

Tree Management Update

This update is being sent to all maintained school sites to clarify the arrangements for the management of trees that are situated on school sites, and the arrangements for the funding of any works required to mitigate the risk to property or Health and Safety arising from them.

Trees are an important part of the natural environment and, for those schools who have trees within their boundaries, can contribute significantly to creating an environment for learning. Like all assets, however, trees require management to ensure that they do not represent unacceptable levels of risk to either property or to the Health and Safety of pupils, staff, and other users of school sites.

The County Council has long established arrangements for the monitoring of trees via its Arboricultural Team. The team, which consists of experienced officers, maintain records of the trees situated on all sites and undertake health & safety inspections based on tree benefit and risk. Typically, such inspections are undertaken every 18 months to 4 & ½ years dependant on tree age, condition, and target.

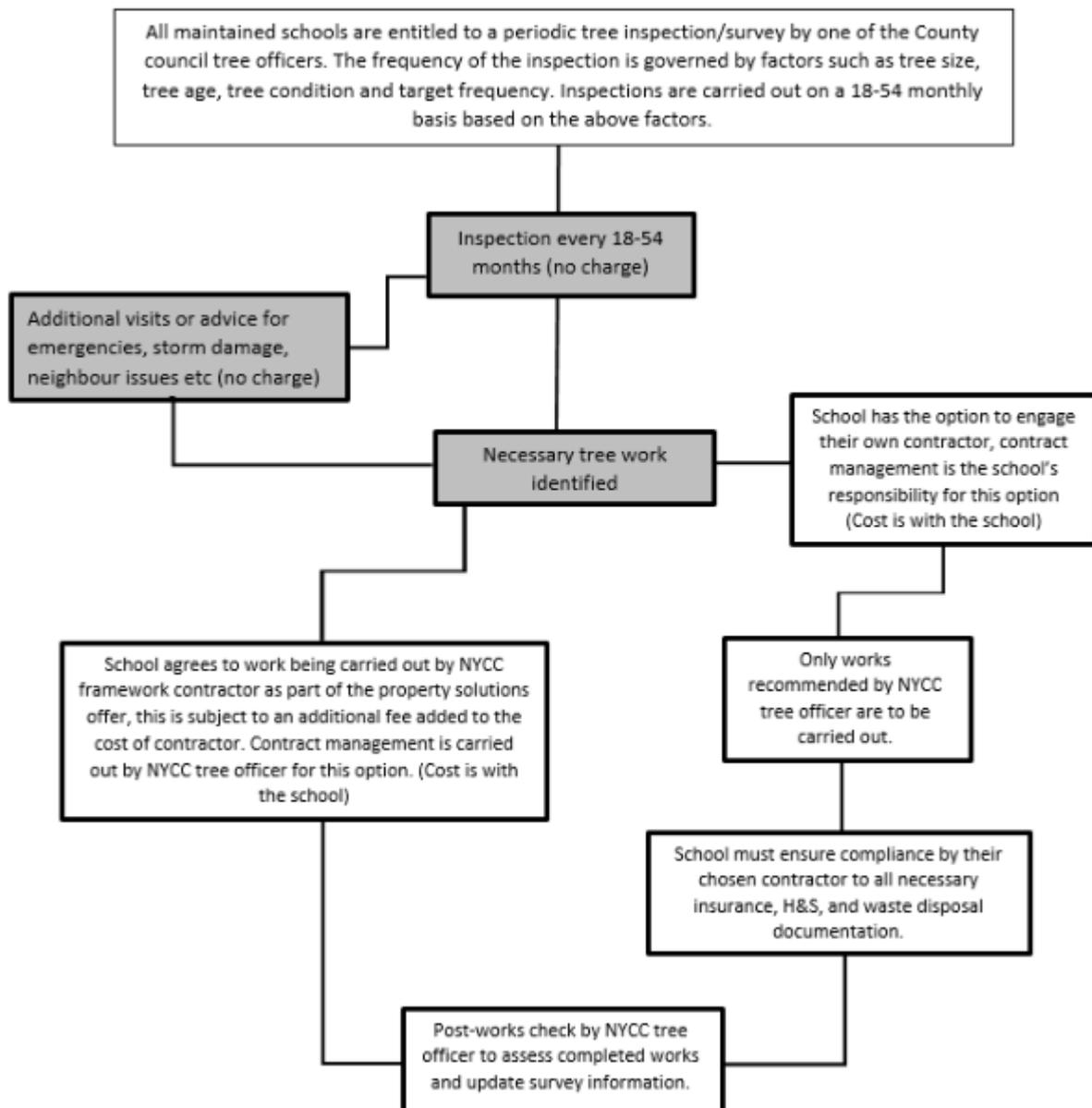
In addition to their programmes of inspections, officers can be contacted to provide ad-hoc advice about all tree related issues. Tree Preservation Orders and Conservation Area information is held with the Councils geographical planning teams. Tree work on protected trees require legal permission.

The costs associated with the management of the Arboricultural Team and the programmes of cyclical tree inspection are met by the Council.

The tree inspections may result in a requirement for works to be carried out to address any issues arising from one or more trees on an individual site. This may be because of disease, storm damage or general maintenance requirements due to tree growth. Where this is the case then the cost of works is to be met from the school from its delegated revenue budget.

When works are required then these can be arranged in the following ways:

The flow chart below summarises the tree management process for maintained schools



The school can commission the work via its own contractor. In this instance you will be required to ensure that the contractor is sufficiently competent to undertake the works that are required, that they produce a suitable risk assessment and method statement for the work and that they have appropriate professional indemnity and public liability insurance cover. [See guidance on this here.](#) (link = [Arboricultural Association - Choose your Tree Surgeon?](#))