

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Scope of work for scrutiny:

Broad topic area:	Value and protection of trees
Specific areas to explore within topic area:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Criteria for assessment of tree when a TPO application is made • Explore the measures available to protect trees • Consider the local evidence and issues that threaten trees • Review national and local policies designed to protect trees • Practicalities and resource issues of tree assessment of trees currently not covered by a preservation order • Explore other approaches by local authorities • Consider enforcement data, enforcement resources and penalty for felling trees under a Tree Protection Order (TPO) or in a conservation area
Areas NOT covered by the review:	<p>Specific review of applications to remove, or works to, tree protected by a preservation order (“TRE” applications) is not permitted under the constitution</p> <p>Local plan housing allocation. The emerging local plan part D3 Trees and Development Sites (6.231) can be considered by the Forum as part of the review of national and local policies designed to protect trees</p>
Desired outcomes of the review:	<p>Clear understanding of the demands on the aboricultural service and the resources available</p> <p>Establish the effectiveness of current local measures to protect trees and recommend any further improvements if felt necessary, to local policy, working practices and resources</p> <p>Understanding of national policy on the protection of trees and recommend, if felt necessary, modifications to national policy to the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.</p>
Who should be consulted to obtain evidence (e.g. Ward Member, officers, stakeholders)	<p>Countryside service Aboricultural officer Planning officer Trees & Design Action Group Ward members for local evidence and issues Woodland Trust Forestry Commission</p>
What evidence already exists (consultation, good practice examples)	Epping Forest pilot on fees
What experts are needed to help with the review:	<p>Countryside service Arboricultural officer Planning officer Trees & Design Action Group</p>

What other resources are needed:	Democratic services
Undertaken by the Committee or is a TAFF required:	Task and Finish Forum as agreed at full Council on 23 October 2013. Comprising of Councillors: Tony Howard, Roger Giles, John Humphreys, David Key, Claire Wright, David Atkins, Mike Howe.
Timescale including start date:	Start date 5 December 2014; Complete by March 2015
Who are the recommendations being reported to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee 26 March 2015; onto Cabinet on 15 April 2015 and Development Management Committee 21 April 2015