

**To:** City Executive Board  
**Date:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2016  
**Report of:** Head of Direct Services  
**Title of Report:** Tree Management Policy

<b>Summary and recommendations</b>	
<b>Purpose of report:</b>	To approve the updated Tree Management Policy
<b>Key decision:</b>	Yes
<b>Executive Board Member:</b>	Councillor Linda Smith, Leisure, Parks and Sport
<b>Corporate Priority:</b>	A Clean and Green Oxford & An Efficient and Effective Council.
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None.
<b>Recommendation(s): That the City Executive Board resolves to:</b>	
1. Approve the Draft Tree Management Policy	

<b>Appendices</b>	
Appendix 1	The Draft Tree Management Policy
Appendix 2	2016-17 Tree Planting List

## Introduction and background

1. The Draft Tree Management Policy is a revised version of the original Oxford City Council Tree Management Plan agreed in 2008.

2. The Draft Tree Management Policy sets out how Oxford City Council proposes to manage trees within Oxford City Councils ownership. The amendments to the Policy have been derived from feedback from Members, Scrutiny Committee and the Parish Council Forum.

### **Amendments to the Policy**

3. Feedback from members suggested that the original Policy was too negative and that the Council should do more to help residents and tenants. Therefore the new Policy has been amended to address these concerns. These are summarised below:
  - a. It has been written with a 'friendlier' albeit still informative tone to improve customer perception of the Policy.
  - b. A new Common Law Right Section. This section aims to provide the public with more information regarding their Rights and what they are able to do.
  - c. A new Arbitration & Review Section. This has been added to formalise how we deal with customers who are unhappy with the decisions of the Tree Team.
4. In addition to the above amendments a Customer Advice Guide will be drafted once the Policy has been approved. This guide will provide the public with further details of options to resolve tree related problems that do not necessarily involve undertaking tree works.

### **Financial implications**

5. The Policy has no financial implications

### **Legal issues**

6. There are no legal implications

### **Level of risk**

7. There are no additional risk implications

### **Equalities impact**

8. An Equalities Impact Assessment is not necessary as the Tree Policy provides an equal service to everyone.
9. However, where individual mobility or disability needs arise we will adopt a pragmatic approach on a case by case basis.

### **Conclusion**

10. The Policy provides the framework within which Oxford City Council will manage its tree stock safely and effectively, how we reduce the risk that certain trees pose to the public and how we intend to increase the number of trees in Oxford.

<b>Report author</b>	Stuart Fitzsimmons
Job title	Parks and Open Spaces Manager
Service area or department	Direct Services
Telephone	01865 252240
e-mail	<a href="mailto:sfitzsimmons@oxford.gov.uk">sfitzsimmons@oxford.gov.uk</a>

**Background Papers:** None

This page is intentionally left blank