

Scrutiny recommendation tracker – 13 October 2016 CEB

The City Executive Board (CEB) on 13 October agreed responses to Scrutiny Committee recommendations on the following items:

- Tree Management Policy
- Implications of Brexit.

Tree Management Policy

Recommendation	Agreed?	Comment
1: That the following amendments are made to the Policy: a) The phrase ‘perceived to be causing medical issues’ in the bullet points at the top of page 5 of the Policy is replaced with ‘undocumented medical conditions’. b) Explanation is added that challenges under the arbitration and review process will be assessed against the Policy. c) The statement that ‘every tree felled should be replaced’ on page 8 of the Policy is strengthened to say that ‘every tree felled will be replaced’.	Agreed	C. Each tree will be replaced however this may not be in the same location as the tree that was removed.
2: That fruit trees are listed in the tree planting guide as an option for parks and that the policy mentions that people can help themselves to fruit from the fruit trees in Council parks.	Partially Agreed	We will add fruit trees to the Tree Planting list for Parks. The public will be able to take the fruit.
3: That the following are included in the Tree Planting Guide or the Customer Advice Guide, as appropriate: a) How the common trees meet the requirement of the policy. b) Which trees could be pollarded. c) Which trees are pollinators. d) A new section listing (fruit) trees that are suitable for parks. e) General advice to householders on what trees are appropriate for planting in gardens. f) Guidance on which trees are suitable for planting in future council sites.	Agreed	A. We will add the benefits of each tree in the Planting List i.e. native, flowering, fruiting, autumn colour or a particular benefit to pollination. B. We will provide a list in the Customer Advice Guide of the most common trees in Oxford that can be pollarded rather than listing all trees that can be pollarded. This list will not be exhaustive as the Tree Team may sometimes recommend pollarding other trees. C. As per point A. above we will include some additional information on the Planting List. D. Fruit trees will be added to the Tree Planting list for planting in suitable locations only i.e. Parks and not highways.

		<p>E. We will add advice to the Customer Advice Guide</p> <p>F. We will add a statement requesting that the Council consults with the Tree Team in regards to new tree planting on Council owned Developments.</p>
<p>4: That the Tree Management Policy includes a clearer section at the start that highlights what the policy covers and what it does not cover, as well as signposting to where people can find additional information on trees from the City Council's Planning Department and Highways Authority.</p>	Agreed	<p>The introduction will be edited to make it clearer that this Policy is for the management of Council owned trees only.</p> <p>We will also add a signposting section to the Planning Department and the most common 3rd parties i.e. County Council Highways.</p>

The implications of Brexit

Recommendation	Agreed?	Comment
<p>1: That the Council explores whether there are opportunities to increase its levels of borrowing at historically low interest rates in order to fund additional revenue generating schemes.</p>	Y	<p>Within the Councils approved Medium Term Financial Plan is around £23million of prudential borrowing to fund investment in Oxpens and our own investment property to generate and maintain income streams. Additionally the Council has £11 million invested with external property funds earning significantly more in investment interest than typical banks and building societies. We will continue to explore opportunities for investment but we also need to be careful not to over-expose the Council to risk.</p>
<p>2: That the Council looks to partner with local Universities or economic institutions to study the wider impacts of Brexit on the economy of Oxfordshire, either through locally commissioned research or through an Oxfordshire case-study in wider examination.</p>	Y	<p>We will work with other organisations such as those mentioned to understand potential impacts of Brexit for Oxfordshire. Indeed we have heard from DCLG that some insights into the local situation will be appreciated and we would like these to be considered as part of any future devolution deal.</p>