

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 13 September 2018

## Report of the Head of Service Asset Management

### Part I

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

## Tree Safety Management Guidance - Risk Based Inspections

(Appendix 'A' refers)

Contact for further information:

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### Executive Summary

The Tree Safety Management Guidance document at Appendix 'A' sets out proposals to include the inspection of trees within the highway safety inspection regime. This document also introduces a risk based approach to the identification and management of trees that are considered to pose a higher risk to road users and/or property.

### Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to approve the Tree Safety Management Guidance set out at Appendix 'A'.

### Background and Advice

The Tree Safety Management Guidance attached at Appendix 'A' introduces measures aimed at protecting as far as is reasonably practical the public and property from injury and damage arising from dangerous or falling trees.

It is proposed to incorporate the inspection of trees into the highway safety inspection regime. In order to achieve this, highway safety inspectors will be trained to look for obvious defects in trees that are growing within or adjacent to the vehicular highway.

This document also formalises a risk based approach for the identification and management of higher risk trees. This risk based approach is in line with UK Roads Liaison Groups document 'Well-managed Highway Infrastructure: A Code of Practice' as endorsed by the Department for Transport.

The proposed risk assessment is based on the network hierarchy as used by the highway safety inspection regime to determine priorities and will take into account a number of risk factors to identify and prioritise the locations of higher risk tree surveys.

The Tree Safety Management Guidance also outlines the procedures to be adopted when tree defects and/or higher risk trees are detected.

### **Consultations**

N/A

### **Implications:**

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

### **Financial Implications**

Any costs associated with the guidance within this report, such as training and inspections, will be funded from within the existing 2018/19 revenue budget.

### **Risk management**

The implementation of this guidance will help the county council to manage the risk that trees growing within or adjacent to the vehicular highway pose to the general public, highway users and owners/occupiers of property as a result of dangerous or falling trees.

### **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A