PLANNING COMMITTEE

DATE 2nd June 2025

UPDATE ON TREE MATTERS

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 This report seeks to update Members on recent Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) that have been served since November 2024, along with a summary on some of the other aspects of the work in relation to trees in the last 6 months.

2.0 Summary of Work

2.1 Set out in table 1 is a breakdown of the numbers of the various types of applications or work types carried out during the period.

2.2 Members will be aware that there are two types of tree work applications.

2.3 Notifications for work to trees in a Conservation Area have to be responded to within 6 weeks, if responses are not received within these timescales the work is deemed to be acceptable and can be carried out.

2.4 Works to trees protected by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO), when the target date is 8 weeks.

2.5 Five days written notice is required where protected trees that have died or need to be felled due to their very poor condition. These are also recorded as applications under the suffix TDD. Replacement trees can then be enforced if suitable.

2.6 Tree and Landscape related consultations to planning applications have a target date for response of between 8 or 13 weeks to ensure applications can be dealt with within the requisite time period.

2.7 There is also a requirement to respond to discharge of planning conditions with a specified time period, so as not to unnecessarily delay commencement of approved development.

2.8 Although not time specific, the serving of a new TPO is often a matter of urgency in order to prevent the trees being felled or inappropriate pruning taking place. Once served there are time limits for objections to be received, and responses to be sent and the matter placed before the Planning Committee. If this is not all completed within 6 months of the serving then the protection given to the trees by the TPO lapses, and the only way to protect the trees is to begin the process again.

2.9 Of equal importance are the pre-application appointments and meetings both for tree work applications and planning applications, as well as responses to the general day to day tree related enquiries by members of the public. Trees are very high profile and members of the public and many local organisations look to the Council to provide help and guidance on tree matters. Officers always seek to use these enquiries as an opportunity for the promotion of good tree care and support for internal and external stakeholders and interest groups.

Table 1 – Breakdown of tree related applications and work received between 1/11/2024 and 30/04/2025.

Planning Applications	**Numbers**
Planning Applications considered	119
Pre-Applications considered	23
Applications to discharge tree and landscape conditions	31
New Tree Preservation Orders	
New TPO's - Date Served	6
TPO's confirmed without objection, or objections withdrawn	1
TPO's with objections received confirmed by Planning Committee	1
TPO's with objections yet to be confirmed or not confirmed	1
Tree Work Applications/Notifications	
Conservation Area Notifications approved	109
Conservation Area Notification Refused (TPO Served)	0
Conservation Area Notification Pending	10

Tree Work Applications	
Tree Preservation Order applications approved	40
Tree Preservation Order applications part refused	0
Tree Preservation Order applications refused	1
Tree Preservation Order applications appealed	0
Tree Preservation Order application pending	7

3.0 Details of TPO's Served and Confirmed since November 1st 2024

3.1 6 TPO's have been served since 1st November 2024. Where no objections have been received, they have been confirmed under delegated powers. When objections have been received these will need to be considered by the Planning Committee, as to whether the TPO is confirmed.

3.2 Since 1st November 2024, 1 TPO has been confirmed under delegated powers with 1 confirmed at Planning Committee in March 2025.

3.3 There have been no appeals relating to decisions regarding works to protected trees, and we currently have no appeals in process.

4.0 Recommendation

4.1 That members of the Planning Committee note the contents of the report