

Questions Previously Submitted Regarding Tree Management in response to request for item to be covered by O&S Board

What is the current BCP organisational structure for the Management of Trees and how many staff are employed in this work? Is all tree work managed within one department or is it a shared responsibility?

In total there should be 14 staff specifically employed on work managing the trees across the conurbation. Seven within Planning and nine within Environment. Planning oversee how all trees should be protected and managed across public and private land. Whilst Environment's work is more of an operational nature managing and planning for the tree stock on BCP owned land.

Planning – Oversee **privately** owned tree stock. There are seven full time equivalent roles in Planning (including a new Team Leader role), plus a manager who also oversees urban design and heritage. Two posts that were vacant for some time have been filled at the start of 2021, one post is still vacant and filled by a temporary tree officer.

Parks & Bereavement (P&B) – This team undertake all aspects of the management and maintenance of the council owned tree stock on the highway and within parks, gardens and public open spaces. The primary functions of the team include delivering the tree risk management programme, dealing with enquires and insurance cases, bio-security, emergency response and tree planting programmes. They produce and contribute to tree strategies, policies and management plans and provide arboriculture advice to other departments. At full strength there are seven in the team - five officers, one manager and one development post (currently four officers and one manager).

P&B also manage two tree works contracts across the conurbation undertaking emergency response and planned maintenance, including high risk work. P&B directly employ several chainsaw trained operatives who are able to pick up lower risk tree works, such as removal of fallen branches, small tree works, basal growth removal, crown lifting and planting.

Greenspace & Conservation (G&C) – No staff specifically designated to trees. Trees are managed as a vegetation component of nature reserves. Specialist advice sought from P&B for trees in high risk areas or complex works. Staff undertake planting and most tree management on BCP nature reserves, planting often undertaken with volunteers. Several chainsaw-trained rangers to deal with lower risk works.

What is the scope and magnitude of tree work undertaken by the Council?

We estimate that BCP manage around 50,000 street trees, amongst an overall BCP tree stock across all BCP sites of between 750,000 and 1,000,000. There are over 450 open space sites across BCP, covering approximately 2,500 hectares.

Privately owned trees are covered by Planning – as per first question.

What policies are currently used to manage the planting and maintenance of BCP managed trees and are these legacy Council Policies or have these been consolidated into a single BCP policy?

Local Plans. Tree Preservation Orders. Conservation Area policies. BBC legacy tree strategy. SSSI/SAC/SPA Management Plans. Park management plans. Forestry Commission funded/approved woodland management plans.

Climate & Ecological Emergency – It is also worth noting that teams from across BCP will be working together on tree planting plans to mitigate climate change, filter pollutants and improve biodiversity.

These have not been consolidated across BCP yet.

How is the condition of BCP managed trees assessed? What is the scheduled inspection/maintenance programme and what is the periodicity of this?

Tree health and condition is assessed via information collected on the council's tree management software system, Ezytreed. Data can then be used to analyse factors such as condition, age range and species diversity. This information can then be used to inform management plans and the BCP Tree & Woodland Strategy. Frequency of risk management inspection and maintenance regimes vary depending on the site, location and tree species (e.g. trees in high footfall areas or species prone to disease will be inspected more regularly).

How many requests for Tree Work are received by the Council, what is the process and how are these managed? Is the process the same for all areas?

In Bournemouth during 2019 approximately 350 requests for tree works were received via the tree work request form system (this does not include emails). Poole and Christchurch receive similar numbers giving an estimated total of 1,000 requests per annum. The process is not the same for each legacy area, work is ongoing to align the request system across BCP.

What role does the Council play in the management of privately owned trees?

Management of privately owned trees is largely through the Planning Service and applying Planning legislation relating to:

- Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs), trees in conservation areas, dead/dangerous trees, trees on development sites, enforcement and contraventions.

In 2020 - 1,900 tree work applications were received, arboriculture advice/responses were provided for hundreds of development sites and dead/dangerous trees, dozens of new TPOs were made and dozens of alleged contraventions (enforcement work) were investigated.

BCP Parks & Bereavement also provide chargeable tree management advice/services to other organisations such as parish councils, schools etc.