



Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 12 March 2020

REPORT TITLE:	Tree Strategy Scrutiny Review
REPORT OF:	Director of Delivery Services

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the findings and recommendations arising from a scrutiny review of Wirral Council's draft Tree Strategy. This review was commissioned as part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's work programme in 2019/20.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to;

1. Approve the findings and recommendations contained within the Tree Strategy Scrutiny Review report.
2. Refer the report to the next meeting of the Cabinet for consideration.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 So that the report of the Tree Strategy Scrutiny Review Panel may be subject to review by the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee and subsequently referred to the Cabinet for consideration.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 No other options considered.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 As part of the Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee's annual work programme, a Task & Finish Scrutiny Review on the Council's draft Tree Strategy was established. The Review Panel was chaired by Councillor Tom Anderson.
- 3.2 The Panel's key objectives in undertaking this review were to review and understand the strategic guidance within the Council's draft Tree Strategy, and to make recommendation(s) to assist in shaping the final strategy. The review approach was to hold a number of evidence sessions including a focus group with technical arboriculture officers and a site visit to Arrowe Country Park.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications, although there may be costs associated with actions arising from this report and delivery of Wirral's Tree Strategy.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no direct legal implications.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 There are no direct resource implications, although there may be resource implications as a result of actions arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 A number of risks were identified as part of the scoping exercise for this review, details of which can be found in Appendix 1 of this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 Although there were no engagement activities directly associated with this review, public consultation on the Council's draft Tree Strategy document took place in December 2019, with reference to the outcomes of this consultation included within the report in Appendix 1.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 This report is for information to Members and there are no direct equality implications, although there may be equality implications as a result of actions arising from this report.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to reduce emissions of greenhouses gases by contributing to a sustainable tree planting and management programme on Wirral, therefore increasing tree cover to a level considered desirable to help combat the harmful effects of climate change.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Tree Strategy Scrutiny Review Report

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Wirral Council's Tree Strategy

The Environment Partnership 'Wirral Council Tree Risk Management System'

Woodland Trust 'Local Authority Tree Strategies'

National Tree Safety Group 'Common Sense Risk Management of Trees'

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Environment Overview & Scrutiny Committee	2 July 2019