



**SUBJECT:** Tree Safety – Inspection and remedial work

**RECIPIENTS:** All Schools

**ISSUE DATE:** Oct 2014

**REF:** HSB43

## Introduction and background



**All large trees should be inspected by a specialist every 3 years to identify any safety work required to prevent danger in high winds**

The County Council made a commitment in 2007 to inspect, at no cost to schools, the trees growing in, or near to, the grounds of all maintained schools in Lincolnshire over a 3 year period. The Arboricultural surveyor conducting the inspections is providing every school with a full report which assesses the safety of the trees surveyed and identifies any work required to ensure they remain healthy and as safe as is possible. This is a one-off exercise, following which schools will need to make their own arrangements for future 3-yearly surveys.

It is accepted that from time to time unexpected events will occur which may make mature trees hazardous to life and buildings. Such events could be very high winds, sudden disease or lightning strikes. Where such an event occurs which leads to the need for immediate 'safety critical' work to be carried out (as determined by the Arboricultural surveyor) Children's Services will arrange and fund this work, through our partner Mouchel, normally within 24 hours. This will also be the case if, during a routine survey, a specialist Arboriculturalist deems any work on a tree to be 'safety critical'. To help schools to prioritise the urgency of work following a tree inspection, the survey report will use the following categories of work required: within 24 hours ('safety critical', LCC to arrange and fund); within 1 month; within 3 months; within 1 year (school to arrange and fund). Client Services (tel: 01522 836349) will assist schools by providing a list of specialist tree contractors if requested. Should the safety work not be undertaken by community and controlled schools (where, as the employer, the County Council retains the ultimate responsibility for health and safety) within the times specified, Children's Services reserves the right to complete this work and back charge the school for the costs and fees.

## Action by Lincolnshire Schools

- (a) Ensure that they have the original Tree Survey and records of associated remedial work and subsequent inspections and any further remedial work on file.
- (b) Ensure that there is a system for continuing regular inspections and record keeping of large trees on the school premises.

**If you require further assistance or clarification on the subject please contact:**

**David Hortop on 01522 836717 or 07793187663**