

TREE SAFETY STRATEGY: SUMMARY OF FEEDBACK

Consultee	Comments	Proposed Amendment
Health and Safety Executive	It would appear, in its current draft, to cover the main areas of concern of the HSE	None required
Zurich (Council's Insurers)	<p>(a) It is good to note that you have used a suitable selection of documents for guidance.</p> <p>(b) Reference to inspection systems, just to reiterate that expert opinion should be used on determining the frequency of the tree inspection. This should be a risk based approach taking into several factors such as location, age, species condition on inspection etc</p> <p>(c) It is a good idea to consider the systems in place at other local authorities.</p> <p>(d) It was observed that there seems to be a good set of policies regarding inspection frequency, including post-storm.</p> <p>(e) It is a good idea to vary the timing of each trees inspection.</p> <p>(f) It is good that the report indicated that you will prioritise safety/emergency works over other tree work.</p> <p>(g) Re policies 12 and 13 relating to inspection records, there should be some reference to cross-referencing these with tree works records to provide an audit trail from inspection to completion of remedial action.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>None proposed – It is felt that the Council has taken due diligence in establishing the inspection frequency and this has been noted by Zurich (see (d) below).</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>Noted.</p> <p>None proposed – Whilst no amendment to the Strategy is proposed it is recognised that cross-referencing would be good practice and a system will be investigated.</p>

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Zurich (continued)	(h) It would be useful to include a commitment to review the policy regularly, perhaps annually.	None proposed – It is proposed that an annual review of the Strategy is excessive, however, it is acknowledged at Section 8 that amendments will be made should changes in industry and national guidance dictate.
Bordering Local Authorities	Sevenoaks District Council responded with no negative comments.	None required.
Kent County Council Landscape Services	No comments.	None required.
Institute of Chartered Foresters	<p>The Institute of Chartered Foresters is represented on the National Tree Safety Group which is currently producing Guidance for all land owners on tree safety. This Guidance is at final drafting stage and is planned for release in early summer. It is clear that your own Strategy is very much in line with the National Guidance as it currently stands.</p> <p>Page 9 section 7.3 please amend 'Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters' to 'Professional Member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters' as we have non-chartered members working towards their exams.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Wording changed as proposed.</p>
Forestry Commission	No comments.	None required.

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Kent County Council	No comments.	None required.
The Woodland Trust	No comments.	None required.
Arboricultural Association	The Arboricultural Association regrets it is unable to provide comments on issues at local level. The AA's ongoing work with the National Tree Safety Group, published from time to time in its members' Newsletter and on www.trees.org.uk , should inform your work.	None required.