



**Resources & Public Realm Scrutiny
Committee**
27 November 2017

**Report from the Strategic Director of
Regeneration & Environment**

Tree Management Policy

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	1 (Cabinet Report and Appendix to Cabinet Report)
Background Papers:	Brent's Tree Management Policy 2007 Housing (formerly BHP) Tree Management Policy
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Anthony Vartanian. Policy Manager, Parking and Lighting. Ext. 2985

1.0 Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 Brent Council is committed to managing the Borough's tree stock successfully. The revised Tree Management Policy has been developed to consider the benefits and importance of maintaining our trees. It aims to raise the profile, value and appreciation of trees in the borough, to improve understanding of tree issues, manage expectations and to meet the challenge of adapting to climate change in the coming decades.
- 1.2 The policy also recommends a risk management-based approach to mitigate against insurance claims arising from damage to property and/or personal injury caused by trees.
- 1.3 The report also draws together all relevant services to provide a single comprehensive policy covering the management of trees that fall within service areas of: Street Trees; Parks & Cemeteries; Planning; Highways & Infrastructure; and Housing Management.

2.0 Recommendation

- 2.1 That Scrutiny Committee review the Council's revised Tree Management Policy, set out as the Appendix to this report and provide officers recommendations to consider in advance of the Cabinet meeting scheduled for 11 December 2017.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 The Council recognises the value of trees and the need to plan for a sustainable future, particularly in Brent's urban context. Brent Council has a legal responsibility for the

management of all trees on the public highway, on council-owned land and for trees in parks, open spaces, cemeteries and allotments.

- 3.2 The revised Tree Management Policy sets out how the council will fulfil a number of commitments and manage the Borough's trees stock. Details are contained in the Policy as the Appendix to this report.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no direct financial implications as the proposed activities in the Policy will be contained within the current budgets of the relevant services.

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Policy covers the overall management of trees in the borough, and the legislation covering the management of trees applies. This includes Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) and the law relating to Conservation Areas.
- 5.2 Section 154 of the Highways Act 1980 gives local authorities' powers to deal with trees in private ownership that are overhanging or are endangering or obstructing the highway.

6.0 Equality Implications

- 6.1 No diversity implications have been identified.

7.0 Consultation with Ward Members and Stakeholders

- 7.1 The Lead Member for Environment has been consulted throughout the process. The policy would apply borough-wide and therefore specific ward-level consultation was not considered appropriate.

8.0 Human Resource/Property Implications

- 8.1 None

Report sign off:

AMAR DAVE

Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment.