

Tree Strategies/Policies Comparison (Updated August 2019)

APPENDIX 3

	TREE MANAGEMENT STANDARDS	DEVELOP &, EXPLAND TREE STOCK, NEW PLANTING AND REPLACE	TREE REMOVAL CRITERIA	WHEN FELLING/PRUNING WORKS ARE NOT PERMITTED	SUSTAINABLE TREE POPULATION AND WILDLIFE HABITAT
Darlington Borough Council (current policy 2011-2020)	We will maintain the highest possible standards of tree care and management by: i) Working to standards set within BS 3998 2010. ii) Adopting best practice according to all relevant legislation and research.	We will ensure that the tree population continues to be developed and expanded with new planting where appropriate. Any trees removed shall be replaced unless there are special circumstances preventing this.	We will resist the removal of trees unless there are sound arboricultural or other reasons e.g. dead, diseased, dying or proven structural damage.	We will not carry out felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to improve the reception of television signals, solar panels and wind turbines or for CCTV operations, or the alleviation of bird mess, honey dew, leaf or fruit fall.	We will provide a sustainable, high quality tree population. We will endeavour to avoid any work to trees that result in the loss of valuable wildlife habitat. Where appropriate, native species will be planted to maximise habitats for wildlife. We will support the process of natural regeneration on appropriate sites
Durham County Council (updated policy dated July 2017, previous policy July 2014)	We aim to provide high standards of tree management based on the latest arboricultural research and promote such standards with other parties. We will seek to ensure that all works to Council owned trees, or those that the Council is responsible for (including work carried out by third parties), are in accordance with arboricultural best practice and guided by recommendations within British Standards for tree works BS3998 (2010) or subsequent updates.	To help maintain a continuity of tree cover across the county we will undertake the planting of new trees on our land when suitable opportunities arise. Where trees are removed from land owned / managed by us, replacement planting will be carried out where appropriate.	We will not prune or fell a tree under council ownership / management because it is considered to be 'too big' or 'too tall' for its surroundings. We will normally not prune or fell a tree under our ownership / management where a request has been made to do so because of a personal medical complaint. However, where it can be established that the presence of a tree is causing a detriment to the health of residents, further consideration will be given to the management approach of trees. We will consider felling or pruning the roots of a tree under our ownership / management to allow the installation of a drop kerb. Each case will be considered on an individual basis.	Removal or pruning of trees to enable a clear television reception would only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Similarly we will not prune or fell a tree in our ownership / management to: - improve natural light to a solar panel. - alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena, which are largely outside of our control. - We will not normally prune or fell a tree in our ownership/management to prevent or reduce interference with telephone wires. We would recommend contacting the telecom service provider in such circumstances for them to arrange appropriate pruning works.	Trees are important features in the landscape. Not only do trees have a visual quality, but they also enhance the environment in less obvious ways: - they provide food and habitat for birds and other wildlife, thus supporting nature conservation value and biodiversity;
Hartlepool Borough Council (current policy 2011-2016 not yet updated)	Through its management of publicly owned trees, and through its control of privately owned trees in conservation areas or with tree preservation orders, the Council has considerable influence over the contribution that trees make to the urban landscape of the borough. All maintenance work on publicly owned trees is undertaken by trained and qualified arborists located in the Grounds Maintenance section, and is carried out in accordance with the current BS3998 'Recommendations for tree work'.	By adopting this updated tree strategy Hartlepool Borough Council further demonstrates its commitment to caring for the trees under its management and increasing the number of trees in public places. In order to maintain and enhance an abundant and healthy tree population it is necessary to have an ongoing programme of new and replacement planting. The Council will identify further opportunities for tree planting in streets, on highway verge, in public open space, parks, cemeteries and other public land and will undertake to annually plant more trees than are removed.	Trees of amenity value will not be felled unless there is a very clear justification for the work and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. That said there will be circumstances where due to their condition it is necessary to remove individual trees. Where practical and appropriate however, the Council will undertake to replant with a new tree in the same location or nearby.	The Council will not usually prune trees to improve television reception or to remove seasonal nuisances such as fallen leaves.	The overall aim of the Hartlepool Tree Strategy is to enhance the role and status of trees in the borough and to ensure the sustainability of its tree population. Trees and woodlands provide a wide range of environmental, economic and social benefits. They have a vital role to play in the sustainability and liveability of our town. Trees in streets can provide natural links with parks and open spaces, allowing for the movement of wildlife between areas. Where there are implications for biodiversity, trees are assessed by the Council's Ecologist prior to pruning or felling to ensure that there are no breeding birds, roosting bats or other wildlife likely to be harmed.

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Middlesbrough Borough Council (updated policy dated 2018 replaced previous policy)	MBC's Tree Policy sets out the criteria for the inspection regime, which Middlesbrough Council will adopt in respect of those trees for which it has a legal responsibility. The policy also explains how the Council will deal with complaints in respect of those trees, details the legislation on which the policy criteria is based and sets out how disputes in terms of complaint resolution will be dealt with.	The Council will ensure appropriate planting takes place to replenish a site in the event of the need to remove trees.	The Council will not fell or prune any tree without good reason. The Council will avoid felling trees unless it is absolutely necessary and each case will be carefully judged on its merits. Felling may be considered where a tree is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dead, dying or infected by a disease that has a significant detrimental impact on the host. - A danger to public safety. - Causing an obstruction to a public highway, right of way, access to property or footpath. - A major contributor to serious structural damage to buildings or infrastructure. - Clearly of a size and species deemed by the Authority to be inappropriate to their situation. - In an area which is designated for development or redevelopment. 	Pruning can weaken the structure of trees and should be avoided unless absolutely necessary. Where trees within an urban environment are blocking light into a property there is no legal 'right to light'. The tree owner is not by law obliged or required to carry out work to the tree for the benefit of level of light. This is the position adopted by the Council. The Council will not prune or remove trees due to poor TV or satellite or telephone reception. In most cases relocating the aerial or satellite dish or having a booster to improve the reception can significantly improve the situation.	Trees are an important part of the Middlesbrough environment and provide enjoyment, visual attractiveness and important wildlife habitats.
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council (current policy 2013-2018 not yet updated)	R&C work to recognised standards and best practice. All work must be carried out to recognised, modern safety standards, such as BS 3998 and BS 5837 and their subsequent revisions.	Our vision is for our trees to thrive in a well-managed, safe, sustainable environment for the benefit of current and future generations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Replace lost tree species (where budget allows). - Prioritise the replacement of ageing street trees, particularly where they adjoin major traffic routes, planting larger trees species where appropriate. - Plant suitable and appropriate tree species for new and/or replacement planting in roads that will reflect the type in use locally, maintaining avenues of single species where appropriate. 	Our approach will be only to remove trees that are dead, diseased, dangerous, or can be proven to be linked to the damage caused to buildings. This approach fully addresses the Council's duty of care in accordance with current industry best practice, and ensures that all possible investigations are carried out. The onus in all cases will be on the resident to provide evidence, at their own expense, to demonstrate that there is a real likelihood of immediate structural damage to property. Should the Council agree to removal of a healthy tree without evidence of immediate structural damage, then in all cases, the costs of this action and any remedial works such as reinstating the pavement etc. will be passed on in full to the resident. The Council will not look favourably upon requests from residents to remove healthy trees, where there is no evidence of immediate structural damage, when that resident has recently moved into a street or estate and the tree was already present.	Reserve the right to refuse felling or potentially disfiguring forms of tree work in order to reduce the amount of shade being cast or to improve the reception of television signals, for CCTV operations, to reduce leaf and seed fall, aphid or bird droppings etc. The very fact that leaves or fruit may fall from trees or that there may be a build-up of bird droppings for example are not reasons to justify the removal of a healthy tree.	Avoid any work to trees that result in the loss of valuable wildlife habitat, recognising the importance of both bird nesting and bat roosting sites. Plant native species, where appropriate to maximise habitats for wildlife
Stockton Borough Council (updated policy dated 2018 replaced previous policy)	All policies relating to tree management are closely guided by Statute Law (Acts of Parliament), English Common Law (Case Law) and modern Arboricultural best practices.	The Council will normally aim to replace trees that are removed on a 1 for 1 basis where appropriate and where resources are available. In relation to conservation areas and TPOs, there is a standard duty to replace trees that are removed on 1 for 1 basis and the Council will serve a Replacement Notice if this is not undertaken within a reasonable time period	The Council will prioritise responding to reports of 'dangerous trees' based on the information provided at the time such as reports of storm damage, signs of breakage, dead/dying or diseased, obstructions caused. It will <u>not</u> prioritise or undertake additional tree inspections in the absence of adequate supporting information or reasons given, such as 'tree too big / moving in the wind / taller than the house'.	The Council will not cut back trees on request if they are partially overhanging properties and otherwise not considered to be causing direct obstruction or unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of property. The Council will not normally prune or remove trees to alleviate light loss unless they are causing substantial encroachment into a property or in the Council's opinion, are considered to be causing unreasonable interference with the use and enjoyment of property.	The Council has a tree planting programme which identifies priority areas for new tree and woodland planting. This includes major green spaces, parks, highways and other public open space where new trees are likely to provide the greatest benefit to the environment and public amenity. These sites will be targeted for new planting where funding opportunities arise.

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		following removal of a protected tree.		<p>There is currently no legal right to direct sunlight or to a view and often pruning trees will only have a negligible impact on the amount of natural light reaching a house or garden. In exceptional cases and at its discretion, the Council may consider some remedial pruning work where it considers there will be sufficient benefit without compromising the health or amenity value of the trees in question.</p> <p>The Council will not normally prune or remove trees that are perceived to be 'overgrown' or 'too big' unless they are causing some form of direct interference or legal nuisance in some way that requires the Council to take action, e.g. severe encroachment, obstructions, hazards etc.</p> <p>There is no legal right to receiving a tv or satellite reception therefore the Council will not normally prune trees back to alleviate interference, and not if it is likely to damage or disfigure a tree.</p> <p>The Council will not undertake tree pruning or removals to try and alleviate the effects of bird droppings, falling leaves, fruit/flowers, sap, honey dew, conkers, seeds or other deposits, insects, pollen allergies.</p> <p>In relation to root invasion in gardens, the Council will not cut back trees or their root systems unless it is considered absolutely necessary to abate an actionable nuisance or where in its opinion considers there is unreasonable interference with use and enjoyment of property and actual damage has been caused to property.</p>	
<p>Scarborough Borough Council (current policy 2016-2030 therefore not yet updated)</p>	<p>The Council needs to carry out all works according to the latest relevant British Standards, Codes of Practice and Guidelines.</p>	<p>The Tree & Woodland Strategy establishes a framework for the care and development of the public tree asset.</p>	<p>The Council will not fell or reduce trees solely for the reason that light structures such as driveways, footways, patios, garden walls, lawns etc. are being disrupted.</p> <p>The Council will only remove or prune Council-owned trees that are proven to be responsible for causing damage to property if this is the most appropriate solution. In these circumstances the Council will require positive evidence to support any including (but not restricted to) the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Age of property - Depth and type of foundation - Building extension history - Spatial arrangement and amplitude of damage - Tree root data - Soil tests - Seasonal monitoring - Level distortion survey <p>The responsibility for provision of such evidence lies with the claimant.</p>	<p>The Council will not prune or remove trees in order to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - improve or provide TV, radio, or satellite reception. <p>The Council will not fell or prune trees solely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - for the purpose of improving solar access to panels. - to alleviate problems caused by natural and/or seasonal phenomena. - for the purpose of eradicating honeydew or sooty moulds. <p>The Council will not generally prune or remove trees in order to improve or restore views.</p>	<p>The Council needs to ensure its tree operations comply with the Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000, the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006, Habitats Directives, and all other relevant legislation including trees on Scheduled Ancient Monument Sites.</p>

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			The Council will not undertake the pruning or felling of trees to prevent roots entering damaged pipes.		
St Helens Council (current policy 2016 not yet updated)		The Council is committed to maintaining and increasing the tree cover across the borough. Budget restrictions may mean that we cannot commit to replacing every council tree that is felled. Currently we plan our annual tree planting in accordance to available budget resources. New trees planted will be appropriate to the location, with species shape and form considered as well as the size of the tree to ensure that a robust tree, less prone to vandalism is planted.	<p>Trees requiring immediate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council trees that are dead, dying or dangerous. <p>Tree related subsidence damage to property:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the Council will rigorously identify and defend any claims which are presumed to be. <p>We will not prune, fell or cut the roots of a council owned/ managed tree to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged.</p> <p>We will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree because it is considered to be too big or too tall.</p> <p>We will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree where a request has been made to do so because of a personal medical condition.</p> <p>The Council is not required to allow the felling or pruning of the roots of a council owned/ managed tree to allow the installation of a drop kerb.</p>	<p>We will not prune or fell a Council owned/managed tree to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - remove or reduce honeydew or other sticky residue from trees. - remove or reduce blossom from the trees or remove fallen blossom from private land. - remove or reduce bird droppings from trees or to remove bird droppings from private land. - remove or reduce the nuisance of fruit/berries or nuts, or remove such fallen fruit from private land. - remove or reduce incidence of bees, wasps or wild animal. - prevent interference with TV/satellite installation/ reception - alleviate the nuisance of overhanging branches. - improve natural light in a property. - improve the view from a private property - remove or reduce leaf fall or remove fallen leaves from a private property - improve natural light to a solar panel or improve wind conditions for adjacent wind turbines. - remove or reduce interference with telephone wires. There may be instances where the Council will undertake works to prune trees and reduce interference where pruning will be an effective measure. 	The trees and woodlands in St. Helens are seen as a significant asset and resource that is of great significance for the health and benefit of local people as well as being a vital resource for wildlife.
Warrington Borough Council (updated policy dated July 2018 replaced previous policy)	WBC's Tree Policy details its approach to tree management, (including the management of risk associated with trees), and outlines the legal obligations and requirements imposed on the Council as a landowner. The Council also encourages the implementation of best practice in the management of its tree and woodland assets.	Available funding/resources will be used to plant new trees where a need is identified: trees will be selected and sited to complement and enhance the park or green space.	<p>Trees requiring immediate action:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council trees that are dead, dying or dangerous. <p>In circumstances where it is claimed that a tree is impacting upon a resident's health, such cases will be investigated, risk assessed and appropriate action considered.</p>	<p>We will not prune or fell a tree in Council ownership to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - alleviate the nuisance of overhanging branches. - improve natural light to a property. - improve the view from a private property. - because it is considered too big or too small - remove or reduce the fall of leaves, sap (honeydew), blossom and fruit/nut/berry fall or remove fallen leaves, blossom or fruit/nut/berries from private property. - remove or reduce bird droppings from trees or to remove bird droppings from private land. - remove or reduce incidence of bees, wasps or wild animals. - prevent interference with TV / satellite installation / reception and/or telephone wire interference. - to prevent roots entering a drain that is already broken or damaged or cut the roots of a Council owned/managed tree. - to allow the installation of a drop kerb or the pruning of the roots of a Council owned/managed tree. 	To promote the creation and/or maintenance of a high quality amenity landscape within the town, with a sustainable tree cover and the associated environmental benefits