

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	11 March 2021
Title:	Arboriculture – Policy Update for Non-Essential Highway Tree Works
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Tim Lawton

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Email:

1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment approves the proposed update to the Highways Maintenance Management Plan (HMMP) Policy for Arboriculture to permit work to be undertaken on highway trees that falls outside of the current Highways Policy, to commence on 1 April 2021.
- 1.2. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment, to make minor operational adjustments to the policy if required.
- 1.3. That authority be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment to finalise and publish a schedule of appropriate fees.
- 1.4. That approval to undertake a review of the operation and effectiveness of the policy update after 12 months be delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment.

2. Reason for the decision:

- 2.1. This decision seeks to offer a more permissive position on highway tree works and provide an option for residents to request tree works adjacent to their properties that may not meet the current highway tree management policy criteria, which is generally limited to works for safety reasons only or where damage has occurred or is likely. The cost of any amenity works carried out under this proposed policy amendment will be fully funded by the resident on a cost recovery basis.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. The existing policy criteria is considered robust and consideration was given to leaving the policy unchanged. However, it is felt that the proposed policy update

will provide enhanced opportunities for Hampshire residents to undertake non-safety related work to highway trees, within the limits of the proposed policy, beyond the established common law presumption.

3.2. An alternative model, similar to the variation being requested in this paper was also considered with all costs from additional requested works to highway tree assets being met by the County Council. In the current financial climate this was rejected as being unaffordable.

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:

I thank County Councillor Dominic Hiscock for attending my Decision Day and speaking in support of this decision.

Approved by:

Date:

11 March 2021

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