

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