



**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2021/22
Issue: 3**

Article of: Corporate Director of Place and Community

Relevant Portfolio Holder: Councillor Yvonne Gagen

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**SUBJECT: EXEMPTION TO CONTRACT PROCEDURE RULES:
Works To make safe 220 dead trees in Banks.**

Wards affected: North Meols Ward

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

- 1.1 To update members on the requirement for a procurement exemption in order to facilitate the removal of approx. 220 dead, hazardous trees adjacent to Aveling Drive in Banks

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In November 2020 staff were made aware of flooding on the playing fields on Aveling drive Banks. The ditch which runs along the North Western boundary of the site was blocked, water was threatening to overtop and flood the highway and adjacent properties. Funding was secured (circa £20,000) to identify and remediate the cause of the blockage. Work to repair the issue was completed in Spring of 2021
- 2.2 Discussions with local residents revealed that there had been drainage issues in the area for a number of years, however there is no proactive inspection programme in place for either drainage (or tree maintenance).
- 2.3 During late summer of 2021 it became apparent that the shelter belt of mature trees between the ditch and playing fields contained a significant number of dead trees, which had succumbed directly as a result of long-term root submergence.
- 2.4 The land is held by Leisure, the field playing field is maintained by a local contractor and the tree stock is managed by the Clean and Green (C&G) department.
- 2.5 The C&G department budget for managing trees on Leisure Land is £18,420

- 2.6 The tree contractor who has the tree management contract with the Council was contacted and asked to provide a quote for the removal of the hazardous trees. The quote was for £55,000
- 2.7 After conferring with both the Procurement and Legal departments it was determined that the contract allowed for other quotes to be sought for the work.
- 2.8 A quote was provided by another party, for £24,000.
- 2.9 Due to the scale of the work there was difficulty in securing a third quote
- 2.10 Due to the level of hazard and difficulty in securing a third quote in a timely fashion an Exemption to Contracts Procedure Rules was agreed in order to allow the most cost-effective operator to carry out the works.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 The highest risk trees have been felled/made safe.
- 3.2 The rest of the felling will be carried out from the week beginning the 22nd of November.
- 3.3 The trees are subject to a tree preservation order, however because of the hazardous nature, do not need full permissions granting in order to carry out work on them. The Tree Officer has been kept abreast of the situation.
- 3.4 The area will be replanted with trees of a suitable type to suit the nature of the ground, for example alder, willow and birch.
- 3.5 Members of the Parks and Countryside Service have had discussions with the local Cllr with a view to carrying out community-based replanting days and are investigating further sources of suitable trees to supplement those from the services tree nursery.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this article and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are some financial/ resource implications arising from this article in respect of £24,000, however these have been met from existing resources.

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 This Article is for information only and makes no recommendations. It therefore does not require a formal risk assessment and no changes have been made to risk registers.

7.0 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Article primarily relates to the need for an exemption, however the work carried out impacts on Health and wellbeing in several ways:

- The negative potential effects of having to fell mature trees will be mitigated by replanting.
- The Carbon capturing abilities of the new trees will, within a short amount of time, outweigh the abilities of the previous trees.
- Replanting of the site provides an opportunity for the Wellbeing and Leisure Service to engage positively with the local community and help provide a sense of ownership in their neighbourhood. It will help people to be more active, give them an increased connectivity with nature and the local landscape.
- Community participation events positively impact on people's health and wellbeing can help form friendships, reduce social isolation and engender pride in the area

Background Documents

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Article.

Equality Impact Assessment

This article is for information only and does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/ or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

Appendices

None.