

Impact Assessment - First Stage

1. Details of the initiative

Initiative description and summary: Update of the Council's Arboricultural Management Plan.
Service Area: Neighbourhood Services
Directorate: Environment & Regeneration
Strategic Decision: Yes

2. Does the initiative affect:

	Yes	No
Service users	x	
Staff	x	
Wider community	x	
Internal administrative process only		x

3. Evidence used in the Assessment

Relevant legislation and guidance have been reviewed in order to ensure compliance through implementation of the plan. Similar management plans from neighbouring local authorities were studied to understand positive and negative impacts of implementing certain strategic decisions.

4. Does the initiative impact on people because of their:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't Know	Impact H/M/L/D	Reasons for your decision and details of the impact
Age		X				
Disability		X				
Gender Reassignment		X				
Marriage/Civil Partnership		X				
Pregnancy/Maternity		X				
Race		X				
Religion/Belief		X				
Sex		X				
Sexual orientation		X				

5. Does the initiative impact on:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence used) / How might it impact?
People's opportunities to use the Welsh language		x				
Treating the Welsh language no less favourably than English			x			Policy will be made available in both Welsh & English

6. Does the initiative impact on biodiversity:

	Yes	No	None/ Negligible	Don't know	Impact H/M/L	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
To maintain and enhance biodiversity	x				L	The arboricultural management plan outlines how ecological assessment will be built into tree management processes. Any tree work will be subject to appropriate ecological surveys (including for nesting birds and bat roosts) and mitigation to ensure maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity. If potential for nesting birds, bat roosts or other features of ecological interest are identified, the Countryside and Wildlife Team will be consulted to assist with planning of any required remedial works and enhancements.
To promote the resilience of ecosystems, i.e. supporting protection of the wider environment, such as air quality, flood alleviation, etc.	x				L	The arboricultural management plan will lead to the removal of diseased, dead or dying trees with the aim to improve the overall health of the tree stock. Where the death of a tree and its subsequent removal will have a negative impact on air quality or flood alleviation, this will be identified as part of the tree inspection process and necessary mitigation and enhancement will be arranged.

7. Does the initiative embrace the sustainable development principle (5 ways of working):

	Yes	No	Details
Long term - how the initiative supports the long term well-being of people	X		By strategically managing our tree stock within the borough of Neath Port Talbot, we will be helping to work towards mitigating both the Nature and Climate change emergencies.

	Yes	No	Details
Integration - how the initiative impacts upon our wellbeing objectives	x		The plan will allow the service to be managed effectively, as opposed to the current reactive approach.
Involvement - how people have been involved in developing the initiative	x		An integral part of tree management is collaboration which will take place with numerous stakeholders such as, Utility Companies, Private Land Owners, contractors and other council departments. Feedback from other departments and neighbourhood officers have been considered throughout the process in order to ensure that implementation of the plan will benefit the wider authority.
Collaboration - how we have worked with other services/organisations to find shared sustainable solutions	x		As Above
Prevention - how the initiative will prevent problems occurring or getting worse	x		The aim of the plan is to ensure that the council is compliant with statutory legislation and best practice guidance. This will reduce the risk of our tree stock to public safety and stationary assets.

8. Declaration - based on above assessment (tick as appropriate):

A full impact assessment (second stage) is not required	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for this conclusion	
No specific impact on protected characteristics or Welsh language, and sustainable management of tree stock.	

A full impact assessment (second stage) is required	
Reasons for this conclusion	

	Name	Position	Signature	Date
Completed by	Laura Owens	Neighbourhood Asset & Project Manager	L. Owens	11.10.2024
Signed off by	Mike Roberts	Head of Streetcare	M. Roberts	24/10/24