AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

Name of Committee	**Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee**
Date of Committee	**17th. January 2006**
Report Title	**Highway Trees in Warwickshire: Recording of Condition and Proposed Future Programme**
Summary	This report summarises progress to date on recording the condition of trees on the Council's land, and the proposed future programme.
For further information please contact:	Ken Simons County Forestry Officer Tel: 01926 412697 kensimons@warwickshire.gov.uk
Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?	No.
Background papers	None

CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-   Details to be specified

Other Committees	☐	....
Local Member(s)	☐	...............................………..........
Other Elected Members	☒	Cllr David Booth: *No comments received* Cllr Frank McCarney: *No comments received* Cllr George Atkinson: *Observations taken into account*
Cabinet Member	☒	Cllr Alan Cockburn (for info only)
Chief Executive	☐	....
Legal	☒	via Peter Endall: *Agreed*
Finance	☒	via Graham Shaw: *Agreed*
Other Chief Officers	☐	....

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District Councils ☐ ....

Health Authority ☐ ....

Police ☐ ....

Other Bodies/Individuals ☐ ....

FINAL DECISION   YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS: Details to be specified

Further consideration by ☐ ....
this Committee

To Council ☐ ....

To Cabinet ☐ ....

To an O & S Committee ☐ ....

To an Area Committee ☐ ....

Further Consultation ☐ ....

Warwickshire County Council

Agenda No

Environment Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 17th. January 2006.

Highway Trees in Warwickshire: Recording of Condition and Proposed Future Programme

Report of the Strategic Director of Resources

Recommendation

That progress on recording the condition of trees for which the County Council has a responsibility be noted, and observations made on progress to date.

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1. With the employment of two Tree Officers and the successful installation of "Arbortrack" tree database management software, surveying Highway trees in Nuneaton and Bedworth and Stratford-on-Avon districts began in January 2005.

2. Initially highway trees are being surveyed to ascertain the risk they pose to road users and are catagorised from 1 to 4 with category 1 trees requiring immediate attention. Privately owned category 1 and 2 trees are also identified.

3. To date over 8,000 individual trees and groups have been assessed, surveyed and their positions plotted on the system. This is all done on site using tablet PCs. The system has been gradually customized to meet the authority's needs and the use of the Global Positioning System is being developed to plot the positions of trees in rural locations. A process is also being developed to give to private landowners notice of trees needing attention. Using this information, monthly reports are presented to the Area Highway Managers for programming. The Mangers in turn arrange for agents to carry out necessary remedial work or arrange for it to be undertaken by the County Forestry Section, which is currently working on a number of category 2 trees.

4. The system is already proving advantageous for monitoring tree condition and responding to enquiries regarding highway trees.

5. With the completion of the Nuneaton and Bedworth together with the Stratford highway tree stock, priority is being focused on the remaining towns and villages in the remaining areas of the County, such as Southam, Shipston-on-Stour and Dunchurch before inspecting rural routes.

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6. The inspection of trees at schools and other county properties throughout the County will follow when the highway trees inspection has been completed, subject to availability of funding.

DAVID CLARKE
Strategic Director of Resources

Shire Hall
Warwick

12 December 2005

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