



**Oversight and Governance**

Chief Executive's Department  
Plymouth City Council  
Ballard House  
Plymouth PL1 3BJ

Please ask for  
T 01752 305155  
E [democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk](mailto:democraticsupport@plymouth.gov.uk)  
[www.plymouth.gov.uk](http://www.plymouth.gov.uk)

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## **MEMBERS' WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

Friday 31 January 2025

## **Members' Written Questions**

- 1. Tree Maintenance: (Pages 3 - 4)**
- 2. Old Town Street - No Anti-Terrorist Measures: (Pages 5 - 6)**

**MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

**Question submitted by:** Councillor Beer

**To Cabinet Member:** Councillor Briars-Delve

**Question:** *Why are the council not maintaining trees in the city? and I'm particularly keen to understand why tree maintenance is not being carried out on trees that affect people's homes. With the high winds lately, I have several residents who have huge branches hanging over their home and driveways which could cause damage or threat to life if not maintained correctly. The trees I refer to are Council owned.*

**Response:** (for completion by City Council officers and Cabinet Members)

*The Council has responsibility to manage and maintain tens of thousands of trees across the city to ensure that the city both benefits from the many benefits that trees bring to residents, whilst also maintaining a safe environment for all.*

*The Council achieves this with the resources at its disposal through an organised risk-based approach to tree inspections across the city, combined with inspections arising from reports from members of the public about trees that it owns. Last year the Council carried out inspections of hundreds of streets and areas containing Council-owned trees.*

*In response to any defects or health conditions recorded from inspections the Council team has to apply its agreed policies and professional judgement about any tree surgery required and the prioritisation of this. We have produced a summary of this in the attached document to provide Councillors with information to understand this.*

*If residents wish to report a concern or problem with a Council-owned tree they can do so through the webpage Report a tree problem | PLYMOUTH.GOV.UK. The Council team will then do some checks on the information provided and if deemed necessary will carry out an inspection of the tree concerned.*

*The Council invests considerable resource into maintaining its valued urban forest, this includes having its own internal arboriculture team and a pro-active tree maintenance contract to maintain over 2,000 of the city's most prominent street trees in residential streets across the city. In addition, the city has a nationally recognised tree planting programme which is planting right trees in the right place for future generations and securing funding to achieve this and maintenance of the city's existing trees.*

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'B-F' with a stylized flourish.

**Dated: 13/01/2025**

# MEMBER'S WRITTEN QUESTION



Member submitting the question: Councillor Terri Beer

Date received: 12/21/2024 8:49:29 AM

To the Cabinet Member for: Councillor Sally Haydon

Question: Why is Old Town Street not got any anti terriost measures?

Answer: As a result of the post-war rebuild, our city centre is unique in the scale of our public realm spaces and the interface of these spaces with highways and moving traffic. This presents potential issues when balancing the needs of accessing and servicing businesses in the city centre whilst ensuring a robust and safe pedestrian environment. As the city centre has multiple wide streets and vehicular access points, approaching how we safely control and manage vehicles in these spaces needs to be approached in a holistic manner for the entire city centre, not through interventions as part of individual projects which may address an issue at one location but fails to address wider issues of access via adjacent streets and spaces.

We are assessing and controlling all areas according to the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 and in consideration of the forthcoming legislation known as [Martyn's Law](#). We will be working in partnership with the Police Counter Terrorism team to ensure we are taking appropriate measures.

Signed:

Date: 07.01.2025

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