

Background

At the Overview and Scrutiny Panel meeting of the 13th June 2016, the Committee requested that an update be provided to a future meeting. In particular, information was requested about funding for the enhanced maintenance and the right to light. Included with this report is the revised tree policy, the maintenance plan, the O & S Action Plan and a map showing how the town has been divided into 5 maintenance zones.

Funding for 5 year enhanced maintenance plan

The council has agreed to invest an extra £100,000 per year into an enhanced program of tree maintenance. This extra funding has been secured for the years 2016/17 and 2017/18.

With the current Environmental Services Contract ending in June 2018, it is proposed to include the remaining 3 years of planned maintenance into the new service specification, with the costs then being included in the overall costs of environmental services provision.

Right to Light

It is recognized that trees can have an adverse impact on light in an area, and therefore be an issue for residents.

The Policy allows for work to be carried out dealing with light issues caused by trees. Each case will be dealt with on an individual basis, taking into account the severity of the problem.

Enhanced Maintenance Plan

The maintenance plan give details of the types of maintenance to be carried out. It also explains how the council will identify the work to be carried out and then have the work take place.

We are at the point in maintenance zone 1, where we have a contractor currently carrying out a survey and specifying work to be included in the maintenance program. Once this has been completed it will come to the council for approval and the work will commence as soon as possible.

It is unlikely that any work will be carried out before the end of the nesting season.

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: Scrutiny Working Group – Tree Maintenance

Recommendations from Scrutiny Working Group (Tree Maintenance) completed in March 2016.

Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations

Report received by Cabinet	Response received by Overview and Scrutiny Committee	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
September 2015	20 January 2016	13 June 2016	

Recommendation 1: In noting its effectiveness, the NBC app. – “Report It”, use is widened and developed so that there is preferably one reporting the whole county or more realistically at least one reporting app. for NBC and NCC.

Action	Implementation/responsibility by:	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Increase the use of the NBC App.	Mick Tyrrell	Senior Officers of both NBC and NCC.	01/04/2016	This action is still outstanding. The NBC App and the NCC reporting system “Street Doctor” are valued by each authority. Further work needs to be undertaken to identify if there is a willingness on

				NCC's part to shut down "Street Doctor" and replace it with the NBC App.
Recommendation 2: A presentation on the Northamptonshire County Council IT Programme regarding damage caused to street furniture, including trees, is given to all Councillors at Northampton Borough Council.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
NCC representative to make a presentation to councillors.	Mick Tyrrell	NCC officer time and availability	01/04/2016	Outstanding
Recommendation 3: When the software that is being used in relation to the Tree Inspection Programme that is being piloted in Daventry is rolled out in Northampton and becomes available for use by NBC, it is used by NBC to record all trees and hedges on NBC and NPH managed land.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
NBC to use the NCC tree inspection system to log its trees.	Mick Tyrrell	ICT would be needed to set up the system. Funding to employ a person to carry out inspections.	01/04/2016	The system is being used by NCC to record the value of each of their Highway trees, should they need to be replaced. Having spoken to NCC, it does not seem that this system is what NBC would want to use at the

				moment, particularly with the enhanced maintenance that will be taking place over the next five years.
Recommendation 4: In the planning process consideration is given to the retention and planting of trees and hedges and the maintenance thereof affording the ongoing right to light to nearby properties. The Tree Planting and Retention Policy be detailed within the Joint Development Framework view to delivering low on-going maintenance costs and that a Policy is adopted to ensure trees are not planted close to properties or in the vicinity of properties alleviating problems encountered by residents as detailed in this report.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Ensure that tree policy is taken into account when planning applications are considered. Include policy in Joint Development Framework.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time	01/04/2016	Completed
Recommendation 5: A Policy of thinning out trees in Parks and Open Space throughout the Borough is adopted and funded over a five year period to ensure that remaining trees are able to reach their full growth and maturity				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed

Include the thinning of trees in the revised tree policy and identify funding to carry this out.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability, External professional input. Revenue funding	01/04/2016	Funding has been allocated and the thinning of trees is included both in the tree policy and maintenance plan.
Recommendation 6: An on-going Forward Maintenance Plan for trees, recognising the right to light, is developed, funded and implemented over a period. This should be linked to the tree inspection software.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Develop an enhanced maintenance plan and identify 5 years funding to carry this out.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability, External professional input. Revenue funding.	01/04/2016	The maintenance plan has been developed, included in the policy and funded.
Recommendation 7: A revised Corporate Tree Policy, including a Tree Maintenance Policy and recognising the right to light, is developed and adopted. This should be in plain English. It should be an all embracing policy, making reference to relevant Planning, Highways and NPH policies				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Produce a revised Corporate Tree Policy.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability, External professional input.	01/04/2016	Completed

Recommendation 8: Full consultation should be undertaken on the revised Corporate Tree Policy, including the Maintenance Policy therein.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Carry out consultation on the new policy and maintenance plan.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability	01/04/2016	The revised policy and maintenance plan is based on best practice and British Standards, also ensuring that the requirements of O&S are taken into account. There was therefore very little that could be consulted on when drafting the policy.
Recommendation 9: Parish Councils should be consulted in developing the new Tree Policy and encouraged to adopt the policy in respect of land in their ownership.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Consult with Parish Councils.	Mick Tyrrell	Officer time and availability.	01/04/2016	The revised policy and maintenance plan is based on best practice and British Standards, also ensuring that the requirements of O&S are taken into account. There was therefore very little that could be consulted

				on when drafting the policy. Most Parish Councils have very little or no responsibility for trees in their parish, but will be sent a copy of the tree policy and encouraged to adopt it as necessary.
Recommendation 10: A review of the effectiveness of the Corporate Tree Policy, including the Tree Maintenance policy therein, takes place within five years.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Review tree policy after 5 years	Overview and Scrutiny Panel	Officer and Member time.	01/04/2021	Review date to be agreed and programmed in.
Recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee				
Recommendation 11: The Overview and Scrutiny Committee, as part of its monitoring regime, reviews the impact of this report in six months' time.				
Action	Implementation/responsibility by	Resources required/available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
Included onto the O&S Monitoring Work	Added to the O&S Monitoring Work Programme - Overview and	n/a	Monitoring to take place 0n 13 June	

Programme 2016/2017	Scrutiny Committee		2016	
------------------------	--------------------	--	------	--

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TREE MAINTENANCE PLAN

As Amended 2016

CONTENTS

1. MAINTENANCE PLAN

1.1 How does the maintenance plan work?

1.2 Detailed description of various arboricultural works

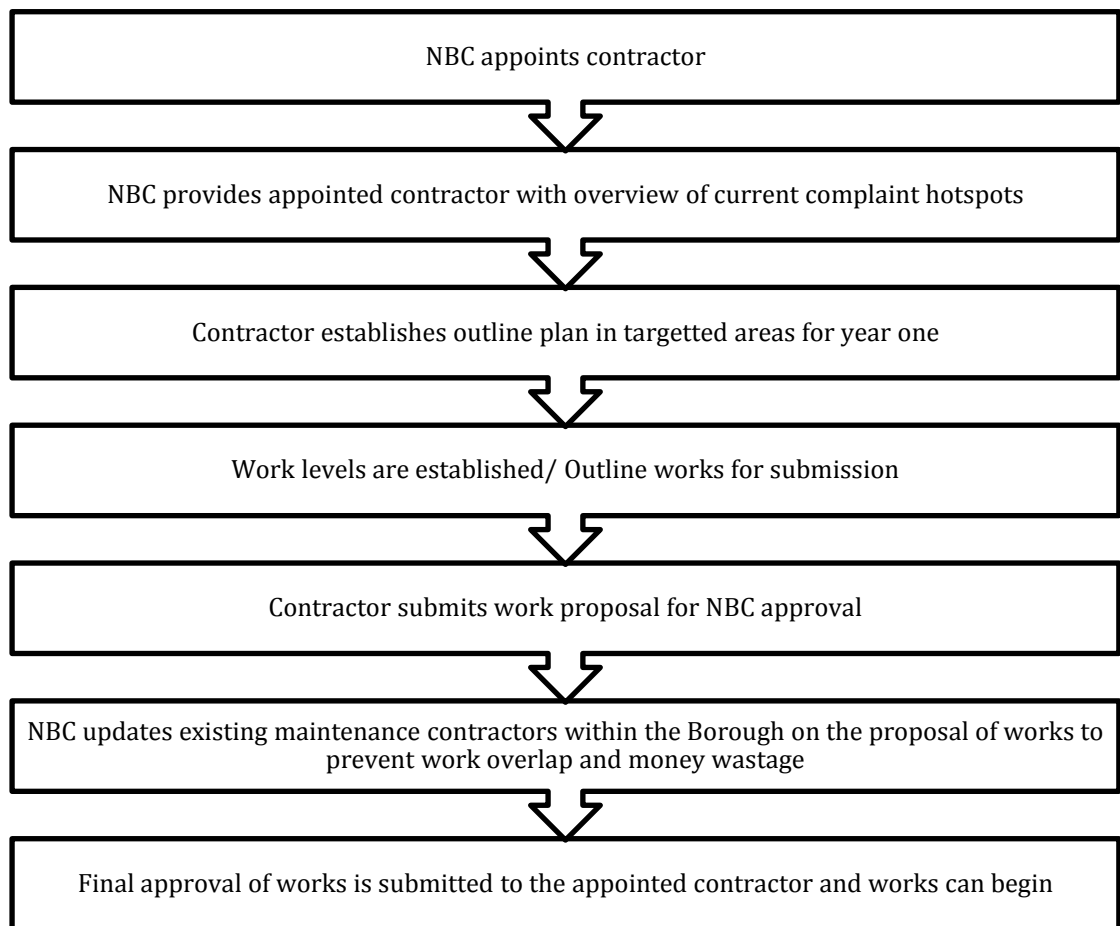
- 1.2.1 Formative Pruning
- 1.2.2 Crown Thinning
- 1.2.3 Crown Reduction
- 1.2.4 Selective Branch Removal
- 1.2.5 Pollarding

1. MAINTENANCE PLAN

1.1 How does the maintenance plan work?

This maintenance plan is designed to work alongside the NBC Tree Policy to enhance the existing reactive works rather than replacing them. It has been created to work on a 5-year basis. The land under care of NBC has been divided into 5 zones. Each zone will be thoroughly inspected and works completed during a 12-month period by an approved contractor, on a 5-year rotation; meaning that each zone will be seen every 5 years. Work levels/ pruning plans have been created in accordance with a 5-year maintenance plan to establish a more sustainable tree stock. These pruning plans however, should not focus purely on instant impact, but also on the long-term sustainability and improvement of community spaces.

NBC recognises the benefits to urban trees but also recognises that the wrong tree in the wrong place can be disruptive, for example, significantly obstructing light. This plan has been designed to create a harmonious relationship between trees and people within the borough.



1.2 Detailed description of various Arboricultural works

The following list is for guidance purposes only of best pruning practice and general arboricultural works at the time of writing this policy. Each individual tree genus can react differently to different pruning techniques. Generally trees will be assessed for their suitability to the given pruning technique before any finalised plans of work are carried out.

1.2.1 Formative pruning

- Formative pruning is carried out on primarily young trees. It is started at nursery age; the goal is to produce a tree, which in maturity will be free from any major physical weaknesses and remain a suitable choice for the site.
- This will help to reduce the future risks associated with trees. In the nursery formative pruning will be carried out to influence the shape, structure and size of the tree.
- At the time of planting or soon after, any pruning work should be kept to a minimum to ensure there is an adequate leaf area for the tree to be able to function.
- Once the tree has become more established formative pruning would normally be continued (normally at about three to five years).
- If the tree has been allowed to develop an unsuitable branch structure it would be appropriate to reduce or remove some of the branches before this stage, however early removal of the lowermost branches should be avoided, if at all possible, as they help to aid stem thickening.

1.2.2 Crown thinning

- Crown thinning is a means of creating more light to a garden or property, without drastically making changes to the shape of the tree.
- When carrying out a crown thinning operation, efforts should be made to make sure an even density of foliage is retained.
- No more than 30% of leaf foliage should be removed throughout the entire crown, as uneven thinning or over thinning, will increase the risk of branch failure.
- Other potentially hazardous or weak branches can be removed whilst carrying out the crown thinning.
- Removing branches back to the stem (other than hazardous or weak branches) should be avoided during a crown thin
- These should be minor works and not effect the overall existing shape of the crown

1.2.3 Crown reduction

- Crown reduction is achieved by reducing the whole dimension of the tree, which reduces height and spread of the tree's crown; lessening the biomechanical stress that the tree comes under by reducing both the leverage and the sail area of the tree.
- It is a method of retaining a tree in confined space, which could potentially make the tree more suitable in its surroundings.
- When carrying out a crown reduction care should be taken to retain the main framework of the crown. A high proportion of the foliage bearing structure should be retained.
- Following a reduction there should be enough healthy leaf bearing structure, capable of producing a dense covering of leaf during the following growing season, whilst maintaining a strong frame work of branches.
- Each tree should be individually assessed as to how much should be removed, and from where the removal should take place, so that the crown is reduced in proportion to its original shape.
- The cuts should expose a smaller proportion of heartwood or ripewood than of sapwood and should not exceed 100 mm in diameter, except on very large trees.

1.2.4 Selective branch removal

- Sometimes specific branches can be a problem. This can include branches which have grown too close to buildings, drastically reducing light and potentially causing long term damage.
- Selective branch removal is an appropriate type of pruning in this case as a way of reducing the above risk/ problem.
- This may involve the removal of an individual branch or the branch being reduced.
- If this type of pruning is necessary, the amount of material to be removed and the diameter of the pruning cut should be the minimum required for the purpose.
- If the selective pruning creates a problem in itself, then other pruning should be carried out in conjunction to alleviate the problem.
- If the end result is to create clearance from a building or structure, the work specification should state the feature and the clearance to be achieved.

1.2.5 Pollarding

- Pollarding is way of establishing a tree at set size to create a woody framework of a manageable size, which will enable future maintenance; it should preferably start soon after the tree has become established (not to be mistaken for 'topping' in more mature trees).
- The main stem of the tree should be between 25 mm to 50 mm in diameter when the pollard is started and usually about 2-3 metres in height. However if the tree has already reached a diameter of somewhere between 50 mm and 200 mm, pollarding is still possible.
- It is recommended that where possible some of the pre-existing foliage should be retained, which will aid better physiological function and reduce the risk of die back or the tree dying.
- If the pollard has been started at a more established stage and has an increased diameter close to the 200 mm even more care should be taken to retain some of the pre-existing foliage.
- Once the pollard has been started it needs to be maintained by cutting the new branches on a cyclical basis, how often this takes place should be decided by its position, how old it is, its species, and what condition it is in.
- Sometimes selective pruning (where some of the branches are maintained within each cycle) can be a good option; it would reduce the amount of pruning wounds the tree has to cope with each cycle and, as more foliage would be maintained, the tree's physiological function will be aided. This should help to reduce the risk of decay in the stem and die back.
- If the pollard cycle has been allowed to lapse over many years, a crown reduction maybe more suitable.

1.2.6 Tree thinning

- Tree thinning is carried out in open spaces where a number of low quality trees have been identified. The aim of removing these low quality trees is to allow the remaining trees to establish properly.
- This can also create more open space and provide increased light to an area.

Bibliography

British Standards BS3998: 2010 'Tree Work- Recommendations'

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

TREE MANAGEMENT POLICY

As Amended 2016

CONTENTS

1. TREES IN TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS

2. PURPOSES AND AIMS OF TREE POLICY

2.1 Trees In Towns

2.2 Scope Of Policy

2.3 Aims Of Policy

3. TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY

3.1 Common Law Rights

3.2 Emergency Procedures For Dangerous Trees

4. TREE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Tree Survey

4.2 Administration and financial management

4.3 Standard of Work

4.4 Quality of Service

5. TREES IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

5.1 Damage to property

5.2 Right to Light

5.3 Television and reception

5.4 Bird Droppings

5.5 Blossom and Fruit

5.6 Insects

5.7 Leaves

6. TREE PLANTING, ESTABLISHMENT AND DESIGN

6.1 Tree Replacement

6.2 Species And Site Selection

6.3 Highways Trees

1. TREES IN TOWNS AND RURAL AREAS

Trees play an important role in enhancing the urban environment and bring many benefits as they:

- Screen unsightly structures and activities
- Give privacy
- Soften the hard lines of buildings
- Bring colour and contrasts into the urban environment
- Improve air quality by acting as natural air filters removing dust, smoke and fumes from the atmosphere
- Reduce the 'greenhouse' effect by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen
- Act as an effective sound barrier and can limit noise pollution
- Help to reduce the stress of modern life
- Provide habitats for native ground flora such as bluebells and fauna, particularly birds, bats and invertebrates.

Despite all of these benefits that trees bring to our urban areas, this environment is often a hostile one for a variety of reasons:

- Many urban trees show signs of stress, grow slowly and become more prone to disease
- They are subjected to a variety of pollutants such as car fumes, herbicides, salt and other de-icing agents from roads
- Vandals rip off branches, strip bark and even set fire to trees
- Urban trees are more susceptible to drought. Many of the surfaces that they grow in are impervious to water and air; because the soil is compacted and any excess rainwater is drained away.
- Tree roots are frequently severed during installation of underground services or to allow for construction work. This can lead to the premature death of trees.

Even under the guise of tree care there can be subconscious acts of vandalism. For example, tree ties that are left in place can strangle the tree that they were once intended to support. Also, incorrect pruning can leave unsightly trees struggling to survive.

2. PURPOSES AND AIMS OF TREE POLICY

2.1 Trees in Northampton

This document has been created, as there is a need for regular inspections and careful planning of: Pruning, Felling, Planting and the encouragement of private landowners to manage their trees appropriately.

2.2 Scope of Policy

Much of the policy is aimed at the management of Northampton's 'Urban Trees'. These are classed as trees that are within built up areas of the town. This definition includes trees adjacent to the highways, in residential and commercial areas as well as parks and open spaces.

The policy also provides for the management of Northampton's rural trees and woodlands in its control. In order to find out if a tree is owned by Northampton Borough Council please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000

2.3 Aims of Policy

The aims of the tree policy are addressed in the following five sections:

1. To ensure the management of trees contributes to making Northampton Borough's environment attractive and healthy for people who visit, live and work in the Borough.
2. To ensure trees enhance the environment.
3. To ensure the efficient management and sustainability of the trees
4. To ensure an increasing and varied tree population within the borough which is in harmony with other land uses
5. To promote awareness of the importance and value of trees to the residents of Northampton

3. TREE MAINTENANCE POLICY

3.1 Common Law Right

You have a common law right to remove nuisance with trees infringing onto your property. If this were the case, we would advise the following:

- You can only remove any parts of a tree that overhang your property. You have no legal right to remove anything that does not overhang the boundary of your property.
- A tree surgeon should be consulted when pruning back any part of a tree that overhangs your property, unless the pruning can be reasonably carried out with hand secateurs.
- To find out if the trees are owned by Northampton Borough Council please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.
- You should find out if the trees are protected by a Tree Preservation Order or are in a Designated Conservation Area. In order to do this please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.
- If the trees are protected then you will need to gain consent by making an application and giving notice to the council. Guidance on next steps can be accessed at the email address/ telephone number above.
- You should speak with your neighbour before pruning any overhanging branches, and offer to return any that are pruned back to your neighbour, as legally you do not own them. It is most likely that your neighbour will ask that you dispose of them yourself but it is good practice to ask them first.
- If the overhanging branches belong to a Council owned tree then you should dispose of the prunings yourself and not return them to Council owned land.

3.2 Emergency Procedures For Dangerous Trees

The Council will remove trees that are posing a hazard and make safe trees that are imminently dangerous. To notify us of an emergency situation please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

4. TREE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

4.1 Tree surveys

NBC aims to establish an on going maintenance plan to assess their current tree stock, with a long-term view to improving public spaces. The plan will establish high quality trees and with the expertise of approved contractors, works carried out will focus on improving the existing tree stock, using various types of Arboricultural practices to achieve this (see section 5-Maintenance Plan).

4.2 Standard of work

The council will:

- Appoint private arboricultural contractors through a tendering process
- Regularly review the specifications in the contract to ensure that they are precise and meet with currently accepted standards (British Standard 3998:2010 'Tree Work- Recommendations')
- Supporting the development and training of all arboricultural staff involved in Council tree work

4.3 Timeline of service

The council will;

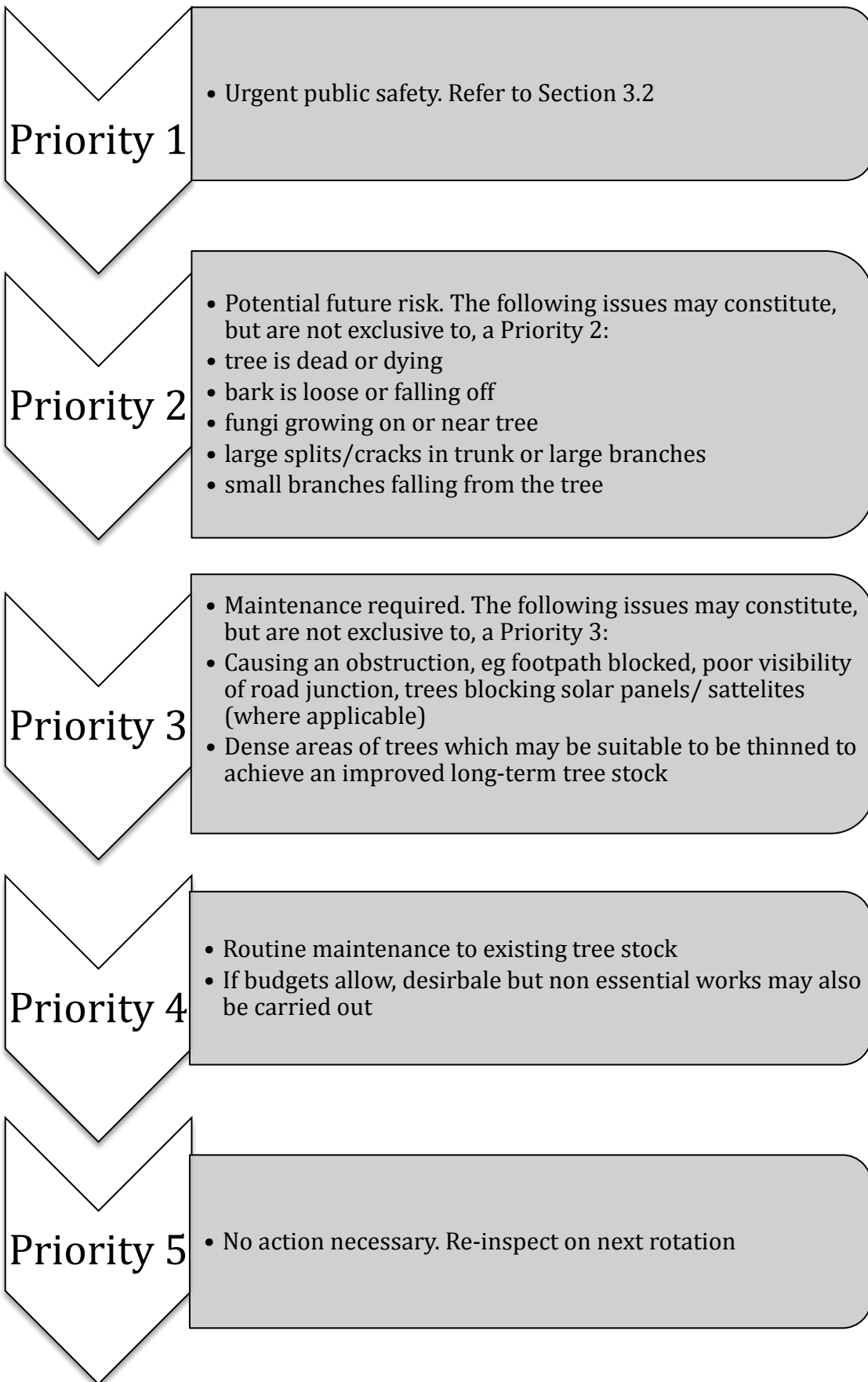
- Support a policy that allows residents to request work on a Council owned tree
- Inspect the aforementioned tree and specify work required
- Ensure that if work is required, money is allocated from the appropriate budget and work is issued to a contractor

4.4 Tree Work Priorities

Priority work levels are split into 5 separate areas. These areas are established and structured around the defect with the chosen tree/s. With each area an action and reason can be given for such works and this will correspond with the arboricultural work levels described below.

It should be noted that the final decision on works to be carried out fall with Northampton Borough Council for the approval of work.

The issues and actions below are a guide and may be subject to change depending on the severity of the issue. If a tree is subject to adverse weather conditions this may affect the condition of the tree, so the priorities act as a guideline only.



4.5 Arboricultural Work Levels

When works are carried out, it is the contractors' responsibility to carry out these works in accordance with current legal practices statute and common where applicable. Ensuring that the highest possible levels of work standards and safety are adhered to, this should include but is not limited to:

- British Standards BS3998: 2010 'Tree Work- Recommendations'
- Wildlife and Country Act 1981 As Amended
- Habitat and Species Regulations 2007 Amended
- Tree Preservation Orders (Town and Country Planning act)
- Designated Conservation Areas
- Countryside and Rights of Way Act (CROW) 2000
- Hedgerow Regulations 1997

1) Tree Planting- establishing new trees to an existing site:

- Appropriate species needs to be carefully considered, taking into account; growth rate, mature size, water demand, soil conditions, exposure of the site, long term maintenance of the chosen species etc.
- Formative pruning of new trees

2) Light Pruning Operations- minor works that include:

- Lifting tree crowns by 3-3.5 metres
- Clearing lamp column heads by 1.5 metres all round
- Removal of secondary limbs to achieve lighting requirements

3) Selective Pruning Operations- works on individual trees:

- Removal or reduction of selected branches

4) Major Pruning Operations- major works that include:

- Full crown reduction
- Crown thinning
- Hedgerow reduction
- Removal of primary limbs to achieve lighting requirements

5) Minor Tree Removal

- Removal of young trees
- Removal of understory growth
- Coppicing of young trees
- Selecting best specimen trees for retention

6) Major Tree Removal

- Removal of semi mature to mature trees
- Coppicing of mature trees
- Selecting best specimen trees for retention

5. TREES IN THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

This section looks at some of the most common conflicts that the Council's urban trees cause and how these can be mitigated or overcome without felling or excessive pruning. It is important to strike a balance between removing problem trees and retaining trees in good health.

5.1 Damage To Property

The council takes into account the long term effects of planting trees near buildings when designing planting schemes referring to current relevant guidance such as NHBC Standards Chapter 4.2 'Building Near Trees' and British Standard 5837: 2012 'Trees in relation to construction.'

Should you have concerns about tree-related property damage you should first contact your insurance provider to seek advice.

Should you, or anyone acting on your behalf, wish to make a claim for damage or formally notify the council of concerns about future damage then you should contact us at enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

5.2 Light

NBC aims to manage its trees so that they contribute to making the environment attractive and healthy. Equally NBC aim to keep locality reasonably safe and ensure that trees do not cause an excessive nuisance.

A common complaint about urban trees within housing estates, open spaces and parks is that the available daytime light to properties and footpaths is being blocked. This also relates to night-time with urban trees blocking lamp columns creating excessive shade in public areas. No one has a direct right to light in common law, however works can be carried out to improve light to areas and to create more aesthetically pleasing community spaces.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

5.3 Television And Satellite Reception

The Council requests that you contact your satellite or TV provider who should be able to provide a solution to any problems with reception issues. This will most likely be relocating the satellite dish/ TV aerial or boosting the signal.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

Should there still be issues after these solutions have been implemented then the Council will consider pruning works on a tree in extreme cases and only where it is possible to do so without being detrimental to the health or amenity of the tree.

5.4 Bird Droppings

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. Bird droppings can be a nuisance but are not considered sufficient reason to carry out pruning works on/ felling a tree. Bird droppings can be removed with warm water and soap.

Nesting birds are also protected under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended, which means that it is illegal to carry out tree works where there are nesting birds.

5.5 Blossom And Fruits

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. Tree blossom and fruits are a natural occurrence and cannot be prevented with pruning.

Roads and pavements are swept regularly to prevent build up of blossom or fruit as part of normal cleaning cycles. If you would like to request a street cleaning please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

5.6 Insects

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. It should be noted that bees are a protected species so advice should be sought before considering removal. You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

Honeydew can occur as a result of aphids feeding on a tree. The aphids then excrete honeydew, which is a sugary sap. Honeydew is a natural and seasonal problem. Pruning will only offer temporary relief and the regrowth has potential to be colonized by an increased number of aphids, exacerbating the problem. Any cars affected should be washed with warm and soapy water to remove the honeydew.

5.7 Leaves

This Council will not fell or prune any trees that cause minor nuisances but strive to find alternative solutions. The falling of leaves is part of the natural cycle that occurs each autumn and cannot be avoided by pruning.

Property owners are encouraged to regularly maintain their gutters to avoid blockages. Guards can be fitted where regular blockages of gutters occur.

Roads and pavements are swept regularly to prevent build up of blossom or fruit as part of normal cleaning cycles. If you would like to request a street cleaning please contact enquiries@northampton.gov.uk or telephone 0300 330 7000.

You can also exercise your Common Law Right to cut back any nuisance branches/ foliage to the boundary of your property. See 3.1 for more details.

6. TREE PLANTING, ESTABLISHMENT AND DESIGN

The Council aims to improve the quality of life and the environment in Northamptonshire through proactive and appropriate tree planting. Our aim is to get the right tree in the right location so that urban trees are in harmony with the environment and community.

6.1 Tree Replacement

The Council will endeavour to plant at least one tree of a suitable species and size at the most appropriate site in the locality. Should this not be possible then an alternative site will be sought.

6.2 Species And Site Selection

The Council aims to reduce conflicts between trees and the urban environment by agreeing to:

- Plant trees that will grow to a size appropriate for their location
- Plant a variety of species to help avoid the environmental damage of disease
- Plant tree species, which are native to Britain where conservation and biodiversity are a priority as they hold the greatest wildlife value. However, the Council will plant a variety of native and non-native species throughout the Borough to ensure they select the most appropriate tree for the location
- All works are to be carried out the standards set out in BS8545:2014 Trees: from nursery to independence in the landscape
- Work with developers to advise on trees and sites on new housing developments within the Borough

6.3 Highways Trees

If you have an issue regarding a Highways Tree please contact Street Doctor <http://www3.northamptonshire.gov.uk/councilservices/northamptonshire-highways/roads-and-streets/Pages/report-highway-problem.aspx>

Maintenance Zones

Date: 01-08-2016

Scale: 1:14,000



Legend

- Maintenance Zones
- Northampton Boundary
- Tree Preservation Orders
- Conservation Areas

