

# Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire  
County Council

## Arboriculture – Policy Update for Non-Essential Highway Tree Works

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Department: Economy, Transport and  
Environment

Date of  
assessment: 29/03/2021

### Description of current service/policy

Hampshire County Council will currently only carry out tree work on Highway Trees for reasons of safety or actionable nuisance i.e. where damage has occurred or is likely. Other work, such as pruning to reduce shade or to remove branches overhanging adjacent properties, would only be carried out in exceptional circumstances.

Geographical impact: All  
Hampshire

### Description of proposed change

The purpose of this report is to seek to offer a more permissive position on highway tree works and provide an option for residents to request tree works to address seasonal nuisance issues that may exceed the current policy criteria, with the full cost of these works being funded by the resident.

### Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

### Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out? No

The proposed policy update constitutes a variation to existing policy. It does not reduce the current service standards, but offers an additional possible service for residents of properties near highway trees. As such consultation was not deemed necessary.

<b>Statutory considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Age:</b> Neutral		
<b>Disability:</b> Neutral		
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Neutral		
<b>Race:</b> Neutral		
<b>Religion and belief:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender reassignment:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender:</b> Neutral		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership:</b> Neutral		

<b>Pregnancy and maternity:</b> Neutral		
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Poverty:</b> Neutral		
<b>Rurality:</b> Neutral		

## **Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)**

The impact on groups with protected characteristics has been assessed as being neutral. The proposed policy variation enables residents to have a choice of whether to request works to address a non-statutory concern. It does not reduce the current service standards but offers an additional possible service for residents of properties near highway trees. The operation and impact of the policy will be assessed after a year, including a review of equalities impacts.

## **Any other information**