

## **12 TREE WARDEN SCHEME (AN399-2004)**

The Committee will recall that, following a request from Councillor Sturrock at the Development Quality Committee, the Director of Planning and Transportation was remitted to look into the background of Tree Warden Schemes and their applicability within Dundee.

Tree Warden Schemes were launched in 1990 as a national initiative by the Tree Council to enable local people to play an active role in conserving and enhancing their local trees and woodlands. Each scheme recruits volunteer Tree Wardens to gather information about local trees and woodlands. This information is collated and used to identify any potential needs in terms of management and protection. There are some 60 such schemes operating in the UK at present (with over 7,000 Tree Wardens), but only 4 schemes in Scotland (Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Perth and Kinross and Borders).

The Council's expert advice in this area is currently provided by the Council's Forestry Officer in Dundee Contract Services. Any consideration to establishing a Tree Warden Scheme for Dundee must, therefore, be directly related to, and act in support of, the roles and responsibilities of the Forestry Officer. It is, therefore, recommended that the Forestry Officer be remitted to prepare a detailed feasibility study into the potential for a Dundee scheme in consultation with the Directors of Planning and Transportation and Dundee Contract Services who will then report back to Committee within 6 months. Due to the fact that all Tree Warden Schemes are undertaken on a volunteer basis, it is not anticipated that any additional costs will be involved and therefore there will be no revenue implications.