



TODMORDEN TOWN COUNCIL

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REPORT TO AMENITIES COMMITTEE

REPORT AUTHOR	Colin Hill –Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer/Susan Miles Assistant Town Clerk
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Date	22nd January 2020
SUBJECT	Tree Policy

PURPOSE:

1. To advise Members that a tree survey has been commissioned.
2. To present to Members a Tree policy for consideration.

BACKGROUND:

3. Todmorden Town Council has the following land with trees on them:-
 - Patmos Gardens
 - Lobb Mill Picnic Site
 - Vale Amenity Land
 - Walsden Cricket Club
4. Todmorden Town Council has a legal responsibility and a duty of care to maintain and manage their tree stock in a reasonable and safe manner to protect people from harm, and property from damage, which is caused by the failure of a tree or part of a tree.
5. There is a requirement to have a policy for inspecting and managing those trees which are the responsibility of Todmorden Town Council by the use of regular and competent inspection regimes and also regular reviews of the policy.
6. A survey has been commissioned with the report back expected by the middle of February 2020.

7. Following receipt of this report, the Town Clerk will determine whether any remedial works are necessary to be completed.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:

8. The cost of the initial survey is £700.
9. Budget provision is available within the overall Amenities budget and a virement will be made to establish this.
10. Further budget provision may be necessary should remedial works be required following receipt of the survey.

RECOMMENDATION:

11. That Members consider the Tree Policy and if in agreement, make recommendation to Full Council to adopt the policy.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION:

12. To provide Members of the Amenities Committee with the opportunity to consider a Tree Policy before formal adoption by the Council.
13. To enable Todmorden Town Council to fulfil its legal responsibilities regarding trees on land owned by the Council to ensure that people and property do not come to harm.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS:

14. A new policy will come into force.

CLIMATE CHANGE:

15. Trees are a major factor to mitigate against climate change. It is therefore important that trees are well maintained.

IMPACT EQUALITY ASSESSMENT:

16. None arising from this report.

SUPPORTING PAPERS:

17. Appendix 1 – Tree Policy

For further information, please contact Susan Miles