

Community, Leisure & Recreation Committee

Date:	20 October 2020
Title:	Tree Condition Report
Contact Officer:	Andrea Oughton, Asset Manager

Purpose of the Report

1. To note the Tree Condition Report and the recommendations arising from it.

Background

2. The last formal monitoring of trees on sites / public open spaces managed by the Town Council was undertaken 2013. The report was compiled 'in house' and documented the tree location, species, maturity, condition, estimated measurements and a suggested work programme.
3. Since 2013 Tree Management Reports have been commissioned, when needed, for specific areas using arboricultural specialists i.e. a report on The Moats in 2018.

Update

4. John Morris, an expert with over 30 years' experience in tree and woodland management, was commissioned to undertake a survey to assess what tree work is needed and put together an inventory of trees on Council owned land. 19 sites were visited and 362 trees tagged. The Tree Condition Report is attached as Appendix 1.
5. The report suggests areas for future new planting and replacement tree planting for those that have been lost or may need to be felled in the future.

Resource Appraisal

6. The 'work priorities and recommendations column' on each site report identifies work to be carried out in the next six months (highlighted in red) and less urgent work / monitoring (highlighted in yellow).
7. The 2020-21 tree budget was increased by £5k to £10k to cover commissioning a new tree survey and allow for identified urgent work to be undertaken.

Risk Assessment

8. Failure to monitor trees on public open space may result in personal injury claims or property damage claims on the Town Council. Regular monitoring and maintenance will reduce the risk.

Legal Powers

- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 (HSWA)
- Public Health Act 1875, s.164
- Open Spaces Act 1906, ss.10.

Action:

- i) To note the Tree Condition report.*