

TREE SAFETY POLICY

Item CE 23/16 referred from Communities and Environment Scrutiny Select Committee of 14 June 2023

Members were advised of the Borough Council's current policy in regard to the health and safety management of its own tree stock (attached at Annex 1).

Following a review by Officers and Insurers it was concluded that the current policy demonstrated well-documented evidence of a risk based approach adopted by the Borough Council in relation to the management of tree liability risks. Whilst there were no major faults identified a number of recommendations to improve how the document could be relied upon from a claim's defensibility perspective were presented for consideration as detailed in Annex 3 and Annex 3a.

Clarification was sought on the definition of an "adequate" length of time for any records of tree inspections to be kept as highlighted in the Insurers' report and further information was to be sought from the Insurers.

RECOMMENDED*: That

- (1) the proposed amendments to the Tree Safety Policy, as set out in Annex 3 and Annex 3a, be approved, subject to clarification with the Insurers with regard to the recommended length of time for any tree inspection records to be kept by the Borough Council.

*** Referred to Cabinet**