

Natural Infrastructure and Growth Scrutiny Panel



Date of meeting:	03 December 2025
Title of Report:	Tree Management Principles 2025
Lead Member:	Councillor Tom Briars-Delve (Cabinet Member for Environment and Climate Change)
Lead Strategic Director:	Glenn Caplin-Grey (Strategic Director for Growth)
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Your Reference:	Click here to enter text.
Key Decision:	No
Confidentiality:	Part I - Official

Purpose of Report

To brief Scrutiny Committee on the council's updated Tree Management Principles document and the process behind its review.

Recommendations and Reasons

1. Endorse the updated Tree Management Principles 2025 document.

Reason: To ensure the council has met its commitments to reviewing its approach to management of trees in the city.

Alternative options considered and rejected

1. Do nothing – this would have left the Council with out-of-date processes around tree management which did not reflect the good practice on the ground and commitments the council had made.
2. Update the document without any engagement with key partners.

Relevance to the Corporate Plan and/or the Plymouth Plan Corporate Plan

The plan sets out how we will deliver the objectives using the Corporate Principles of Democracy, Fairness, Responsibility and Co-operation as well as setting out how it supports the city vision of “One of Europe’s most vibrant waterfront cities, where an outstanding quality of life is enjoyed by everyone.”

Plymouth Plan

Delivers against HEA7 which focuses on health and wellbeing through natural spaces and GRO6, which emphasises the delivery of a sustainable and integrated natural network.

Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:

The document recognises the resource challenge that the council faces to be able to meet its standards but the framework set out is within the context of existing resource levels.

Financial Risks

The document sets out the approach to managing the council owned trees across the city within the context of reasonable practicability and within existing resource levels.

Legal Implications

The document sets out an approach and actions which ensure the Council meets all its duties under the various relevant legislation in relation to tree management.

Carbon Footprint (Environmental) Implications:

The document supports delivery of actions set out in the Net Zero Action Plan and illustrates the approach that it will take to deliver a city-wide tree planting programme as well as managing its existing tree stock in the best possible way to retain carbon sequestration capacity and other environmental benefits that trees provide to the city and its communities.

Other Implications: e.g. Health and Safety, Risk Management, Child Poverty:

** When considering these proposals members have a responsibility to ensure they give due regard to the Council's duty to promote equality of opportunity, eliminate unlawful discrimination and promote good relations between people who share protected characteristics under the Equalities Act and those who do not.*

The document sets out the approach that the council will take to fulfil its duties in managing an effective safety management system around tree safety.

Appendices

**Add rows as required to box below*

Ref.	Title of Appendix	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
A	Tree Management Principles 2025							
B	251203 Scrutiny committee_Briefing report_Tree Management Principles							

Background papers:

**Add rows as required to box below*

Please list all unpublished, background papers relevant to the decision in the table below. Background papers are unpublished works, relied on to a material extent in preparing the report, which disclose facts or matters on which the report or an important part of the work is based.

Title of any background paper(s)	Exemption Paragraph Number (if applicable) <i>If some/all of the information is confidential, you must indicate why it is not for publication by virtue of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by ticking the relevant box.</i>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Sign off:

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Originating Senior Leadership Team member: Andy Sharp											
Please confirm the Strategic Director(s) has agreed the report? Yes Date agreed: 20/11/2025											
Cabinet Member approval: Approved verbally Date approved: 13/11/2025											