

Item 6 - Tree Management Strategy

The attached report was considered by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee on 12 October 2021. The relevant Minute extract is below.

Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee (12 October 2021, Minute 19)

The Head of Direct Services presented the report which set out the draft 10-year Tree Management Strategy for the Council. The aim of the strategy was to assist and inform residents, Council officers and Councillors of the Council's responsibilities and strategy regarding its own tree stock. There was over 7,000 hectares of woodland that covered across Sevenoaks District. This equated to over 19% of the district being covered by woodland. The Strategy linked strongly to the Council's Plan, and Net Zero 2030 commitment.

Members discussed the report and in response to questions Members were advised that a future open spaces strategy would be brought for consideration by Members, and there was external funding available to help assist with dealing with Ash Dieback. Under the traffic light code the Team had responsibility to make the tree safe within 24hours and then two weeks for remedial work.

Action 1: For Head of Direct Services to provide details of the trees planted to replace those removed during construction of the new White Oak Leisure Centre.

Action 2: For Head of Direct Services to share details on external funding available to assist with dealing with Ash Dieback.

Public Sector Equality Duty

Members noted that consideration had been given to impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty.

Resolved: That it be recommended to Cabinet that the draft 10-year Tree Strategy 2021-2021, be agreed.