

## **Arboriculture Team**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The budget was reduced within the Arboriculture Team over a number of years; these reductions have resulted in build-up of case work, an extremely reduced ability to carry out routine inspections, difficulties allocating work to be completed and overspends to the budget.
- 1.2 This paper seeks the approval to address some of the shortfalls within the section and put in place the resources to safely manage the Council's tree stock.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 To set up an additional Arborist team to enable us to effectively carry out work when required.
- 2.2 To establish an inspection process of Derby City Council's tree stock.
- 2.3 To create a budget that can be used to employ subcontractors during and following periods of high wind, also for works that do not suit the skill sets of our internal workforce.

### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 We currently have 3 Arborists to carry out the work on the Council's tree stock; we are looking for approval to set up an additional Arborist team to enable us to effectively carry out work when required. We have a large backlog of work to be programmed and the inspection process that we are looking to adopt will also generate on-going work.
- 3.2 Derby City Council needs to adopt an inspection process to look after our tree stock across Derby. As the owners of trees we have a legal duty of care under section 3 of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, we are obliged to take all reasonable care to ensure that any foreseeable hazards can be identified and made safe. Although it is not possible to completely eliminate the risk of a tree falling, there are often indications that a tree may be in decline, have structural faults or be suffering from decay or pests and diseases. Many of these signs can be recognised by trained

inspectors.

- 3.3 The creation of a budget that can be used to employ sub-contractors will allow us to bring in additional resources when we have periods of high winds, for example storm Doris resulted in 95 calls for service which all required a form of action, this was all emergency work within a very tight timescale. This budget will also allow us to use a blend of council employed staff and sub-contractors depending on the work being completed.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Attached at appendix 2 is a summary of our findings from visiting a neighbouring authority.
- 4.2 Attached at appendix 3 is a report supplied around inspection from a different neighbouring authority.
- 4.3 Attached at appendix 4 is a copy of the Common sense risk management of trees, produced by the National Tree Safety Group.
- 4.4 Attached at appendix 5 is the Tree Risk-benefit Strategy.

## **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 To look at subcontracting more remedial work required on our trees.
- 5.2 To look at subcontracting the inspections for our tree stock

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Simon Aitken 01332 641506 <a href="mailto:simon.aitken@derby.gov.uk">simon.aitken@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 - Summary of findings from visiting a neighbouring authority Appendix 3 – Report supplied around inspection from a different neighbouring authority Appendix 4 – Copy of the Common sense risk management of trees, produced by the National Tree Safety Group Appendix 5 - Tree Risk-benefit Strategy

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1

**Legal**

2.1

**Personnel**

3.1

**IT**

4.1

**Equalities Impact**

5.1

**Health and Safety**

6.1

**Environmental Sustainability**

7.1

**Property and Asset Management**

8.1

**Risk Management and Safeguarding**

9.1

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1