footfall]</i></p>	<p>Identify issues relating to the development and implementation of a tree renewal programme, in particular the availability of resources (both human and financial).</p>
<p>Indicators of success</p> <p><i>[Include details of desired indicators of success and how these can be measured]</i></p>	<p>Identification of possible sources of funding for a tree renewal programme</p> <p>Identification of priority areas for a tree renewal programme</p>
Policy Context	
National or Regional Policy Implications	<p>Regional Spatial Strategy Policy QE4(A iii): increasing the overall stock of urban trees Policy QE4 (B): Development plan policies should create and enhance urban greenspace networks</p> <p>DEFRA / FC “Strategy for England’s Trees, Woods and Forests” Core principle: long-term sustainable management of trees, woods and forests Objective: Using trees and woodlands to help minimise the impacts of climate change in built up areas</p>

	West Midlands Regional Forestry Framework Many points, particularly relating to the key theme of fostering social inclusion, eg FSI 1 “To set a regional target for percentage of tree/woodland cover as a quality of life indicator”.
Impact on local people	Urban trees produce many benefits for local people, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Economic, eg inward investment, increase in consumer spending, increase in property values • Social, including positive impacts on sense of well being and in some cases crime reduction • Environmental, including pollution interception, cooling of urban heat island, reducing ground water run off (and thereby flash flood risk) Ensuring the sustainable management of the urban tree population will ensure that these benefits continue be provided.
Scope	
In Scope <i>[Define what the scope of review]</i>	All trees in the district (ie highway trees, parks, open spaces, private trees) Review of progress to date on Tree and Woodland Strategy (1999), including examples of work completed and issues emerging Investigation into the tree renewal programme including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority areas for action • Resources required • Possible sources of future funding • Purpose of resources • Staffing implications
Excluded from Scope <i>[Define the exclusions from the scope of the review]</i>	Review of the Tree and Woodland Strategy Risk management of trees Reactive maintenance to trees Individual tree issues
Council and Partner Involvement	
Who would need to be involved from the Council? Which of our partners, stakeholders and	WDC officers Dave Anderson – Parks Development Officer (Cultural Services)

Members of the community should we discuss this with?	Chris Hastie – Strategy Officer (Arboriculture) (Neighbourhood Services) Partners/stakeholders Warwickshire County Council Town and Parish Councils Local resident groups Businesses
Review Resources	
Evidence <i>[Background Information and documents to look at]</i>	Data on the council's tree stock Parks and Open Spaces Audit (2008) Review of evidence of the benefits of urban trees
Witnesses <i>[Who to see and when]</i>	WDC officers –Dave Anderson and Chris Hastie to present progress to date on Tree and Woodland Strategy (1999) including examples of work completed and issues emerging. Chris White – Portfolio Holder Culture Ian Coker – Head of Neighbourhood Services
Site visits <i>[Details of site visits and when they will be held if appropriate]</i>	Wathen Road – Warwick A street of mature trees in north Leamington (eg Beverley Road, Beauchamp Avenue).
Consultation <i>[Is there any consultation which needs to be undertaken to feed into the review]</i> <i>[consult with CMT on draft outcomes for any issues they may have]</i> <i>[Do findings need to be published for consultation before making final recommendations?]</i>	WCC Highways Internal: Planning, all land holding services (eg Housing, Environmental Health (for cemeteries and crematorium) Public, via residents' / civic groups
Expert Advice <i>[Do the task & Finish Group require expert advice support due to the nature of the review]</i>	WDC officers – Dave Anderson and Chris Hastie
Dangers/ Barriers/Risks	
What are the risks to the review?	Tree management is a wide ranging and often emotive subject. It may prove difficult to keep the focus "in scope". Changes to tree management policies take a long time to produce visible results.

	Similarly, failures in tree management take a long time show up as problems. There is a risk that the severity of the problems will not be appreciated or that a future review of progress will consider the accrued benefits to represent poor value for money.
Timescales	
Anticipated Review Start Date	January 2009
Anticipated Reporting Date	March 2009
Frequency of Meetings	
Date to evaluate impact	
<i>[A review in six to twelve months (dependent on outcomes) at this point deciding to either re scrutinise this matter, with a different task and finish group, or sign it off as the indicators of success have been achieved.]</i>	