

## HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

### Executive Decision Record

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
<b>Date:</b>	12 March 2019
<b>Title:</b>	Road Agreements Policy for the Protection of Highway Trees affected by New Development
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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#### 1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the Policy for the Protection of Highway Trees affected by new Development (“the Policy”), as set out in Appendix 1.
- 1.2. That authority is given for the employment of the Policy for pre-application advice with immediate effect, and as a basis for all new Road Agreement applications received from 1 October 2019.
- 1.3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport, and Environment to make minor amendments and updates to the Policy, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport.

#### 2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. This decision seeks approval for the introduction of a county wide ‘protection of highway trees’ policy in order to provide consistency for developers considering applying for the removal of highway trees.
- 2.2. The introduction of a policy is also aimed at encouraging developers to consider the design of developments to reduce the need to remove highway trees as far as possible, particularly well-established, valuable amenity assets.
- 2.3. Where the removal of highway trees is unavoidable, standardising the process for evaluating and managing this should save resource time for both the County Council and developers.

#### 3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. The option of continuing with the current system of valuing highway tree assets on a case by case basis was considered and rejected, for the reasons mentioned above.
- 3.2. The option of not valuing highway trees as assets was considered and rejected, because highway trees provide community amenity value and contribute to the

Council's strategic aim for "people in Hampshire to enjoy a rich and diverse environment".

**4. Conflicts of interest:**

4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:

4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

**5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.**

**6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.**

**7. Statement from the Decision Maker:**

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**12 March 2019**

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport  
Councillor Rob Humby**