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Date: 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026

If calling please ask for: Democratic Services

**Addendum - Environment and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel-**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I refer to the above meeting and wish to draw your attention to **Agenda Item 8: Tree Strategy** in the agenda pack and attach an updated version.

Yours faithfully,

Tom Shardlow

Chief Executive

To: All Members of the Environment  
and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny  
Panel

Councillors J. Sheppard (Chair), M. Walsh (Vice-  
Chair), J. Collett, J. Gutteridge, S. Markham, C.  
Phillips, R. Roze, C. Smith, B. Saru and Mr. J. Healy

**NUNEATON AND BEDWORTH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Environment and Leisure OSP</b>
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	Tree Strategy
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leisure and Health
<b>Responsible Officer:</b>	Assistant Director – Recreation and Culture
<b>Corporate Plan – Theme:</b>	Green Spaces and Environment
<b>Corporate Plan – Aim:</b>	Protecting our Natural Environment
<b>Ward Relevance:</b>	All Wards
<b>Public or Private:</b>	Public
<b>Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Subject to Call-in:</b>	Yes

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1. Purpose of report
- 1.1 That the Members of the Panel note the Strategy and recommend to Cabinet the strategy for formal adoption.
2. Recommendations
- 2.1 The Tree Strategy be recommended to Cabinet for adoption
3. Background
4. Body of report and reason for recommendations
- 4.1 This Parks and Green Space Tree Strategy (appendix 1), spanning 2026–2036, represents a crucial shift from a historically reactive approach to tree management towards a proactive, evidence-led management. The guiding principle of, "Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason" will underpin all decisions, from planting to long-term management, ensuring actions are considered and sustainable.

## 4.2 Five Strategic Aims:

The strategy outlines five interconnected aims to guide work over the next decade:

1. **A Proactive and Sustainable Approach to Tree Risk Management:** A program of systematic, risk-based inspections will be implemented, helping to move away from ad-hoc responses. This includes zoning areas by public occupancy, conducting formal Visual Tree Assessments (VTA) by qualified arboriculturists, and utilising asset management software (Ezytreev) to ensure a robust audit trail. This approach prioritises resources where risk is greatest, ensuring public safety while protecting valuable tree assets from unnecessary intervention, aligning with the "As Low As Reasonably Practicable" (ALARP) principle.
2. **Protecting and Enhancing Our Existing Tree Stock:** Recognising the irreplaceable ecological and amenity value of mature trees, the strategy details how we will adopt a holistic protection approach. This involves safeguarding Root Protection Areas (RPAs), associated habitats, and microhabitats. Biosecurity measures will also be implemented to help prevent and manage pests and diseases. Succession plans for even-aged tree populations will be looked at to ensure continuity of canopy cover and species diversity.
3. **A Considered Approach to Tree Planting and Replacement:** All new planting will adhere strictly to the "Right Tree, Right Place, Right Reason" philosophy, avoiding mass or inappropriate planting that could compromise the existing function or character of green spaces. Our policy will guide species selection (prioritising native, climate-resilient, non-invasive species), define minimum clearances, and mitigate potential conflicts with infrastructure or personal safety. Replacement will be case-by-case, focusing on quality over quantity and considering the true whole-life cost of trees, including establishment, maintenance, and potential liabilities.
4. **Realising the Full Value of Our Trees:** To inform better decision-making and secure funding, valuation models like CAVAT (Capital Asset Valuation of Amenity Trees) may be used to quantify the economic, environmental, and social value of our trees. This approach will help to identify and protect high-value trees—those with significant ecological, aesthetic, historical, or cultural importance—through systematic identification, assessment, and recording processes.
5. **Fostering Community Stewardship and Engagement:** The strategy aims to build a positive and sustainable relationship between the community and the Borough's trees. This will involve developing accessible digital resources and on-site interpretation to raise awareness and facilitating community engagement through

supporting volunteer groups and encouraging participation in initiatives such as tree-planting events.

- 4.2 The strategy identifies actions for each strategic aim and prioritises them high-medium-low, to be achieved throughout the lifespan of the strategy.

## 5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 Proactive tree assessments were undertaken in 2025/26 financial year in 20 areas of our parks and open spaces, based on risk. Works have been carried out using existing budgets. Proactive tree management and surveying will enable long term planning for tree maintenance including more accurate forecasting for tree works.

## 6. Legal Implications

- 6.1 Legal Officers required to support the Tree Management when reviewing landownership, risk and responsibilities.

## 7. Equalities implications

- 7.1 None identified for this strategy

## 8. Health implications

- 8.1 Access to parks and open green space support an environment for improving the health and wellbeing for residents to access and take part in physical activity at all levels across the Borough.

## 9. Climate and environmental implications

- 9.1 Parks and Greens Spaces, which include the majority of the trees owned by NBBC, are a natural habitat for multiple species that support wildlife habitats, carbon sequestration and air quality.

## 10. Section 17 Crime and Disorder Implications

- 10.1 The facilities and accessibility to parks and green open space to residents of the Borough support improved outcomes for crime and disorder, whereby opportunities are taken up by young people in particular instead of other less desirable activities

## 11. Risk management implications

- 11.1 The strategy identified the process the Council will follow in relation to Tree Management the standards that should be adhered to ensure optimum safety and mitigation of risk.

11.2 Tree Management is on the Strategic Risk Register that is regularly monitored.

12. Human resources implications

12.1 No direct HR implications identified at this time.

13. Options considered and reason for their rejection

13.1 In formulating this report and recommendations, the following other options were identified. Reasons for their rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected are outlined below.

Option Ref	Option Title	Reason for rejection or why the option and recommendation proposed in section 2 of the report has been selected
A	Do nothing	This places NBBC at high risk and future financial and reputation damage if tree management is not effectively managed, so was not considered. Also, there is a requirement for this strategy to be prepared and relevant as detailed in the current corporate plan & already adopted Greenspace Strategy. GSE 3.5.8

14. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Parks and Green Space Tree Strategy 2026-2036

15. Background papers

15.1 **Cabinet – 16<sup>th</sup> July 2025 – Parks and Green Space Strategy**

16. Report Writer Details:

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