Amenities Committee 22 October 2025 **ITEM 10**

Tree Surveys and Remedial Work Quotations for Amenities Sites

1. Purpose of the report

To consider the findings of recent tree surveys and the quotations received for remedial work at Nea Meadows, Lakewood Amenity Area, Roeshot Hill Allotments, and Wingfield Recreation Ground.

2. Recommendation

To approve the preferred contractor B for each site based on the quotations received and to authorise the commencement of remedial works.

3. Background

Tree surveys were commissioned for the four amenities sites to assess the health, safety, and maintenance needs of existing trees. The surveys identified various issues including deadwood removal, crown lifting, and removal of hazardous or diseased trees.

4. Nea Meadows Nature Reserve

Survey Findings:

- Generally healthy woodland with mature Maple, Oak, and Ash.
- Ash Dieback: Four Ash trees show signs of dieback or fungal infection.
- Dead Trees: One Corylus avellana and a group of unidentified broadleaf trees are dead or in decline.
- Standing Deadwood: Several Oaks have deadwood overhanging footpaths.

Recommended Actions:

- Remove dead Corylus and affected limbs from Ash trees.
- Fell dead or declining trees.
- Remove hazardous deadwood from Oaks.
- Monitor remaining Ash trees for disease progression.

5. Lakewood Road Amenity Area

Survey Findings:

- Overall tree health is good.
- Minor Deadwood: Goat Willow has deadwood overhanging a footpath.
- Ivy Growth: Present on several trees, requiring monitoring.
- Phototropic Growth: Some trees show leaning due to light competition.

Recommended Actions:

- Remove minor deadwood.
- Monitor ivy and crown development.
- Continue routine inspections.

6. Roeshot Hill Allotments

Survey Findings:

- Five trees inspected; four require urgent removal:
  - Silver Birch – Dead with decay.
  - Cherry – Ganoderma and bacterial canker.

- Horse Chestnut – Severe dieback.
- Unidentified Tree – Fully dead.
- Leylandii Conifer – Overhanging limbs; monitor for fungal entry.

Recommended Actions:

- Fell and remove four trees.
- Monitor Leylandii limbs.

7. Wingfield Recreation Ground

Survey Findings:

- Mature woodland with varied species.
- Blue Atlas Cedar – Historic limb failures and lodged branch; deadwood present.
- Common Hawthorn – Fully dead; low target area.
- Copper Beech – Stem wound with internal decay; crown healthy.
- Scots Pine – Cavity at 3m; crown healthy but further inspection needed.
- Holm Oak – Leaning with wound on tension side; adaptive growth observed.

Recommended Actions:

- Remove lodged branch and deadwood from Cedar.
- Fell dead Hawthorn.
- Monitor Beech, Pine, and Holm Oak for structural integrity and decay progression.

Additional works as required due to complaint received from neighbouring properties and better visibility from CCTV

8. Remedial Work Quotations

Contractor A

Nea Meadows: £1,240 + VAT

Lakewood Road: no quote supplied

Roeshot Hill Allotments: £710 + VAT

Wingfield Recreation Ground: £750 +VAT + Additional work £910 +VAT

Contractor B

Nea Meadows: £840 +VAT

Lakewood Road: no quote supplied

Roeshot Hill Allotments: £530 +VAT

Wingfield Recreation Ground: £270 +VAT

Contractor C

Nea Meadows; £2,162 +VAT

Lakewood Road: no quote supplied

Roeshot Hill Allotments: £1,222 +VAT

Wingfield Recreation Ground: £846 +VAT

9. Implications

Equalities

- The remedial tree works ensure that all members of the community, including vulnerable users such as children, elderly, and those with mobility impairments, can safely access the amenities.
- Maintaining clear pathways and safe recreational areas supports inclusive use for everyone.

Environment

- Removal of dead, diseased, or hazardous trees will improve the overall health of the woodland and amenity areas.
- Monitoring and selective felling will help prevent the spread of diseases such as Ash Dieback and Ganoderma.
- Mature and healthy trees will continue to provide habitat, biodiversity, and carbon capture benefits.

Crime and Disorder

- Improved visibility through strategic tree management supports natural surveillance and enhances CCTV coverage, potentially reducing antisocial behaviour and vandalism.
- Well-maintained open spaces contribute to safer community environments.

Financial

- Quotations received indicate that Contractor B is the most cost-effective option for the works.
- Timely remedial action reduces potential future costs associated with tree damage, insurance claims, or emergency works.
- Costs are within existing budget allocations.

Resources

- Works will require coordination with Grounds Maintenance teams for site access, disposal of arisings, and monitoring of remaining trees.
- Contractor engagement may necessitate temporary reallocation of Amenities Officer for site supervision.

Legal

- Compliance with health and safety legislation is ensured by removing hazardous trees and deadwood.
- Works are consistent with tree preservation obligations and any relevant environmental protection regulations.
- Failure to act could result in liability claims for injury or property damage.

Risk Management

- The Successful contractor will be required to provide the Council with proof of Public Liability Insurance.
- Removing hazardous and diseased trees reduces the risk of injury to the public and damage to property.
- Monitoring of remaining trees ensures early detection of emerging health or structural issues.
- Documented surveys and approved remedial works provide a defensible risk management process.

10. Conclusion

The tree surveys have identified a range of remedial works required across Nea Meadows, Lakewood Road Amenity Area, Roeshot Hill Allotments, and Wingfield Recreation Ground to ensure public safety, maintain tree health, and enhance amenity value. Dead, diseased, or hazardous trees will be removed, and ongoing monitoring will be implemented for trees showing signs of disease or structural weakness. The quotations received indicate that the works can be completed cost-effectively, ensuring compliance with legal obligations and supporting the environment and community safety. Approval of the recommended contractors will allow these essential works to proceed without delay.