

Officer Decisions

Head of Digital Transformation and Business Support - Meg Booth, Rob Parkhouse

Summary of Matter or Issue Requiring Decision

Further to the report taken to Cabinet on 16th May 2018 – HIW/18/32
Proposal in response to the emergence of Ash Dieback, to increase the frequency of scheduled tree safety inspections on both Devon County Council premises, and the higher category Devon County Council maintained highways network, from the current three yearly cycle to a two-year cycle with the option to locally increase to an annual inspection where necessitated by the severity of the outbreak.

Decision Taken

Approved

Summary of Reason(s) for Decision Taken

Summary of Alternatives or Options considered and rejected

Continue with three yearly tree safety inspections to Premises and major Devon County Council maintained highways. This option was rejected on the basis that

- a) Ash dieback infected trees decline so rapidly that trees showing no symptoms in the year of inspection will have declined to a point where they are already a danger to the public, staff, clients, the highways network, and felling operatives by the time they are next inspected in three years' time.
- b) that there is evidence that the number of trees infected and geographical area affected is now large enough to pose a significant risk. Increase frequency of inspection to annually, Countywide.

This was rejected on the basis that outside the high risk target area there was not enough evidence to support this approach. This will however be kept under review as the results of this years surveys come in, and may be the subject of a future Decision.

Details of any conflict of interest and dispensation granted to the Officer taking the decision or by any Member of the Council in delegating responsibility for any specific express delegation

Contact for enquiries/further information

Chris Cranston, Jon Williams

Decision Date

29 June 2018

A copy of this decision and any supporting documentation considered by the Officer taking this decision may also be made available or inspection by the public at the Council's Offices or posted upon payment of any copying and postage charges. Any member of the public wishing to take up either of these options is asked to please ring 01392 382888 or email: members.services@devon.gov.uk