

Report to the Executive



DATE	March 2021
PORTFOLIO	Health & Wellbeing
REPORT AUTHOR	Simon Goff
TEL NO	477223
EMAIL	sgoff@burnley.gov.uk

Tree Management Policy

PURPOSE

1. To seek approval to adopt the updated Tree Management Policy.

RECOMMENDATION

2. The Executive is recommended to consider and approve the attached Tree Management Policy (Appendix 1.).

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

3. The update of the Tree Management Policy is a key decision, as it will determine how the Council will manage and maintain trees on the 550 hectares of green space that it owns across the Borough.

SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

4. The aims of the Tree Management Policy are to:
 - Identify the Council's responsibilities as landowner
 - Establish a risk-based approach to tree management
 - Identify the existing resources available
 - Set out guidance for dealing with requests to prune or fell trees
 - Identify how the Council will inspect trees and prioritise tree work
5. The Tree Management Policy is intended to act as a point of reference for the public, Councillors, Council Officers and professionally interested people to ensure a clear, consistent and structured approach to the management of trees in green spaces.

6. The Council first adopted a Tree Management Policy in 2007. It has now been updated and the following changes have been made:

- an amended schedule of relevant legislation
- a new system of prioritising
- a new system of inspecting trees, following amended best practice guidance.
- a new timescale for responding to enquiries
- changes in the resources of the Council's tree maintenance team
- information on Ash dieback disease

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND BUDGET PROVISION

8. The costs of managing trees using the Council's in-house tree team are funded from the existing revenue budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

9. The Policy identifies that urban trees make a significant contribution to achieving the Council's strategic objectives of Places, People and Prosperity.
10. The Tree Management Policy helps to ensure that the Council has a robust procedure for managing its tree stock, so meeting the Council's duties under the Occupiers Liability act and reducing the risk of liability claims against the Council

DETAILS OF CONSULTATION

11. Scrutiny committee

BACKGROUND PAPERS

12. None

FURTHER INFORMATION

PLEASE CONTACT:

Simon Goff

ALSO:

Roger Rawlinson