

Appendix 1

Scrutiny report timeline to date

TIMELINE: History

1. Draft, and approval of the Ash Dieback Action Plan

- 05 December 2019 - Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information, highlighting the potentially significant risk posed by ash dieback and request support in engaging asset holders in developing a ADAP and thereafter implementing this plan
- 03 March 2021 ADAP presented to Thriving Communities Overview and Scrutiny Committee to approve the ADAP and to ensure that resources, personnel and financial, are identified for its successful implementation and delivery.
- 16 March 2021 ADAP presented to Cabinet

2. Survey high priority areas such as schools, playgrounds and principal A and B routes to identify locations of Ash trees and their condition

- July 2021 High priority sectors surveying commenced
- September 2021 High priority areas surveying completed
- December 2021 Schools survey data delivered
- January 2022 A and B roads survey data delivered

3. Appointment campaign for Ash Die Project Support Officer

- July/August 2021 Recruitment campaign
- September 2021 shortlisting, interviews and pre-appointment checks
- 01 October appointment – Ms Lesley Porter

4. Appointment campaign for Ash Die Back Officer

- June-August 2021 Recruitment campaign
- October 2021 shortlisting, interviews and pre-appointment checks
- 15 November appointment – Mr Norman Birch

5. Contractor framework for ADB work undertaken by Ceredigion

- February 2022 Tree works contractor framework documents submitted to procurement
- Autumn 2022 Tree works contractor framework tenders to be invited

- Autumn 2022 Online “meet the buyer” event for prospective contractors to be conducted
 - September/October 2022 Tree works contractor framework tendering process to have been completed and contractor awarded
6. Investigation into feasibility of establishment of an “in house” Arboricultural (tree cutting) team within Ceredigion County Council as requested by scrutiny committee – See appendix 02
- February - June 2022 Investigation commenced and completed

This entailed gathering significant amount of information, punctuated unfortunately by other demands on resources

7. Investigation into feasibility of recovering part of costs of tree cutting works through retention of biomass (cut timber) by Ceredigion County Council for own use or for sale on to other users, as requested by scrutiny committee – See appendix 03
- September 2022 Investigation commenced and completed

This entailed gathering significant amount of information, punctuated unfortunately by other demands on available resources and other priorities.

8. Review survey data and produce a prioritised scheme of work. Works to be prioritise based on a risk assessed approached
- April 2022 review of survey data commenced
 - May 2022 commencement of ongoing scheme of issuing section 154 notices to landowners
 - June 2022 commencement of inspection of trees at schools
 - July 2022 Appointment of contractor from NMWTRA framework to conduct tree cutting at schools
 - August 2022 Commencement of tree cutting work at schools, to be completed October/November 2022

9. 2022 Survey of A, B, C & Unclassified routes as per ADAP to identify locations of Ash trees and their condition
- June/July 2022 procurement exemption sought and granted to direct award summer 2022 and ongoing future surveying contracts to the contractor that conducted the 2021 survey - for reasons of continuity of method and consistency in data produced.
 - July/August 2022 award of summer 2022 surveying contract
 - August 2022 commencement of summer 2022 roads survey, to be completed September
 - Survey data to be delivered November 2022

10. Survey of non-highway CCC owned property as designated in ADAP

- August 2022 commencement of survey of CCC owned properties to include:
 - Allotments
 - Car parks
 - Care homes
 - Cemeteries
 - Public open spaces*

These surveys were conducted by the ADBO and are to be completed September/October 2022

*Public open spaces to be completed at a later date TBC as more previously unknown CCC owned land comes to light

TIMELINE: Future

1. Contractor framework for ADB work undertaken by Ceredigion
 - 2022/2023 Online “meet the buyer” event for prospective contractors
 - 2022/2023 Tree works contractor framework tendering process to be completed and contractors brought onboard.

Resource issues within corporate procurement services have delayed this process (proceeding with works at this time by utilising NMWTRA contractor framework contractor)

2. Review summer 2022 survey data and produce a prioritised scheme of work. Works to be prioritise based on a risk assessed approached
 - November 2022 Data to feed into and expand upon current scheme of sending section 154 notices to landowners
 - November 2022 Data to feed into and expand upon current scheme of works to CCC owned trees
3. Continue to lobby Welsh Government and other funding opportunities to address the risk posed by Ash Dieback and identify cost-effective measures of surveying and removing infected trees to minimise the financial impact on both the Council’s and Welsh Government finances
 - CSSW and WLGA are actively lobbying on funding support.
 - Options considered by Ceredigion to include:
 - Contractor retains felled timber in lieu of felling costs

WHAT THE COUNCIL NEEDS TO DO:

3. Analysis of survey data:

- April 2022 – March 2023, prioritise works program of felling trees owned by Ceredigion, as per agreed tree risk matrix
- Prioritise issuing of section 154 notices (Highway & PROW) and section 23 of the Miscellaneous provisions act notices (Council owned & public access land) to private landowners as, per agreed tree risk matrix
- Ongoing - send guidance/advice letters to private owners of lower risk trees, as per agreed tree risk matrix.

4. Manage reactive actions to ADB - Initial advice letter & section 154 notices to landowners (issues raised other than from surveys)

- Issues raised by members of the public
- Ceredigion staff
- Local Councillors
- Members of the public
- Other stakeholders

and deliver this in parallel to prioritised actions to survey data.