

Report to: Assets and Operations Committee

Report Ref: A1911
Meeting Date: 21st October 2019
Agenda Item: 7
Prepared By: Town Clerk



Subject: Tree Surveys

1.0 BACKGROUND

The council has a duty to ensure its trees are properly managed and the council's assets policy sets out that annual tree surveys will be undertaken for all trees adjacent to a highway and triennial surveys for all other trees. Annual surveys are therefore required for some trees at the cemetery and Wallwood.

It is recommended that the council regularises its tree management by undertaking tree surveys at all sites. Whilst Bartlett's Tree Experts have previously undertaken a survey at Wallwood annually as part of their providing a quote for works, this has meant the council has not sought competitive pricing for works for this site.

2.0 PROPOSED SURVEYS

The last tree survey for Higher Town Green was undertaken in 2016. There has not been a formal inspection for the trees on the Sparrow Lane allotment site. The council will be responsible for the cemetery from January 2020 and it is anticipated the Council Offices will transfer in early 2020. It is therefore recommended that a tree survey is undertaken for all five sites.

The Town Clerk has obtained quotations for undertaking surveys of the sites which are to include tree identification and mapping to enable better management of trees on the council's land. The surveys will identify works required for safety and tree health and assign a priority. This will be a more thorough report than the council has previously received for Wallwood.

The cost of the surveys through the recommended consultant (Tree Sure) is £1,950. Comprising: cemetery (£650), Wallwood (£380), Sparrow Lane allotments (£180), Higher Town Green (£420) and Council Offices (£320).

3.0 RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the committee commissions the tree surveys as outlined.

