

# Proposal form for items for consideration by Overview Committee



Submitted by: Cllr Anne Hall and Cllr Matt Hall

Date submitted: 07/01/26

Item for Consideration: Preventative maintenance of trees in high amenity use area and another policy for tree maintenance of trees in EDDC controlled social housing

Expected outcome (i.e. new policy, new action, new partnership, improve the performance of other public bodies or of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas): New policies for both areas specified.

Priority for matter to be considered (please tick):

High (up to 3 months)	
Medium (3 to 6 months)	X
Low (over 9 months)	

Basis on which priority has been set:

The suggested item should be included in future programme(s) because: (please tick as appropriate)

a) It is a district level function over which the district has some control	X
b) It is a new policy area or service area of activity to be developed and introduced	X
c) It is a policy area which has been required for some time and is due for development	X
d) It is a major proposal for change	
e) It is an issue raised via complaints received	X
f) It is an area of public concern	X
g) It would be of benefit to residents of the district	X

Which of the Council's objectives does the issue address?: health and safety

Is there a deadline for the Council to make a decision? (If so, when and why?): ASAP due to health and safety concerns

Members are requested to provide information on the following:-

What do you wish to achieve from the review?: Comprehensive review and new policy of EDDC tree stock

Are the desired outcomes likely to be achievable?: Yes if a budget is allocated

Will it change/increase efficiency and cost effectiveness?: Yes

**Additional information** – an explanatory sentence or paragraph to be provided below to support each box which has been ticked:

At present there is no specific policy as to how trees are maintained within a high footfall amenity space compared to a woodland. No policy for tree maintenance on our social housing inventory.

Please can you return the completed form to Democratic Services via email to [democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastdevon.gov.uk).

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#### MONITORING OFFICER COMMENTS

No issues to raise. Meets the criteria.

Date: 22 January 2026

## Overview Committee's Role

The Council's Constitution details the role of the Overview Committee in [Article 7](#) and in the Terms of Reference in [Part 3 Section 2](#). It has statutory powers through the Local Government Act 2000.

The following sets out the role of the Overview Committee in general terms:

*The Overview and Scrutiny Committees operate within the guiding principles of effective scrutiny promoted by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, namely:*

- a) Provide a 'critical friend' challenge to the Cabinet as well as external authorities and agencies;*
- b) Its aim is to hold Council to account on behalf of the public and its communities;*
- c) Take the lead and own the scrutiny process on behalf of the public;*
- d) Make an impact on the delivery of public services*

*The **Overview Committee** will principally provide the 'critical friend' challenge and reflect the voice and concerns of the public and its communities prior to the decision being taken so as to make an impact on the delivery of public services.*

More specifically the functions of the Overview Committee relating to policy development and review are:

- *To assist the Council and the Cabinet in the development of its budget and policy framework by in-depth analysis of policy issues.*
- *To conduct research and carry out community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options.*
- *To consider and propose mechanisms to encourage and enhance community participation in the development of policy options.*
- *To question Members of the Cabinet and/or committees and Senior Officers about their views on issues and proposals affecting the area.*
- *Subject to prior Council approval of an annual work plan, liaise with other external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working.*

Members will also find useful information in the following guidance:

- Government's 'Overview and Scrutiny: statutory guidance for Councils' – statutory status
- Centre for Public Scrutiny 'The Good Scrutiny Guide' – non-statutory status