

75/05 - **STRATEGIC TREE RISK MANAGEMENT:** The Head of Parks and Open Spaces and the Arboricultural Manager submitted a joint written report in connection with the above. In relation to section 5.8.3 to the report it was noted that, on the final sentence, the word 'IT' should be replaced with 'insurance'. Appendix 1 to the report showed photographic evidence of recent tree failure on Harrogate Borough Council housing land. One Member queried how North Yorkshire County Council (NYCC) were dealing with the issue. The Head of Open Parks and Spaces commented that NYCC had stated that their County wide tree survey policy would be implemented by the 1 April 2006 but he had no details as to what exactly they were planning or how it would roll out under the agency arrangement. He added that consultation with NYCC over potential funding for the surveys was continuing.

**RECOMMENDED (UNANIMOUSLY):**

That (1) the Strategic Tree Risk Management system be approved;

(2) pending further liaison with North Yorkshire County Council, the potential costs be noted and considered as a potential growth bid against the 2006/07 budget, taking into account the implications of funding the work within existing budgets;

(3) the implementation of the strategy be held in abeyance for a maximum of four weeks whilst further consultation be undertaken with the County to try to resolve the resourcing issues for highway trees;

(4) the Urgency Committee be requested to delegate to the appropriate Director, in consultation with the Leader of the Council, the decision regarding the implementation of this strategy and the budgeting for it once the current position with the County Council was known or after the end of the four week period whichever was the sooner; and

(5) where possible, commuted sums be utilised to undertake any work identified on the trees as part of the inspection process.

(5.37 pm – 5.45 pm)