

New Submission for the Forward Plan of Decisions

All proposed Key Decisions must be published on the Forward Plan for 28 days before the decision can be made.

Complete all fields and return to the relevant Cabinet Office for Cabinet Member approval.

Title of Decision	New pre application tree assessment charge for vehicle crossover applications where there is a Highways tree within 15 metres and a charge for replacement tree planting if removal is required
Brief summary of the issue to be decided	<p>Essex County Council (ECC) has a responsibility to manage and maintain all trees across the Highways. ECC is also responsible for granting residents' consent to cross the Highway network via vehicle crossovers in order to access their properties. Presently the vehicle crossover application process does not suitably consider the presence of trees, which make an increasingly important contribution to the appearance of an area and are a vital resource in helping to achieve Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 set in law.</p> <p>The proposal is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • establish a chargeable pre application tree assessment service to residents that integrates with the existing vehicle crossover application process, so that the impact of any applications where there is a tree within 15m of a proposed crossover can be fully assessed at the outset, before the application has been submitted • charge for replacement tree planting if removal is required to support a vehicle crossing installation.
Cabinet Member	Cllr Christopher Whitbread
Lead Officer	Adrian Gascoyne
Consultation (who has been or will be consulted, including the public)	Officers within Essex Highways, Essex Highways Commissioning, Place Services Arboriculturist Team and Climate and Adaptation Team within Essex County Council and the Cabinet Member for Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport
Who will take the decision	Individual Cabinet Member

Date on which or period within which we expect the decision to be taken	No sooner than 28 days after publication
List of documents (submitted to the decision maker for consideration, this must include an Equality Comprehensive Impact Assessment)	Cabinet Member Action Report Equality Comprehensive Impact Assessment

Decision are normally taken in public, if you want this report to be taken in private please contact Democratic Services at the same time as submitting this form to the Cabinet Office.