



## PROPOSED OPERATION OF TRIAL FOR COSMETIC WORK TO TREES

### BACKGROUND

The Council's Tree Management Policy allows cosmetic work to trees such as pruning of no more than 15% of the crown usually when a tree is blocking light. The existing base budget is inadequate to accommodate cosmetic work and is fully committed to works addressing health and safety risks. Councillors had become frustrated that there was no means of appealing against the decision of the Arboricultural Officers not to carry out work. It was recognised that the Arboricultural Officer's decisions were influenced by the availability of the budget as well as tree management issues.

### PROPOSAL

A budget transfer of £5,000 has been made from the grounds maintenance budget and has been allocated to Area Panels for cosmetic work to trees.

People wishing to appeal against the decision of the Arboricultural Officer would be advised of their right to do so by the Arboricultural Officer and asked to contact their ward councillor.

If the ward councillor believes the appeal is merited, the Area Panel Manager should be advised. The Area Panel Manager will request an estimate from the Arboricultural Officers for cosmetic work to the tree or trees.

No estimate for work outside of that permitted under the Tree Management Policy will be provided. The appeal will be heard by the Area Panel.

Once the budget has been committed, no further cosmetic work can be commissioned.

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**Background papers:** Tree Management Policy