

Recommendations and Comments arising from Tree Safety Policy Review

Recommendation/Comment	TMBC Health and Safety Officer Comments	Proposed amendments
Include mention of the Highways Act 1980 when listing the legal obligations, if there is a separate policy that relates to Tree's and Highways, then this should be at least signposted within this subsection of the policy.	Agree with recommendation to include reference to Highways Act 1980 to list of legal obligations.	Add reference to Highways Act to Section 4.
Explanation of the levels of inspection should be defined before Policy 2 makes mention of their requirement for a specific categorisation of tree.	N/A	Explain categorisation of trees within section 7.2.
Preceding the "Policy 2" being raised, there is a comparison of the neighbouring councils attitudes to tree inspection. Albeit this comparison is useful information, it is more useful to internal stakeholders at TMBC and therefore should not form part of the policy document that could be disclosed to third parties if requested under a Freedom of Information Act (FOI2000) Request. This comparison gives potential claimants ammunition to cross examine other councils and dispute the actions of TMBC. This policy document should relate to the policy of TMBC alone.	HSO - Agree with recommendation to remove reference to other Local Authorities approach to tree safety.	Remove references to the approach of other Local Authorities.
If expert inspection requirements are identified from basic inspections, basic inspections should be detailed first to assist the flow of reading the policy document.	N/A	Detail basic inspections before expert inspections.
Post storm reports are most likely to be called in to the council with the third party requesting an inspection, within Policy 4 it is recommended that there is mention of requests for reactive inspections following complaint that still allows for reasonable management of these inspections.	Agree with Zurich Recommendation. Reword this section.	Reword section as recommended.

<p>Within the Policy 10 there is mention that trees that pose an immediate threat should be taped off. The act of taping off a tree should mention specifically that this should be done when it is safe to do so or following an expert inspection. This removes the unreasonable expectation that council employees would be going to trees that have been identified during hazardous weather conditions to immediately carry out this action.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Add wording as recommended.</p>
<p>Policy 11 - Include a third category that details if no further action is required until the next inspection.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>This could be added for use if there are no works required across an entire site, but as the inspections use negative reporting, it would not be used for individual trees that do not require any works.</p>
<p>Specifically ask for the categorisation of response that the inspection requires on the basic inspection sheet.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Inspection sheet already includes a priority column. No amendment required.</p>
<p>Specifically ask for the categorisation of response that the inspection requires on the expert inspection sheet.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Inspection sheet already includes a priority column. No amendment required.</p>
<p>Remove the strategic objective for an upgrade to digital record systems from the policy document.</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Remove the strategic objective as recommended.</p>