

GUIDELINES FOR JOB ALLOCATION FOR STREET TREES

LBHF's Arboriculture Team uses the following criteria when investigating service requests from customers to judge if a tree needs pruning before it is next scheduled to be maintained. Ad-hoc pruning may be justified if one or more of the criteria are met.

- Condition/safety of tree – a defect that increases risk of failure, such as a structural defect, decay or storm damage. Intervention is dependent on tree size, target area, nature of problem and characteristics of tree species.
- Low branches (including suckers/epicormic growth) obstructing footpaths (branches should be no less than 2.3 metres above the footpath) or carriageways (branches should be no less than 4.0 metres above the carriageway, or 5.0 metres if it is a double-deck bus route).
- Branches obscuring traffic signs/controls or street lights.
- Branches that are within 1.0 metre of a building or that overhang a garden/property by more than 5.0 metres.
- Suspected structural damage to property, either supported by a written report from a loss adjuster/surveyor or clear visible signs of damage that could reasonably be linked to tree activity.
- Slip hazards due to excessive fruit fall or bird mess. Works must be proportional to the risk and only undertaken if they will significantly reduce the problem. This type of work is normally only considered where vulnerable groups are at high risk, such as near hospitals, sheltered housing, shops or properties with contributory hazards such as steep basement steps.
- Trip hazards where tree roots have lifted the footpath to trigger intervention by the Highways & Engineering Division.