

Meeting:	Environment & Economy Scrutiny Sub- Cttee
Date:	10 th March 2005
Subject:	Tree Preservation Orders
Responsible Officer:	Director of Strategy, Urban Living
Contact Officer:	Principal; Landscape Architect
Portfolio Holder:	Environment & Transport
Key Decision:	No
Status:	Public

Section 1: Summary

Decision Required

For Information

Reason for report

128. Reference from the meeting of the Tenant's and Leaseholders Consultative Forum held on 13th October 2004.

Benefits

Making Tree Preservation Orders (TPO's) ensures proper consideration of managing trees in the Borough which are an extremely important feature of Harrow's environment.

Cost of Proposals

Nil

Risks

Failure to make new Orders or review existing TPO's could leave important landscape features vulnerable to removal or bad workmanship.

Implications if recommendations rejected

None

Section 2: Report

2.1 Brief History

A Report has been requested regarding the management of trees under Tree Preservation Order (TPO) in the Borough and on Cottesmore Estate in particular. There are nearly 800 TPO's in Harrow protecting thousands of trees mostly on private land. TPO's are made in accordance with Government guidance and policies contained within the Harrow UDP. It is unusual to make new TPO's on Council owned land.

An extensive Order was made across the Harrow Green Belt in the late 1950's which included the Cottesmore Estate long before it was developed for housing by the GLC or used by this Council for offices. A conscious decision was made at the time to retain as many trees as possible however this does not prevent management from taking place if considered reasonable. A new Order is being considered on this site to identify important individual and groups of trees as part of a comprehensive re-survey.

The Town & Country Planning Act 1990 requires applications for work to Preserved Trees to be made to the local planning authority in writing. Decisions are made within a six weeks period on whether or not to grant consent under delegated authority. In the case of the Cottesmore Estate a work programme has been agreed on communal areas and the Chair of the residents group has been advised that individual owner/occupiers can apply for work to trees within their own curtilage.

2.2 Options considered

Not to make Tree Preservation Orders, in particular on Council owned sites.

2.3 Consultation

When new TPO's are made the owner of the trees and adjoining property can make an objection, which is considered by the Planning Cttee. If not resolved by discussion. Should an application to carry out tree work be refused there is the right of appeal to the Secretary of State.

2.4 Financial Implications

None

2.5 Legal Implications

None

2.6 Equalities Impact

None

Section 3: Supporting Information/ Background Documents

None