

TREE MANAGEMENT

Your Plymouth Scrutiny Panel – 10 March 2014



ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT PANEL MEETING HELD ON 4 NOVEMBER 2013

1. Whether there was enough money in the budget to undertake the work required and for continued future tree management

The current operating model for tree management i.e. prioritising the dead dying and dangerous trees, has been effective in keeping on top of work requests of this nature. The current budget does not cope with the requirements placed on the city to undertake work of a less serious nature such as tree/limb removal for causing nuisances or blocking views or light.

2. Is the council's policy to cut down trees rather than maintain them if that is the cheaper option?

No, each tree is looked at individually and is assessed for decay and damage. The work requested on each tree is designed to maximise the life of the tree. Trees play an important role within the city in absorbing water, combating air pollution and reducing the urban heat island effect.

3. Does the council know which trees it owns and has responsibility for and is this information available in map form?

The Council has mapped all of its land using GIS therefore we know if a tree or group of trees are on land owned by Plymouth City Council. This can be viewed using our corporate GIS system GGP. It does not cover each individual tree but will indicate the land which is growing on either PCC or in another's ownership.

4. Were waiting lists being managed effectively or were people waiting too long?

Waiting lists are being managed effectively, the work completed over each year is dependent on climatic conditions (if we suffer from severe storms then the budget has to cope with the storm damaged trees as well as the dead dying and dangerous). The priority system put in place is communicated effectively to those who have requested a visit from the tree officer and understand the process and reasons behind it.