

## **EXETER CITY COUNCIL**

**EXECUTIVE  
24 MARCH 2009**

### **DRAFT SUPPLEMENTARY PLANNING DOCUMENT TREES IN RELATION TO DEVELOPMENT**

#### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Executive for the draft Trees in Relation to Development supplementary planning document (SPD) to be published for public consultation. The SPD identifies the City Council's requirements in relation to trees and development. A copy of the proposed draft SPD is at Appendix 1.

#### **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The City Council's adopted Local Development Scheme, that has been agreed by Government Office for the South West, identifies the need for an SPD with regard to trees and development.
- 2.2 The Council has adopted Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) dating from 2004 but in order to comply with the requirements of the Local Development Framework this needs to be amended and a new consultation procedure carried out to produce an SPD. There is an urgent need to provide guidance to developers on up to date good practice with regard to trees and development essentially because of the revision to British Standards Institute 5837 Trees in relation to construction in 2005 which superseded the 1991 document.
- 2.3 The draft SPD has regard to national guidance and good practice, making particular reference to BS5837:2005. It also draws attention to the need to consider both retained and new trees as part of the overall design process.
- 2.4 The document provides guidance to all those involved with development and trees, including householders as well as those involved in the development industry. The document will be available on-line and as a paper copy and, importantly, will include links to key national documents such as BS5837:2005 and Tree Preservation Orders – A Guide to the Law and Good Practice (The Government document) which provide detailed guidance beyond the scope of this SPD.

#### **3. PROPOSED CONSULTATION**

- 3.1 The consultation period will be about 6-8 weeks, the results of which and the proposed response will be reported to Planning Member Working Group and Executive with a view to adoption later in the year.
- 3.2 The consultation will be publicised through the web site, press releases and letters to agents, interested organisations and to those members of the public who have already expressed interest in response to advanced publicity.
- 3.3 The draft SPD will need minor editing and formatting prior to publication.

#### **4 PLANNING MEMBER WORKING GROUP**

- 4.1 On 10 March the draft SPD was presented to Planning Member Working Group. Members welcomed the document and agreed that it should go forward to Executive.

#### **5. RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 It is recommended that Executive agree the draft SPD for public consultation.

**RICHARD SHORT  
HEAD OF PLANNING AND BUILDING CONTROL**

**ECONOMY AND DEVELOPMENT DIRECTORATE**