North Somerset Council

# Ash Dieback Action Plan

North Somerset Council

# The Action Plan

A high-level summary of the Action Plan follows. The day-to-day activity will be managed by the Tree Team with key monitoring and reporting being delivered by the Principal Tree Officer. Progress will be monitored monthly by the Working Group and overseen by the Project Manager who is the Natural Environment Manager, with an escalation process in place should any key tasks be delayed. The delivery of the Ash Dieback Action Plan is a key feature of the Green Infrastructure strategy and will be monitored through that process by the Head of Open Spaces, Natural Environment and Leisure.

**Delivery of the ADAP**
Senior Responsible Officer

↑

**Oversight of progress**
Ash Dieback Working Group

↑

**Delivery of Objectives**
Project Manager

↕

**Progress Monitoring and Reporting**
Principal Tree Officer

↕

**Day-to-Day Management**
Tree Team

Figure 16: Areas of responsibility for ADAP delivery

## Action Plan

- Short term – to be completed by end of 2022
- Medium term – to be completed by end of 2023
- Long term – to be completed by end of 2024
- Ongoing – some areas of work will be continuing throughout the period of the action plan

# Risk

## Define a risk-based approach

- Confirm that the QTRA approach and our Tree Risk Management Plan is the approach we will take to manage risk of ash dieback

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Short |
  | Priority: | High |

- Keep the Corporate risk register Ash Dieback (ADB) entry updated

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | High |

- Develop an Ash Dieback Working Group (ADBWG) to manage the project effectively, including the production of a Terms of Reference for this group

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | High |

## Management of non-council tree

- Develop a process for identifying and responding to ADB on land where ownership is unclear

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Short |
  | Priority: | Med |

- Create a process for managing dangerous trees on private land under the Miscellaneous Provisions Act

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Short |
  | Priority: | High |

## Health and Safety requirements

- Identify from our list of leaseholders where we have land with ash management requirements, whose responsibility it is and signpost to guidance where this responsibility sits with other parties

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Short |
  | Priority: | High |

- Prepare a checklist of pre-work contractor requirements to manage and report on health and safety of ash dieback works

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Short |
  | Priority: | High |

- Assess and manage the risk of a shortage of contractors/subcontractors and machinery

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Med |
  | Priority: | High |

## Resource planning

- Ensure adequate staffing for the administration of ash dieback related applications for Tree Preservation Orders, Conservation Area, etc

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

- Allocate funds to create additional, dedicated ash dieback teams of tree surgeons through our existing contract with Glendale

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

- Quantify the potential cost of replacement tree planting and successful natural regeneration and the resource requirement to do so.

  | Timescale: | Med |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | Med |

- Identify the most cost-effective means of meeting the ongoing need to monitor ash trees in situ and during removal (i.e. for bird/bat presence) and develop our survey data for all tree stock on North Somerset land, including the opportunity to recruit an apprentice

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

- Investigate opportunities for a temporary placement within the team to support the admin duties which will include reaching out to private landowners

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

## Training

- Provide training for all relevant staff (Area Officers, Rights of Way staff, Parks staff) to identify ash dieback and when a tree has become a significant risk and how to report it

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

- Provide training in relation to ecological considerations of ash dieback removal for council staff and contractors

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

# Data

## Act on the survey data

● Analyse the survey information gathered in 2021 and develop a management programme based on this data

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

## Conduct ongoing monitoring of the disease

● Monitor disease progression and highlight to the ADBWG the current tree classification levels and the percentage of trees that have declined quickly since the last survey

| Timescale: | Ongoing |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

● Appoint a temporary post of Ash Dieback Tree Inspector to continue the monitoring and build the results into the database system (Arbortrack)

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

● Use tree database system to gather data for our tree stock which can be used to help us build resilience for any future pests and diseases.

| Timescale: | Ongoing |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

# Environment

## Understand impacts on biodiversity and other environmental factors

● Consider impacts relating to ecosystem health and habitats

| Timescale: | Short |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | Med |

● Consider impacts relating to climate change, air quality, flood resilience, and related strategies

| Timescale: | Short |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | Med |

● Leave standing deadwood where possible; leave dead trees standing where possible; allow natural regeneration so potentially resistant trees can emerge as per our risk management process

| Timescale: | Ongoing |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | High |

● Limit removal of affected trees in areas of low-risk target areas to aid resistance to the disease as per our risk management process

| Timescale: | Ongoing |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | High |

## Evolve the Green Infrastructure Strategy Action Plan of Managing Ash Dieback

● Use learning arising from the ash dieback project to inform our Green Infrastructure action plan

| Timescale: | Ongoing |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | Med |

● Promote the recognition of trees as assets – the role they play in delivering ecosystem services, climate change adaptation/mitigation, reducing the heat island etc

| Timescale: | Med |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | Low |

● Create a strategy which enables collaborative approaches to Ash Dieback management and replacement planting across departments and with external stakeholders

| Timescale: | Med |
| --- | --- |
| Priority: | Low |

# Community

## Develop relationships to support felling and recovery

- Identify stakeholders and carry out a RACI analysis to identify roles and responsibilities, accountabilities, who needs to be consulted and who kept informed

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

- Ensure all key internal stakeholders are involved in the ADBWG

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

- Ensure we have a communications plan for ADB

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

- Work with external stakeholders to align approaches where feasible

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | Med |

## Provide information for the public to enable them to take action

- Encourage the public to continue using MyAccount to report trees of concern

| Timescale: | Ongoing |
|---|---|
| Priority: | Med |

- Develop articles for the public/landowners to inform about ash dieback and their responsibilities

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

- Further develop our web page to provide links to advice and guidance

| Timescale: | Med |
|---|---|
| Priority: | Med |

- Use social media to promote the issue and our response.

| Timescale: | Med |
|---|---|
| Priority: | Med |

- Where neighbours are responsible for ash trees, engage with them as part of planning works

| Timescale: | Short |
|---|---|
| Priority: | High |

- Establish an acceptable safe way for our neighbours to manage their own trees while taking advantage of road closures and traffic management by discussions with our contractors and within ADBWG

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | High |

- Develop a site notice specific for ash dieback with advisory information which can be attached to trees on private land adjacent to the highway. If the tree is dangerous then we will serve a Notice

  | Timescale: | Short |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | Med |

## Consider felled timber uses

- We will consider the possible uses of timber resulting from felled ash, including the generation of income

  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  |---|---|
  | Priority: | Med |

# Ash Dieback Tree Replacement Programme

## Identify resources for planting

- Identify resources for all proposals, which may include alternative funding sources.

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Med |
  | Priority: | Med |

## Identify replacement planting options

- Include direct replacement planting wherever felling occurs dependant on site suitability

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  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | High |

- Build a log of alternative sites for when direct planting is not practically achievable

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | High |

- Maintain our recording of potential tree planting locations

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | High |

- Signpost all other landowners and project managers to tree planting opportunities, grants and guidance

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | Med |

## Identify alternative planting options

- Promote natural regeneration in appropriate areas.
- Where planting is preferable but difficult to implement identify alternative locations.

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | Med |

- Monitor and assess disease-resistant trees for future propagation

  | | |
  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Ongoing |
  | Priority: | Med |

## Strategic planning

- Update Woodland Management Plans to address the loss caused by Ash Dieback

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  |---|---|
  | Timescale: | Med |
  | Priority: | Med |

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North Somerset Council

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