

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

18 NOVEMBER 2020

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject:

DEFRA Tree Consultation

Appropriate Committee:

Economic Development

Details of Item (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

- DEFRA's consultation on the England Tree Strategy had a deadline of 11 September 2020.
- Regrettably with several NSDC personnel changes over the summer (including the departure of the Business Manager - Parks and Open Spaces) we were unable to prepare a draft submission for the agenda deadline of September's Economic Development Committee.
- Although there is no obligation for the Council to respond to the DEFRA consultation, given the Community Plan objective to "enhance and protect the district's natural environment" and specific mention of tree planting, we felt it was important to contribute to those questions of relevance.

Equalities Implications

This consultation will inform a new England Tree Strategy which will be published late 2020, setting out the Government's Forestry Policy through to 2050 and replacing the Government's 2013 Forestry Policy Statement. Equalities impact assessments may be required for actions undertaken as a result of the Strategy outcome of the consultation.

Financial Implications (FIN20-21/7818)

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Following the publication of the England Tree Strategy in late 2020, the Council may consider taking actions with financial implications. If so, these will be presented to the relevant decision-making persons as appropriate.

Revenue Current Year

N/A

Revenue Future Years

N/A

Capital Implications

N/A

Decision

Response to the Defra consultation has been submitted following input from Officers in Planning Policy and Environmental Services.

Reason for Decision

In order to meet DEFRA consultation deadline.

Decision:

Members Consulted:

Keith Girling, Chairman, 15.09.2020
Penny Rainbow, Vice Chairman, 15.09.2020
Neal Mitchell, Opposition Spokesman 16.09.2020

Signed:



Date: 23 September 2020