

Equalities Comprehensive Impact Assessment - optional ECIA review

Reference: ECIA491689293

Submitted: 11 April 2023 17:07 PM

Executive summary

Title of policy / decision: ECC Tree Management Plan and Tree Management Statements

Policy / decision type: Cabinet Decision

Overview of policy / decision: To assess and maintain the health and safety of trees planted across the Essex County Council estate.

What outcome(s) are you hoping to achieve?: Safe management of existing tree stock across the Essex County Council estate and more trees in the urban environment to improve air quality, provide shade, connect people with nature and connect habitat for wildlife.

Executive Director responsible for policy / decision: Mark Ash (Climate, Environment and Customer Services)

Cabinet Member responsible for policy / decision: Lee Scott (Highways Maintenance and Sustainable Transport)

Is this a new policy / decision or a change to an existing one?: New policy / decision

How will the impact of the policy / decision be monitored and evaluated?: Monitoring will be carried out by the Place Services Arboricultural team. Overall management can be reviewed using tree management software to identify how many trees require work during the initial three year establishment period and the subsequent years. It will be used to monitor whether there is a reduction in overall spend on emergency works and in insurance payouts resulting from tree damage.

Will this policy / decision impact on:

Service users: No

Employees: No

Wider community or groups of people: Yes

What strategic priorities will this policy / decision support?: High Quality Environment

Which strategic priorities does this support? - Environment: Transport and built environment, Green communities, Levelling up the environment

What geographical areas of Essex will the policy / decision affect?: All Essex

Digital accessibility

Is the new or revised policy linked to a digital service (website, system or application)?: No

Equalities - Groups with protected characteristics

Age

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - learning disability

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - mental health issues

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Disability - physical impairment

Nature of impact: None

Disability - sensory impairment

Nature of impact: None

Sex

Nature of impact: None

Gender reassignment

Nature of impact: None

Marriage / civil partnership

Nature of impact: None

Pregnancy / maternity

Nature of impact: None

Race

Nature of impact: None

Religion / belief

Nature of impact: None

Sexual orientation

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Learning disability, mental health issues: trees can bring people closer to nature which can lead to mental health benefits. Other than that, healthier trees provide ecosystem services to all residents and improved safety of these trees minimises risks to all residents.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Levelling up - Priority areas & cohorts

Children and adults with SEND, learning disabilities or mental health conditions (taking an all-age approach)

Nature of impact: Positive

Extent of impact: Low

Children on Free School Meals

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: None

Young adults (16-25 who have not been in education, training or employment for around 6-12 months)

Nature of impact: None

Harlow

Nature of impact: None

Jaywick and Clacton

Nature of impact: None

Harwich

Nature of impact: None

Basildon (Town) housing estates

Nature of impact: None

Canvey Island

Nature of impact: None

Colchester (Town) - Housing Estates

Nature of impact: None

Rural North of the Braintree District

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Healthier trees provide ecosystem services to all residents and improved safety of these trees minimises risks to all residents.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Equalities - Inclusion health groups and other priority groups

Refugees / asylum seekers

Nature of impact: None

Homeless / rough sleepers

Nature of impact: None

Offenders / ex-offenders

Nature of impact: None

Carers

Nature of impact: None

Looked after children

Nature of impact: None

Veterans

Nature of impact: None

People who are unemployed / economically inactive

Nature of impact: None

People on low income

Nature of impact: None

Working families

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Healthier trees provide ecosystem services to all residents and improved safety of these trees minimises risks to all residents.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Equalities - Geographical Groups

People living in areas of high deprivation

Nature of impact: None

People living in rural or isolated areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in coastal areas

Nature of impact: None

People living in urban or over-populated areas

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Healthier trees provide ecosystem services to all residents and improved safety of these trees minimises risks to all residents.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Families

Family formation (e.g. to become or live as a couple, the ability to live with or apart from children)

Nature of impact: None

Families going through key transitions e.g. becoming parents, getting married, fostering or adopting, bereavement, redundancy, new caring responsibilities, onset of a long-term health condition

Nature of impact: None

Family members' ability to play a full role in family life, including with respect to parenting and other caring responsibilities

Nature of impact: None

Families before, during and after couple separation

Nature of impact: None

Families most at risk of deterioration of relationship quality and breakdown

Nature of impact: None

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Healthier trees provide ecosystem services to all residents and improved safety of these trees minimises risks to all residents.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Climate

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to the built environment / energy?: Yes

Do you know what products, materials, and qualified built environment professionals you will be using?

Are you maximising the opportunity to source materials locally and maximise use of sustainable materials such as wood?: Yes

Are you using a qualified architect / design team / consultant with the experience and capability to design and secure planning permission to deliver to the highest carbon zero building standards?: N/A

Are you clear that the builder, sub-contractor is qualified and capable of delivering climate resilient buildings (noting risks including subsidence, flooding, overheating), to the highest net zero carbon build quality?: N/A

Is your proposed development / building using the best practice guidance and advice on design quality, climate change and health?

Are you using the design quality and advice provided by the Essex Design Guide?: Yes

Are you using the Climate Change guidance and advice provide by the Essex Design Guide?: Yes

Are you providing a policy compliant development which accords with the District Local Plan policies?:
Yes

Are using the Health and Wellbeing guidance provided by the Essex Design Guide?: Yes

Have you provided a costed net zero option for consideration?: N/A

Is your proposed development / building as efficient as possible?

Is the Energy performance Certificate (EPC) rating of the achieving and EPC A+ or net zero carbon standard?: N/A

Have opportunities to reduce energy use through the use of smart digital systems been considered?: N/A

Does your development by design avoid the need for air conditioning?: N/A

Does your new development have water efficiency measures in place?: N/A

Do you know where your energy is coming from and how much of it comes from renewable sources?

Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?: N/A

Are you maximising opportunities to use onsite renewable energy (e.g. roof top solar panels) to deliver this service?: N/A

Is your new or extended development using a renewable heat source e.g. district heating or a form of heat pump?: N/A

Is your development resilient to climate risks including flooding, overheating and subsidence?

Is your site at risk of coastal erosion? Is there a plan in place to protect the coastline: if the coastline is being allowed to erode, this may impact the lifetime of your site.: N/A

Have you reviewed environment agency to ascertain your flood risk? Do you need to put in place mitigation such as sustainable drainage?: N/A

Water is scarce and needs to be absorbed into the land wherever possible. Are you prioritising nature based flood risk mitigations such as sustainable drainage, water butts, planting and ponds which protect against water scarcity?: N/A

Are you using external planting, green walls and green roofs to insulate the building and provide shading to cut risks of overheating?: N/A

Is your development supporting active travel and minimising pollution?

Does your site allow connection to key public transport and active travel routes?: N/A

Are you using Green Infrastructure to interrupt the pathway of carborne pollutants to the public e.g. use of hedges, shrubs and trees?: N/A

Have you provided space for secure cycle parking, showering, cycle and walking pathways on site etc?:
N/A

Does the building have adequate space for recycling and waste separation?: N/A

Does your decision / policy involve designing service provision and procurement to minimise freight and staff travel and enable use of active and public transport options?: No

Does your decision / policy involve elements connected to waste?: No

Nature of impact

Built Environment / Energy: Positive

Extent of impact

Built Environment / Energy: Medium

Rationale for assessment, including data used to assess the impact: Urban planting will reduce urban heat island effect and clean the air for all those that use urban areas.

What actions have already been taken to mitigate any negative impacts:

Action plan to address and monitor adverse impacts

Does your ECIA indicate that the policy or decision would have a medium or high adverse impact on one or more of the groups / areas identified?: No

Details of person completing the form

I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance: I confirm that this has been completed based on the best information available and in following ECC guidance

Date ECIA completed: 11/04/2023

Name of person completing the ECIA: Tom Moat

Email address of person completing the ECIA: tom.moat@essex.gov.uk

Your function: Climate, Environment and Customer Services

Your service area: Environment and Climate Action

Your team: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation

Are you submitting this ECIA on behalf of another function, service area or team?: Yes

Function: Climate, Environment and Customer Services

Service area:

Team:

Email address of Head of Service: peter.massie@essex.gov.uk