



**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE – 28 JUNE 2018**

ASH DIEBACK

MINUTE EXTRACT

The Committee considered a report of the Director of Environment and Transport concerning the Ash Dieback Action Plan. A copy of the report, marked “Agenda Item 11” is filed with these minutes.

Arising from discussion, the following points were raised:-

- i) The Ash Dieback Action Plan applied a risk based approach with an emphasis on maintaining the highest levels of health and safety for the public while aiming to minimise the impact on landscape, ecology and the environment. The Action Plan had been developed in line with the latest Defra and Tree Council guidance.
- ii) The potential loss of trees will have a significant impact on the county’s landscape and was likely to result in significant financial cost to the County Council. The Medium Term Financial Strategy included this as a future potential financial pressure.
- iii) Trials had been established elsewhere in the country looking at resistant strains with the aim of identifying a strain resistant to Ash Dieback.
- iv) A comprehensive communications and engagement plan had been developed to support work with private and other public landowners regarding Ash Dieback.
- v) The County Council was also looking into potential commercial opportunities linked to Ash Dieback such as tree management services and potential options for the use of felled wood as a by-product. .

RESOLVED: -

That the comments of the Committee be submitted to the Cabinet and the Cabinet be advised of its support for the Action Plan.

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