



Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Meeting: Monday, 8th December 2014 at 6.30 pm in Civic Suite, North Warehouse, The Docks, Gloucester, GL1 2EP

Membership:	Cllrs. Lugg (Chair), S. Witts (Vice-Chair), Gravells (Spokesperson), Haigh, Hanman, Lewis, Wilson, Ravenhill, Field, Dee, Taylor, Beeley, Hansdot, Toleman and Pullen
Contact:	Sonia Tucker Democratic Services Officer (Scrutiny Support) 01452 396126 sonia.tucker@gloucester.gov.uk

AGENDA

1.	APOLOGIES To receive any apologies for absence.
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST To receive from Members, declarations of the existence of any disclosable pecuniary, or non-pecuniary, interests and the nature of those interests in relation to any agenda item. Please see Agenda Notes.
3.	PUBLIC QUESTION TIME (15 MINUTES) To receive any questions from members of the public provided that a question does not relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters which are the subject of current or pending legal proceedings, or • Matters relating to employees or former employees of the Council or comments in respect of individual Council Officers
4.	PETITIONS AND DEPUTATIONS (15 MINUTES) To receive any petitions and deputations provided that no such petition is in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matters relating to individual Council Officers, or • Matters relating to current or pending legal proceedings
5.	TREE POLICY UPDATE (Pages 5 - 8) To receive the report of the Cabinet Member for Environment which updates Members on the revised tree policy as it relates to City Council trees and requests to have works done to them.

6.	<p>AMEY 6 MONTH PERFORMANCE MONITORING</p> <p>To receive a presentation from Amey on their performance for the past six months.</p>
7.	<p>CABINET FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 9 - 18)</p> <p>To consider the latest version of the Cabinet Forward Work Programme which is provided for information.</p>
8.	<p>OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME (Pages 19 - 20)</p> <p>To consider the latest version of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme to the end of the municipal year 2014/15.</p>
9.	<p>MEMBER UPDATE ON OUTSIDE BODIES' ACTIVITIES</p> <p>To receive verbal updates, as appropriate, from Members of the Committee who sit as City Council representatives on any of the outside bodies.</p>
10.	<p>DATE OF NEXT MEETING</p> <p>Monday 26 January 2015. PLEASE NOTE - There will be a private Member Training Session from 6.15 pm which is not open to the public. The public meeting will start at 7 pm.</p>

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Martin Shields
Corporate Director of Services and Neighbourhoods

Date of Publication: Friday, 28 November 2014

NOTES

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

The duties to register, disclose and not to participate in respect of any matter in which a member has a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest are set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011.

Disclosable pecuniary interests are defined in the Relevant Authorities (Disclosable Pecuniary Interests) Regulations 2012 as follows –

<u>Interest</u>	<u>Prescribed description</u>
Employment, office, trade, profession or vocation	Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
Sponsorship	Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from the Council) made or provided within the previous 12 months (up to and including the date of notification of the interest) in respect of any expenses incurred by you carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.
Contracts	Any contract which is made between you, your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (or a body in which you or they have a beneficial interest) and the Council (a) under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed; and (b) which has not been fully discharged
Land	Any beneficial interest in land which is within the Council's area. For this purpose "land" includes an easement, servitude, interest or right in or over land which does not carry with it a right for you, your spouse, civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner (alone or jointly with another) to occupy the land or to receive income.
Licences	Any licence (alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the Council's area for a month or longer.
Corporate tenancies	Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) – (a) the landlord is the Council; and (b) the tenant is a body in which you, your spouse or civil partner or a person you are living with as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest
Securities	Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where – (a) that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the Council's area and (b) either – i. The total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body; or ii. If the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you, your spouse or civil partner or person with

whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner has a beneficial interest exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

For this purpose, “securities” means shares, debentures, debenture stock, loan stock, bonds, units of a collective investment scheme within the meaning of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and other securities of any description, other than money deposited with a building society.

NOTE: the requirements in respect of the registration and disclosure of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests and withdrawing from participating in respect of any matter where you have a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest apply to your interests and those of your spouse or civil partner or person with whom you are living as a spouse or civil partner where you are aware of their interest.

Access to Information

Agendas and reports can be viewed on the Gloucester City Council website: www.gloucester.gov.uk and are available to view five working days prior to the meeting date.

For further details and enquiries about this meeting please contact Sonia Tucker, 01452 396126, sonia.tucker@gloucester.gov.uk.

For general enquiries about Gloucester City Council’s meetings please contact Democratic Services, 01452 396126, democratic.services@gloucester.gov.uk.

If you, or someone you know cannot understand English and need help with this information, or if you would like a large print, Braille, or audio version of this information please call 01452 396396.

Recording of meetings

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Any recording must take place in such a way as to ensure that the view of Councillors, Officers, the Public and Press is not obstructed. The use of flash photography and/or additional lighting will not be allowed unless this has been discussed and agreed in advance of the meeting.

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If the fire alarm sounds continuously, or if you are instructed to do so, you must leave the building by the nearest available exit. You will be directed to the nearest exit by council staff. It is vital that you follow their instructions:

- You should proceed calmly; do not run and do not use the lifts;
- Do not stop to collect personal belongings;
- Once you are outside, please do not wait immediately next to the building; gather at the assembly point in the car park and await further instructions;
- Do not re-enter the building until told by a member of staff or the fire brigade that it is safe to do so.

Gloucester City Council

Meeting:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Date:	8th December 2014
Subject:	Tree Policy Update		
Report Of:	Cabinet Member for Environment		
Wards Affected:	All		
Key Decision:	No	Budget/Policy Framework:	No
Contact Officer:	Meyrick Brentnall, Environmental Planning Manager		
	Email:	meyrick.brentnall@gloucester.gov.uk	Tel: 396829
Appendices:	None		

1.0 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To update Members on progress regarding the revised tree policy as it relates to City Council Trees and requests to have works done to them.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to note the information contained in the report:

3.0 Background and Key Issues

- 3.1 Amey, our partner, is charged with managing the City Council's Tree stock. The partnership agreement requires Amey carry out hedge cutting, the removal of epicormic growth and carry out an annual tree survey with an associated maintenance programme. On top of that, the 'mini highways' agency agreement requires them to carry out work on highways trees in the City at the request of the County Council. They also carry out works at the request of the City Councils Tree Officer. These requests are generally generated through members of the public and concern trees under city council ownership. For a number of years there has been a process in place that meant only trees causing an actual nuisance had work done to them. There is a set budget for all of this work which essentially pays for one tree gang of 4 individuals.
- 3.2 In March 2014 Overview and Scrutiny committee considered and supported a change to the tree management guidelines regarding how the City Council approved requests to do works to its trees.
- 3.3 The change was due to concerns that the policy was being interpreted too strictly and that trees that 'could' cause damage (but which at the time of inspection were not) were not having works done to them.

- 3.4 The change proposed was to remove the statement “the City Council will *prune branches where an actionable legal nuisance is being caused, e.g. damage to structures*”, and replace this with “*where there is sufficient evidence, the Council will prune and/or remove tree to prevent damage to property*” This change was approved by Cabinet in March 2014.
- 3.5 The change in guidelines was rolled out, with appropriate alterations to the City Council web site and a new leaflet produced. Applications for works to City Council trees are still dealt with on a case by case basis, but where an allegation of damage is made, a more pro-active approach is adopted, whereby if damage is likely in the near future action to avoid this situation is undertaken through an order being raised with Amey.
- 3.6 When orders are now raised they are now categorised as being
1. Emergency and Statutory
 2. Works to abate likely damage (as per change in tree policy)
 3. Works for good arboriculture practice
- 3.7 Any work raised under category 2 will be new and due to the new policy. Although early days, it is clear that the number of orders raised under the new policy has increased. While it appears the change is significant it has to be viewed against the background of general work that is not requested by the City Council’s Tree Officer.
- 3.8 As tree work is very seasonal and weather dependent, the small amount of data we currently have should not be used in an objective way. It is proposed therefore that we return to Overview and Scrutiny with a fuller report when we have at least a year’s figures to hand.**
- 3.9 It is clear that there has been an increase in workload, and as such officers have been trying to ensure that Amey are allowed to carry out their task as efficiently as possible. We have for example worked with the call centre to ensure that they are only called out to genuine emergencies, and the future adoption of the ‘Confirm’ system (a GIS programme that will track works) should allow further efficiencies.
- 4.0 Over the long term it is unclear as to how many future call outs will have been prevented by potentially addressing the problem early, indeed, these figures will be almost impossible to ascertain. What is clear, is that the level of service for residents who raise issues will have increased. However, without further resource for Amey there will have undoubtedly been an impact on other more routine tree gang work such as hedge trimming and programmed works to City Council trees.

.4.0 Alternative Options Considered

- 4.1 The authority could do emergency work only. However, there would be a significant number of complaints.
- 4.2 Extra resources could be allocated to the contract to allow more work to be undertaken, however this is unlikely in the current financial climate.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The new tree policy has been in place for a number of months. Early indications suggest that there has been an increase in requests from the Tree Officer and hopefully this has led to increased satisfaction amongst residents.

6.0 Future Work and Conclusions

- 6.1 Officers are currently working with Amey on a number of issues to enable them to better their performance. One issue we intend to progress is a GIS based system that will allow the City to understand what is being done and when, with regard to trees across the city. Understanding that expectations of the tree service has grown significantly over the past few years a new part time resource has been brought in as part of the Neighbourhood Management re-structure to help deal with the number of requests made by members of the public.

7.0 Financial Implications

- 7.1 There are no immediate financial implications of this report other than the maintenance of the status quo.

(Financial Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

8.0 Legal Implications

- 8.1 Under the Occupiers Liability Acts 1957 and 1984, the Council has a duty of care as landowner to ensure that the trees on its land are not a danger to others. The Council is also subject to the tort of nuisance and can be liable for damage caused by trees on its land where the damage caused is reasonably foreseeable.

(Legal Services have been consulted in the preparation this report.)

9.0 Risk & Opportunity Management Implications

- 9.1 Only low risk has been identified as result of this report.

10.0 People Impact Assessment (PIA):

- 10.1 A PIA screening has been carried out and there is no need for a full PIA

11.0 Other Corporate Implications

Community Safety

- 11.1 A more pro-active approach can only lead to better tree safety

Sustainability

- 11.2 There are no significant impacts

Staffing & Trade Union

- 11.3 None.

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CABINET FORWARD PLAN
FROM JANUARY TO OCTOBER 2015

	SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
JANUARY 2015						
Page 10	KEY City Plan <u>Summary of Decision:</u> Wards affected: all	28/01/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture			Anthony Wilson, Head of Planning
	KEY Housing Strategy <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>The Housing Strategy sets out the Council's priorities and objectives to improve the availability and quality of all types housing in the City. This final strategy builds on the previous draft version and consultation with stakeholders.</i> Wards affected: all	26/01/15 28/01/15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Housing, Health and Leisure			Helen Chard, Housing Strategy & Enabling Service Manager Tel: 01452 396534 helen.chard@gloucester.gov.uk

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)		PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
KEY	City Centre Action Plan Update <u>Summary of Decision:</u> Wards affected: all	26/01/15 28/01/15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture			Anthony Hodge, Head of Regeneration and Economic Development Tel: 01452 396034 anthony.hodge@gloucester.gov.uk
KEY	Review of Parking Services <u>Summary of Decision:</u> Wards affected: all	28/01/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture			Anthony Hodge, Head of Regeneration and Economic Development Tel: 01452 396034 anthony.hodge@gloucester.gov.uk
FEBRUARY 2015						

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
<p>KEY</p> <p>Cultural Strategy Update</p> <p><u>Summary of Decision:</u> To receive a six monthly update on cultural strategy matters</p> <p>Wards affected: all</p>	25/02/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture			Lucy Wright, TIC Service Manager
<p>KEY</p> <p>Financial Monitoring Quarter 3 Report</p> <p><u>Summary of Decision:</u> To receive an update on financial monitoring information for the third quarter 2014/15</p> <p>Wards affected: all</p>	23/02/15 25/02/15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

	SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
Page 10	KEY Final Budget Proposals (including Money Plan and Capital Programme) <u>Summary of Decision:</u> Wards affected: all	25/02/15 26/02/15	Cabinet Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
	MARCH 2015					
KEY	Treasury Management Quarter 3 Report <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To update Cabinet on treasury management activities</i> Wards affected: all	25/03/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
KEY Festivals and Events Programme <u>Summary of Decision:</u> Wards affected: all	25/03/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture			Sarah Gilbert sarah.gilbert@gloucester.gov.uk
PRON Page 14 Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) Six Monthly Report on use of RIPA Powers <u>Summary of Decision:</u> To update Cabinet on the use of RIPA powers. Wards affected: all	25/03/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development Tel: 01452 396110 sue.mullins@gloucester.gov.uk

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)		PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
Page 5	KEY Treasury Management Strategy <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To update Cabinet on treasury management activities</i> Wards affected: all	25/03/15 26/03/15	Cabinet Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
	KEY Pay Policy Statement <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To update Cabinet on the Pay Policy Statement</i> Wards affected: all	25/03/15 26/03/15	Cabinet Council Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
MAY 2015						
JUNE 2015						

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)		PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
Page 15	KEY Treasury Management Quarter 4 Report <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To update Cabinet on treasury management activities</i> Wards affected: all	24/06/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk
	KEY Annual Review of Performance of Civic Revenues and Benefits <u>Summary of Decision:</u> Wards affected: all	22/06/15 24/06/15	Overview and Scrutiny Committee Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Sadie Neal, Business Planning and Performance Service Manager Tel: 01452 396326 sadie.neal@gloucester.gov.uk
JULY 2015						
SEPTEMBER 2015						

	SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
KEY	Cultural Strategy Update <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To receive a six monthly update on cultural strategy matters</i> Wards affected: all	16/09/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture			Lucy Wright, TIC Service Manager
Page 17 ON	Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) Six Monthly Report on Use of RIPA Powers <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To receive an update on the six monthly report on the use of RIPA Powers</i> Wards affected: all	16/09/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Sue Mullins, Head of Legal and Policy Development Tel: 01452 396110 sue.mullins@gloucester.gov.uk
OCTOBER 2015						

SUBJECT (and summary of decision to be taken)	PLANNED DATES	Decision Maker & Portfolio	NOTICE OF PRIVATE BUSINESS (if applicable)	RELATED DOCUMENTS (available on request, subject to restrictions on disclosure)	LEAD OFFICER (to whom Representations should be made)
KEY Treasury Management – Quarter 1 Report <u>Summary of Decision:</u> <i>To update Cabinet on treasury management activities.</i> Wards affected: all	21/10/15	Cabinet Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources			Jon Topping, Head of Finance Tel: 01452 6242 jon.topping@gloucester.gov.uk

Gloucester City Council
Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme to the end of the municipal year 2014/15
(updated 28 November 2014)

Item	Format	Lead Member (if applicable)/Lead Officer	Comments
26 JANUARY 2015			
Private Member Training Session prior to start of Committee on 'Making Task and Finish Groups Effective' Public meeting to start at 7 pm			
City Centre Action Plan Update	Written report	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture	Requested by Committee
PROVISIONAL Housing Strategy	Written report	Cabinet Member for Housing Health and Leisure	
23 FEBRUARY 2015			
Monitoring of Recycling Task and Finish Group Recommendations from 2013	Presentation	Cabinet Member for Environment	
Financial Monitoring Quarter 3	Written report	Cabinet Member for Performance and Resources	Part of Committee's annual work programme
23 MARCH 2015			
Rugby World Cup Update	Written report	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Culture	Requested by Committee
Slipped/deferred/future items – date awaited:-			
Green Travel Plan Progress report	Written report	Cabinet Member for Environment	Requested by the Committee

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