

Coventry City Council
Minutes of the Meeting of Cabinet Member for Housing and Communities held at
4.00 pm on Tuesday, 24 September 2019

Present:

Members: Councillor T Khan
Councillor M Lapsa (Shadow Cabinet Member)

Employees (by Directorate):

Place: R Haigh, U Patel

Apologies: Councillor R Bailey

Public Business

6. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st July, 2019 were agreed and signed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

8. DRAFT Trees & Development Guidelines for Coventry: Supplementary Planning Document

The Cabinet Member considered a report of the Deputy Chief Executive (Place) which provided information on the 'Draft trees and development guidelines for Coventry: Supplementary Planning Document'. The draft Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) which was appended to the report provided technical guidance that supports the adopted Local Plan.

The SPD is intended to provide technical guidance and support to the Green Environmental policies set out in Chapter 7 of the Local Plan (2016), in particular policies included in Chapters 9 (Conservation and Heritage) and 11 (Environmental Management). The Local Plan provides the framework for determining planning applications across Coventry following its adoption on 6th December, 2017. This SPD was developed by the Council's Planning Policy Team and is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the requirements for applicants in the planning process where trees are involved.

The SPD is structured in a sequential order for an applicant preparing a planning application submission where trees are involved. It covered supporting technical detail(s) around matters of:

- Land surveys
- Tree surveys
- Tree Constraint Plans

- Arboricultural Method Statements
- Capital Asset Value for Amenity Trees
- Works to trees
- Tree and root protection measures
- Planting new trees
- Accessing and moving around sites
- Avoiding damage to trees

This SPD continues to expand upon and support the green environment policies set out in Chapter 7 of the Local Plan, with particular focus on policies GE3 and GE4. The changes to this SPD were made by the Planning Policy Team to reflect the comments received through the initial rounds of consultation (8th August and 23rd September 2018 and 7th January and 18th February 2019), and which further augment the tree protection, tree conservation and other related policies. The continued technical support and guidance provided within the document would help stakeholders to understand the Council's tree protection aims and objectives, and help applicants to provide the correct information and assess the right areas where tree protection and planting measures would be required, as early as possible in the planning process. This would not only save time and money, but would lead to better planning and stronger outcomes for green infrastructure.

The SPD remains split across five areas:

- First section – introduction
- Second section – context (including introduction to legislation, guidance and policy relevant to tree conservation and a brief overview of the importance and history of trees in the City)
- Third section – provides detailed information on what is required by the applicants prior to submitting a planning application on a site where trees are located.
- Fourth section – sets out the standards the Council expects to see developers/individuals/organisations meet when implementing works to and around trees.
- Fifth section – monitoring and review requirements

The report provided further information on the results of the consultation, the options considered and recommended proposal.

RESOLVED that the Cabinet Member, having considered the consultation statement included at Appendix 2 of the report, approves a final round of public participation on the Trees & Development Guidelines SPD. The consultation is proposed to run for 6 weeks between Friday 4th October 2019 and Friday 15th November 2019.

9. Outstanding Issues

There are no outstanding issues.

10. Any other item of public business which the Cabinet Member decides to take as matters of urgency because of the special circumstances involved

There were no other items of business.

(Meeting closed at 3.50 pm)