

West Sussex County Council

Proposed Executive Decision for **29 September 2021** call-in deadline **5 p.m. on 8 October 2021**

The following proposed decision has been endorsed by the Cabinet Member and will come into effect at the end of the call-in period unless the call-in procedure is activated.

Decision Title & Ref No:	Delivery of the Ash Dieback Action Plan - Procurement HT07(21/22)
Cabinet Member Responsible for Decision	Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport
Electoral Divisions	All Divisions
Key Decision	Yes
Purpose	<p>Ash Dieback is a disease that is likely to kill 95% of the county's ash trees over the next 10–20 years. This will have a major impact on the county's landscape, the wildlife it supports, other ecosystems that trees provide and climate change.</p> <p>It will also have a high impact on the county and the County Council, posing a significant risk to people, property (including schools) and the delivery of services (including highways). Therefore, a corporate Ash Dieback Action Plan has been prepared to manage the impact of the disease.</p> <p>The aim of the Plan is to effectively address the risks presented by the impact of ash dieback (which will require a programme of reactive and proactive tree removal and replanting), conserve the ecosystems in which ash trees are found across the county, and prepare for a positive regeneration phase with a net biodiversity gain.</p> <p>A specialist contractor needs to be procured to deliver the tree removal and replanting programme. Additional officer resources are required to support programme delivery.</p>
Decision	<p>The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport has:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) approved the commencement of a procurement process for a tree felling contract for Ash Dieback infected trees through an open tender process, the contract to commence on 1 April 2022; and(2) delegate authority to the Director of Highways, Transport and Planning, to award the contract to the successful bidder for an initial period of 4 years with optional extension periods of 1 year up to 7 years in total, in accordance with the County Council's Standing Orders on Procurement Contracts.
Interest and nature of	None

interest declared	
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Background Papers	See report for details