

**Report of the Head of Planning and City Regeneration
Planning Committee - 2 August 2016
Preparation and adoption of Supplementary Planning Guidance for
“The Protection of Trees on Development Sites”**

To consider the revised Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) “The Protection of Trees on Development Sites (2016)” as an update to the current guidance adopted in 2008, and for adoption as SPG to the Local Development Plan (LDP).

Recommendation:

1. That the “The Protection of Trees on Development Sites” (2016) be consulted upon as an update to “The Protection of Trees on Development Sites” (2008) SPG in the Unitary Development Plan and the findings be reported back to Planning Committee for approval.
2. That the Protection of Trees on Development Sites” (2016) as approved be included as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the Local Development Plan for adoption.

For Decision

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Following a report to Scrutiny Committee Working Group of 21st April 2016 resultant actions required a review and update of: Guidance notes “The Protection of Trees on Development Sites” to ensure the public is provided with current best advice. This should also be included as SPG when the new LDP is adopted.
- 1.2 “The Protection of Trees on Development Sites” (2008) is listed in the UDP as SPG. However at present this document is not made available on the Councils website.

2. Discussion

- 2.1 The current guidance originally drafted in 1995, updated in 2008, refers to several documents that have been superseded, most notably by two British Standards relating to trees. In addition a new British Standard has been introduced in relation to planting trees.
- 2.2 The current guidance was not subject of public consultation and therefore carries little weight as a material planning consideration when considering proposals. It also refers to outdated best management practices.

- 2.3 New legislation relating to the Council's obligations in the planning process has also been introduced in relation to biodiversity (Environment (Wales) Act 2016). Trees are closely linked to the biodiversity of a site.

3 Appraisal

- 3.1 As the guidance is in need of updating the content has been extended to give the public more information on how to successfully integrate trees into proposed developments.
- 3.2 The updated guidance (Appendix 1 refers) gives advice on what information is required to accompany a planning application in relation to trees and will improve customer service during the planning process. The objective of the new document is to improve the retention of trees on development sites.
- 3.3. A six-week period of public consultation on the revised document is proposed with the responses, together with any amendments arising, reported back to Planning Committee for approval in order to be used as an update to current guidance and adopted in due course as SPG to the emerging LDP.

4. Recommendation

1. That the "The Protection of Trees on Development Sites" (2016) be consulted upon as an update to "The Protection of Trees on Development Sites" (2008) SPG in the Unitary Development Plan and the findings be reported back to Planning Committee for approval.
2. That the Protection of Trees on Development Sites" (2016) as approved be included as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the Local Development Plan for adoption."

Officer Contact: *Alan Webster* **Extension No:** *5724*

Appendices:

1. "The Protection of Trees on Development Sites" (2016).
2. Letter sent on behalf of Councillor David Cole, Convener of the Tree Preservation Scrutiny Working Group.
3. Tree Preservation Scrutiny Working Group – progress document.