



<b>Service Delivery Committee</b>	<b>Tuesday, 04 June 2019</b>	<b>Matter for Information and Decision</b>
-----------------------------------	------------------------------	--

**Report Title:** **Oadby & Wigston Tree Strategy (May 2019)**

**Report Author(s):** **Richard Redford (Planning Control Manager)  
Michael Bennetto (Arboricultural Officer)**

<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To establish the provisions of the Oadby & Wigston Borough Council Tree Strategy for use in contributing to a good quality of life for residents alongside a clean, greener and safer environment and successful economy.
<b>Report Summary:</b>	Following preparation of the Tree Strategy and subsequent consultation on its contents and provisions, the Tree Strategy represents a productive, useful document setting out how the Council will look at its tree stock alongside involvement of the public. It is recommended that the document is now approved and brought into effective use.
<b>Recommendation(s):</b>	<b>That the Oadby and Wigston Borough Council Tree Strategy (as set out at Appendix 1) be approved and brought into immediate effective use.</b>
<b>Senior Leadership, Head of Service, Manager, Officer and Other Contact(s):</b>	Stephen Hinds (Deputy Chief Executive) (0116) 257 2681 <a href="mailto:stephen.hinds@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">stephen.hinds@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Adrian Thorpe (Head of the Built Environment) (0116) 257 2594 <a href="mailto:adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">adrian.thorpe@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Richard Redford (Planning Control Manager) (0116) 257 2654 <a href="mailto:richard.redford@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">richard.redford@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>  Michael Bennetto (Arboricultural Officer) (0116) 257 2697 <a href="mailto:michael.bennetto@oadby-wigston.gov.uk">michael.bennetto@oadby-wigston.gov.uk</a>
<b>Corporate Objectives:</b>	Building, Protecting and Empowering Communities (CO1) Growing the Borough Economically (CO2) Providing Excellent Services (CO3)
<b>Vision and Values:</b>	"A Stronger Borough Together" (Vision) Accountability (V1) Respect (V2) Innovation (V4) Customer Focus (V5)
<b>Report Implications:-</b>	
<b>Legal:</b>	There are no implications arising from this report.

Financial:	Click to select or insert narrative.
Corporate Risk Management:	No corporate risk(s) identified
Equalities and Equalities Assessment (EA):	There are no implications directly arising from this report. EA not applicable
Human Rights:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.
Health and Safety:	There are no implications directly arising from this report.

#### **Statutory Officers' Comments:-**

Head of Paid Service:	The report is satisfactory.
Chief Finance Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
Monitoring Officer:	The report is satisfactory.
<b>Consultees:</b>	The consultation process is as set out at paragraph 2.1 of this report.
<b>Background Papers:</b>	None.
<b>Appendices:</b>	<b>1.</b> Oadby & Wigston Tree Strategy (May 2019)

#### **1. Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to confirm the final version of the Tree Strategy and bring it into effective use.

#### **2. Tree Strategy**

2.1 The 'Draft Tree Strategy' went out for consultation on 24 April 2018 and has also been available on the Council's website to view since 24 April 2018. Arboricultural Officers from adjacent Authorities and volunteer tree wardens within Oadby and Wigston were consulted. Notices were placed in Council buildings including Bell Street, Library's and on notice boards around the Borough. Members were invited to provide feedback and comments prior to the making of any final amendments.

2.2 A total of 6 comments were received. This comprises 2 from Arboricultural officers at adjacent Authorities and 4 from volunteer tree wardens within the Borough. The comments received can be summarised as follows;

- The document was more of a summary and position statement than a strategy without a specific aim or aims. That aside it is useful to put things together in a single document such as the one in question.
- It looks excellent. The Council may not want to be restricted or to set targets that may not be achievable.
- Impressed with the tree strategy. All points thought of were included. I hope householders take notice and value their trees for all the benefits outlined.
- Really pleased Oadby and Wigston have developed this. It will prove extremely useful for everyone living here who has any questions regarding their trees. The links encourage people to become involved, and help them when researching for other information.
- The pictures made it very accessible, more would have been nice. The format was just about right and the FAQ's section at the end was useful and clear.
- 'Policies', as against 'Objectives', other borough's use policy without any concern.

- There was no reference to TEMPO [Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders] in the 2016 document. The Borough has always used it, but it should not be given the status of an objective. It can still be used where necessary and where applicable
  - The FAQs and Tree Advice and Guidance sections are excellent. Both are clear, authoritative, friendly and helpful. Householders who read this will be fully informed of both rights and duties. They will also be made aware of why we need trees, and encouraged to think about them positively. At last residents will be made aware, amongst other things, of why tree roots are found in drains, and reassured that trees are not a dangerous and immediate threat to their foundations! The recommendation not to buy a house if you don't like trees is honest, direct and eminently sensible. As Tree Wardens and residents, we've been waiting for a document like this for years.
  - A really good, helpful and clear document.
- 2.3 Based upon these comments, the Strategy has been amended to incorporate the feedback where possible and appropriate. The amendments made are generally relatively minor.
- 2.4 The strategy has received relatively minor amendments; the date on the title page was removed to alleviate pressure for revisions when unnecessary, any grammatical errors should have been ironed out with some wording having been strengthened where appropriate.
- 2.5 The Tree Evaluation Method for Preservation Orders, better known as TEMPO is a quantitative assessment of trees as to their suitability for protection by tree preservation order. Objective 9 stated: '*Suitability for making Preservation orders will be quantitatively assessed based on the TEMPO evaluation method*'.
- 2.6 TEMPO is supposed to function as a guide, not as a substitute for the surveyor's judgement. A decision will be made after considering a number of elements, one of which may be the use of TEMPO or other tree evaluation systems. In order that tree preservation is not too prescriptive objective 9 has been removed and cross references amended within the document.
- 2.7 Changes to web links within the tree strategy have been amended to ensure they are up to date and therefore provide continued functionality.
- 3. Future Reviews**
- 3.1 Future reviews of the strategy are advised, this may take place when necessary but a 5 year cycle is typical for documents of this type, the need for a full revision can be assessed when approaching the 5 year mark.