

MAINTENANCE OF OPEN SPACES, TREES AND SHELTERBELTS IN DEVELOPMENT AREAS

The panel considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Operational Services providing an update on the maintenance of open spaces and shelterbelt trees in Springfield, Linlithgow; including providing an update on the areas the council maintained that may not be owned by the council or where the maintenance responsibility had not been transferred or taken over by the council.

It was recommended that the panel note:

1. the current maintenance information for Springfield, Linlithgow and the current maintenance arrangements provided by the council;
2. the findings from the Springfield review along with the future considerations for the ongoing maintenance of Springfield, Linlithgow; and
3. officer recommendations that there were no changes to current service standards and that the current maintenance arrangements were continued for open spaces, trees and shelterbelts in development areas; and that officers sought to conclude the transfer of maintenance responsibilities for development areas where formal documentation did not exist.

During discussion, members requested more information and made comments on the difference between open space and tree shelter belt, maintenance obligations of council and residents, and tree management safety. It was agreed that an updated report would be presented to a future panel meeting.

Decision

1. To note the contents of the report.
2. A further report to be presented to a future panel meeting on progress of discussions with developers across West Lothian, and considering the comments made at the meeting.