

## Policy Development and Review Committee

12 February 2019

### Tree Policy Updated Draft

The draft policy was considered by PDRC on the 27<sup>th</sup> November 2018. Members raised a wide range of comments, leading to the Chairman requesting that an updated policy be brought back to PDRC. .

The draft Policy is an update of the 2015 policy which identified the need for regular review .Following the Leisure Services Transformation Report in August 2018, the need to review the document was identified, to ensure it is:

- Clear about what SBC do/don't do in managing it's trees within the resources allocated
- To aid the promotion of the Council's responsibilities
- Advise what residents are able to do for themselves.

As a result of the Members comments on the draft Policy the draft document has been revised and updated to reflect the substantive points raised.

Three new sections have been added:

'4.The Council's role as the Local Planning Authority (LPA) and the impact on trees in Swale': addressing TPO's and conservation areas, developer contributions, protection of countryside /ancient hedgerows.

'13. Community support': addressing local volunteering opportunities for trees

'14. Who to contact for Council tree issues'.

There has also been clarification on 'weather events', communication arrangements for significant tree works', 'poisonous fruits and berries', 'subsidence damage process', 'artificial turf surfaces'.

The updated Policy can then be used to form and provide information to customers both on the web site, but also directly by staff when receiving enquiries by identifying the type of work the Council will undertake, its respective priority and clear information on what we will not do.

The Committee is requested to note the report and the revised Tree Policy.