

<b>4 July 2019</b>		<b>ITEM: 6</b>
<b>Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee</b>		
<b>Tree Planting Strategy – Update Report</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Not Applicable	
<b>Report of:</b> Vincent Taylor, Strategic Lead for Clean and Green		
<b>Accountable Assistant Director:</b> Daren Spring, Assistant Director for Street Scene and Leisure		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Julie Rogers, Director of Environment and Highways		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## **Executive Summary**

Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee were presented with proposals for a Tree Planting Strategy in December 2018, recommendations from that Committee were presented to Cabinet on 12 February 2019, when the Strategy was approved.

This report provides an update of progress, as requested by the Chair of Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

**1.1 This report provides the Cleaner, Greener and Safer Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the Tree planting Strategy, which was agreed by Cabinet on 12 February 2019.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

2.1 The Tree planting strategy report looked to ensure that in 2019-20 only, trees, which have been removed in the past 3 years, are replaced, this equates to 66 new trees at a cost of £9,900, plus maintenance costs to ensure survival. From 2020-21 there is a requirement for one tree to be planted for every tree removed and for future developers to include tree planting, appropriate for the location, in future schemes (3.4.1).

2.2 The following was also agreed:

- Where practicable to consult Members prior to the removal of trees from local authority land within their respective wards, and
- Where possible, in accordance with the current budget, to replace within a reasonable period all trees felled from local authority land including public areas.

### **3. Tree Species, Planting and Maintenance**

3.1.1 For the tree replacement program 2019-20, we have now planted 32 trees. The remaining allocation for this year will be planted in the autumn, new trees require considerable maintenance and to ensure greater survival rates, it was imperative that we split the planting into two seasons. This season, being dryer, will require watering whereas in the autumn there is a higher opportunity for rain, reducing the maintenance burden. We will then have planted the 66 trees planned for this year.

3.1.2 The trees planted are listed in Appendix 1 and include:

- Ostrya in our Grays Avenues - a fantastic ornamental tough tree.
- Limes in Connaught Avenue, Lenthall Avenue and Lenmore Avenue to match the avenues existing trees. The new trees are a variety that is non sticky. We also have another Norway maple planted this season.
- Taxodium on the edge of Blackshots Recreation Ground - these will make stunning trees with amazing colour.
- Robinia in Ward Avenue to match existing trees, Robinia's thrive in most soils and are pollution and drought tolerant
- Tree Privet has been planted on the very small verge and flowering crab apples and cherries for grassed areas.
- Two Paulownia at Blackshots Lane in sheltered corners, these have Foxglove violet-blue flowers and stunning green large leaves.
- Some pictures of the trees that have been planted are in Appendix 2

3.1.3 The Tree Officer is currently collating the locations and species for the trees to be planted in the autumn. Once this list is finalized, we will be happy to share this list with committee members if required.

3.1.4 In order to address the capacity issues within the team, an Arborist Apprentice has been recruited into a vacant post, providing an opportunity for them to be trained alongside the existing team.

3.1.5 The arboriculture team have procured a new water bowser, pulled behind the Arboriculture vehicle, this large tank of water has its own pump and hose to deliver the water directly to our new trees, providing capacity to improve efficiency, with less journeys required to refill.

3.1.6 All trees on Council land within the borough are currently being surveyed, the data collected being used to populate a new electronic tree management system called ArboTrack. This system has the ability to schedule all tree

maintenance work systematically. It will hold detailed maintenance work carried out, providing a full history of our trees and up to date information for residents enquiring about planned maintenance. The system can be updated within the office or remotely by our inspectors. We aim to inspect all Thurrock public trees in our housing complexes, on our streets, in our town parks and cemeteries.

### **3.2 Future Planting and Maintenance Agreed Options**

- 3.2.1 The Council rarely remove trees, but should there be a safety issue or disease requiring removal, the Arboricultural Team will replace the tree by planting the new tree, close to the original location as possible,. This is in line with the motion tabled at Full Council to ensure we maintain tree stock levels in the future.
- 3.2.2 As new developments are considered, developers will be encouraged to include in their design the planting of trees and shrubs and for the ongoing maintenance to be the responsibility of the management company. This will provide an increase in tree planting across the borough in future years without impacting on resources and maintenance costs.

### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 This report provides Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the tree planting strategy, as requested.

### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

- 5.1 N/A

### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

- 6.1 This relates to the corporate priority – Clean Environments that everyone has reason to take pride in.

### **7. Implications**

#### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Laura Last**  
**Senior Management Accountant**

The 2019/20 revenue budget is sufficient to fund this work.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **David Lawson**  
**Assistant Director of Law & Governance**  
**& Monitoring Officer**

Consideration will be given to location of the street trees, when they are being planted on the Highway.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Becky Price**  
**Team Manager – Community Development and**  
**Equalities**

There are no Diversity Implications arising from this report.

## 7.4 Other implications (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

We have considered the potential for any Crime or Anti-Social Behaviour

## 8. Background papers used in preparing the report (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

N/A

## 9. Appendices to the report

Appendix 1 – List of trees planted  
Appendix 2 – Photos of a selection of the planted trees

## Report Author:

Vincent Taylor  
Strategic Lead – Clean and Green Services  
Environment and Highways