



# EXECUTIVE MEMBER DECISION

<b>REPORT OF:</b>	Executive Member for Regeneration
<b>LEAD OFFICERS:</b>	Director of Environment and Operations
<b>DATE:</b>	09/10/2018

<b>PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:</b>	Regeneration
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<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	All
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<b>SUBJECT: Highway Tree Strategy</b>
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## 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Highway Tree Strategy defines how the authority manages the trees growing within the area of the adopted highway.

## 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Member:

1. Approves the Highway Tree Strategy.
2. Approves publishing the Tree Strategy on the authority's website.

## 3. BACKGROUND

Roadside trees improve the appearance of the highway environment. They improve the atmosphere by absorbing carbon dioxide and generating oxygen. They also absorb particulate matter, generated by combustion, which aggravates asthma.

## 4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

The management of the authority's stock of highway trees is defined in the attached strategy.

The strategy notes:

- the positive contribution that trees have in the environment,
- the health benefits,
- the noise reduction,
- the method of valuing trees,
- the positive effect on property prices,
- how and when the authority will maintain these trees, including urgent and emergency works.

The strategy incorporates the principles of UK Roads Liaison Groups' Well Managed Highways, a Code of Practice, which was published in October 2016 and is to be fully implemented by October 2018, the strategy supports both the Asset Management Policy and Strategy and is itself supported by the Safety Defect Inspection Procedure.

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The highway tree strategy supports the Highways Asset Management Policy and Strategy.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The Council has a legal duty to maintain and keep the highway safe for public use as defined in the Highways Act, 1980.

The duty extends to trees in private occupation that are shown to be a danger to the highway or highway users.

## 8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

None

## 9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

**Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.**

Option 1  Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2  In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA link here)*

Option 3  In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. *(insert EIA attachment)*

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

Executive and Lead Members for Regeneration.  
Lancashire County Council.

## 11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

## 12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded and published if applicable.

<b>VERSION:</b>	<b>1</b>
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<b>CONTACT OFFICER:</b>	<b>Matthew Joyce</b>
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<b>DATE:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
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<b>BACKGROUND PAPER:</b>	Draft Highway Trees Strategy.
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