

4 ASH DIEBACK (AN16-2013)

As members of this committee will be aware, Ash dieback was found in the UK in 2012. Following a rapid survey, 291 cases have been identified across the country with 26 cases found in Scotland. The disease, *Chalara fraxinea*, has been confirmed in nurseries, new plantings and on well established trees. Although no cases have been found in Dundee yet, there is evidence of infection in newly planted woodland in Angus and Fife. With the proximity of infections, it is likely that *C. fraxinea* will be found in Dundee over the coming year.

At the end of October 2012 the UK Government imposed an import and movement ban on Ash Trees throughout the UK. It has been practice for many years for the Council to use locally sourced Ash trees, which has avoided cases of infection thus far. Although the disease is known to affect all Ash trees, it is anticipated the disease will affect young trees in the short term.

The UK Government published a *C. Fraxinea* control plan in December 2012. Forestry Commission Scotland will produce an action plan, developed within the framework of the UK plan, later in the year, possibly April. The situation will continue to be monitored within the city and once the Forestry Commission Action Plan is received, a report on the implications for Dundee City Council will be brought back to committee. Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.