

PRIORITY SYSTEM FOR REMEDIAL TREE WORK

Where remedial work to a tree is identified as being necessary, either as part of the Tree Hazard Risk Assessment or following an enquiry, this will be added to a scheduled programme of Arboricultural works and be undertaken in accordance with the following priority based system:

Each particular job will be categorized and will reflect on the urgency of the situation, the degree of inconvenience being caused and the best time of year for the work to be undertaken.

The following categories will be used when prioritising tree works:

PRIORITY	RESPONSE	DESCRIPTION
PRIORITY 0	Up to 1 week	EMERGENCY tree work requiring an immediate response to remove a hazard – Access to tree location may be restricted until work can be completed
PRIORITY 1	Within 12 weeks	Work to be classified as ESSENTIAL, associated with mitigation of a danger. The Council will endeavour to ensure that works will be undertaken within 12 weeks of the inspection.
PRIORITY 2	Within 6 months	Work to be classified as DESIRABLE. The Council will endeavour to ensure that work will be undertaken within 6 months of the inspection. These will be works associated with the mitigation of nuisance such as branches brushing against buildings in normal winds.
PRIORITY 3	12 Months	Non essential maintenance work including cyclical pruning, cultural pruning and pollarding where work needs to be undertaken at the appropriate time of year to ensure the longer term health of the tree
PRIORITY 4		Work classified as NON ESSENTIAL or NON DESIRABLE. If work classified as Priority 4, no works will be scheduled to occur. Work in this category will be reviewed regularly and may occur within 12 months if funding is available.

REMEDIAL TREE WORK

The Council will implement a policy for pruning and felling trees based on the Council's legal obligations as a land owner and manager of trees and the financial resources available

There will be a presumption against the removal of trees, which are healthy, but subject to complaint, unless the basis of the complaint has an overriding justification and no alternative management practice can be implemented.

Details	Action	Priority	Notes
<p>Emergency Tree Work:</p> <p>Tree is an immediate threat to public or property</p>	<p>Tree to be inspected within two hours, following which:</p> <p>Whole tree or part of tree to be removed where appropriate</p> <p>If necessary area to be closed to public/public evacuated until works can be undertaken</p>	0	Officers usually notified by CBC Helpline, Police or Essex County Council Highway Control

<p>Dangerous Tree</p> <p>Whole or part of tree represents threat to the public or property</p>	<p>Tree to be removed or pruned to mitigate danger</p>	<p>0 or 1</p>	<p>Priority dependant on severity of fault</p>
<p>Dangerous tree on Private Land</p>	<p>CBC will only get involved where there is an imminent risk to the public or property and private landowner is either unavailable or refuses to undertake work.</p> <p>Tree owner will be given 21 days to mitigate the nuisance or 14 days where tree is endangering public highway</p> <p>If no action taken, CBC may undertake felling or pruning work and seek to recover costs from landowner</p> <p>In extreme circumstances If there is an immediate danger to public or property, CBC may take action to remove the risk without serving notice to the landowner</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>Tree overhangs Neighbouring Property</p>	<p>NO ACTION POSSIBLE</p> <p>Neighbour may prune tree back to boundary – see main policy for details</p>		
<p>Tree is touching building</p>	<p>Council will prune tree for minimum 2 metre clearance from property</p>	<p>2 or 3</p>	<p>Priority dependant on severity of problem and action needed</p>
<p>Obstruction Of Roads, Cycleways, Footway or Street Furniture</p>	<p>Council will carry out crown lifting or crown reduction work to the tree to provide vehicle and pedestrian headroom clearance or clear signage</p>	<p>1</p>	
<p>Tree Blocking Light to Property</p>	<p>Council will assess using formula contained in the Tree Policy.</p> <p>If eligible. crown reduction, crown thinning or crown lifting works will be undertaken</p>	<p>2 or 3</p>	<p>Priority dependant on severity of problem and action needed</p>
<p>Tree is blocking TV and Radio Reception</p>	<p>Evidence required that every effort made to find an engineering solution to the problem</p> <p>Work will only be undertaken if it can be undertaken in accordance with good arboricultural practice and will not unduly affect the amenity or health of the tree</p> <p>The work required can be executed within financial resources available</p>	<p>2 or 3</p>	<p>Priority dependant on severity of problem and action needed</p>

<p>Tree is causing a nuisance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Falling leaves, sap, fruit, nuts, bird droppings or blossom. -Reduction or increase of moisture to gardens. -Suckers or germinating seedlings in gardens. -Leaves falling into gutters, drains or onto flat roofs. -The build up of algae on fences, paths or other structures 	<p>NO ACTION POSSIBLE</p>		
<p>Tree is damaging overhead power cables</p>	<p>No action from CBC but will notify energy provider (EDF) of obstruction</p> <p>EDF may clear line as part of on-going line clearance programme</p> <p>Where CBC are carrying out works to a tree, every effort will be made to provide statutory clearance for power lines</p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>Tree Obstructing Telephone Lines</p>	<p>No action unless notice served by Telecommunications company</p> <p>CBC will endeavour to provide clearance for telephone lines, when undertaking other scheduled pruning</p>	<p>4</p>	
<p>High Hedges</p>	<p>Hedge on Council Land – CBC will apply BRE Formula and take action to prune hedge accordingly</p> <p>All enquiries relating to trees on private land will be passed to CBC Planning team for action</p>	<p>2</p>	
<p>Cyclical Pruning</p>	<p>Where CBC determine that cyclical pruning of trees is required – works will be carried out in the next available season if possible, depending on severity of problem and availability of resources and funding</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Subject to available funding</p> <p>Frequency – 3-6 years depending on circumstances</p>
<p>Dead or Vandalised Trees</p>	<p>Trees will be removed</p> <p>Location of failed tree will be recorded and new tree planted where appropriate</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>Subject to available funding</p>