

EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION FORM

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY: CLLR ELIZABETH GREY

KEY DECISION: NO

PORTFOLIO AREA: ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

PORTFOLIOS AFFECTED: Environment and Climate Change

WARDS AFFECTED: All

SUBJECT:

WIRRAL TREE STRATEGY CONSULTATION

RECOMMENDATION/S

- (1) The Cabinet Member is requested to endorse submitting the Council's draft Tree Strategy to a public consultation exercise.

2. REASONS FOR THE DECISION



- 2.1 A Tree Strategy will provide a public facing and unified vision for the Council's trees across all Council departments. Trees, woodlands and hedgerows provide numerous environmental and aesthetic benefits and are key to Wirral's landscape characteristic. By setting this in the context of a strategy we can set a vision for how we will manage these important assets and work with private landowners and other owners of trees/woodlands for the benefit of Wirral.
- 2.2 The Tree Strategy will stipulate targets for tree planting which will form part of the Council's response to the Climate Emergency declaration of July 2019.
- 2.3 Nationally recognised charities the Tree Council and the Woodland Trust recommend that all Local Authorities develop a Tree Strategy. Nearby Local Authorities including Wrexham have also developed a Tree Strategy.
- 2.4 Embarking on a period of public consultation will allow members of the public and other stakeholders to input into the development of the strategy. This feedback will be invaluable in developing the strategy, understanding local views on trees, woodland and hedgerows and securing buy in to the development of the strategy.
- 2.5 In developing a Tree Strategy Wirral Council will realise opportunities for closer community working and involvement in the management of trees, woodlands and hedgerows in Wirral. For example, community planting schemes.

3. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

4. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest.

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| Signed:  Executive Member: Cllr Elizabeth Grey Date: 5/11/19 Also present: | Signed:  Chief Officer: Nicki Butterworth PP- Assistant Chief Executive Date: 5/11/19. |
| Date of Senior Policy Team Meeting(s): | |

A list of background papers on this issue is held with:

Contact Officer: Mike Cockburn

Date: October 2019

Date of Publication:

Date of Expiry of Call-In Period: