

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I071588
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1. **TITLE:** Bracknell Forest Tree Strategy

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Environment, Culture & Communities

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To approve the draft Tree Strategy for public consultation.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** No

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Executive

6. **DECISION:**

The draft Tree Strategy be approved for public consultation.

Following public consultation the strategy be approved by the Executive Member for Culture, Corporate Services & Public Protection.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

Bracknell Forest is the third most forested authority in the country, with an independent survey identifying 39.8% of the borough is covered by tree canopy (Bluesky, 2014). These trees define the character of Bracknell Forest and represent a significant natural infrastructure asset from which the borough's residents derive multiple benefits.

To continue benefiting from this resource the council will require a co-ordinated approach to maintain the forest of Bracknell while meeting our legal duties and management responsibilities, which fall to the authority as both a tree owner and a democratic body with specific responsibilities relating to trees.

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

There is no legislative need for having a formal strategy. However, the Council has a central role in the community to lead on managing trees for the benefit of the public. The Council also previously identified the need for a tree strategy in 2006 (Report of Tree Policy Review Group).

Without a strategy, tree management across the borough will continue on a case-by-case basis without reference to a public document. While the 2006 tree policy provides guidance that directs day to day decision making, it is not a public document and it does not have a format or structure that supports a wider use in Council operations.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:**

Heads of Service have been consulted for Environmental Services, Education, Flood

Authority, Highways Asset Management, Recreation, Property Services, Planning and Transport Development.

Consultation was also been made with stakeholders such as the Bracknell Forest Nature Partnership.

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Director of Environment, Culture & Communities

11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
26 September 2017	3 October 2017