

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

27 MARCH 2019

PROTECTING AND ENHANCING ENGLAND'S TREES AND WOODLANDS

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 This report sets out the Government's consultation on protecting and enhancing England's Trees and Woodlands and the District Council response which was prepared and submitted by Officers as part of the consultation process.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 The consultation sought views on the UK Government's proposals to introduce four new measures designed to increase transparency and accountability in the process of felling street trees and to strengthen the Forestry Commission's power to tackle illegal tree felling. Two of the proposed measures would introduce new duties on local authorities: a duty to consult on the felling of street trees; a duty to report on tree felling and replanting; while the third suggested the production of best practice guidance to support local authorities in drawing up, consulting on and publishing a Tree and Woodland Strategy. A copy of the consultation document is attached at **Appendix A**.

3.0 District Council Response

3.1 A copy of the District Council response prepared by Officers is attached at **Appendix B** for information.

4.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

4.1 The Community Plan objective to "protect, promote and enhance the district's natural environment" includes proposals around tree planting and the need to green the District. The development of a Trees & Woodlands Strategy would contribute toward delivering this action.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the District Council's response to the Government's "Protecting and Enhancing England's Trees and Woodlands" consultation be noted.

Reason for Recommendation

So that the Committee can consider the Council's response to the Government's "Protecting and Enhancing England's Trees and Woodlands" consultation.

Background Papers - Nil

For further information please contact Matthew Norton on Ext 5852

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