Trees give us many benefits that we need
We're going to the manage the risk from our trees and branches falling
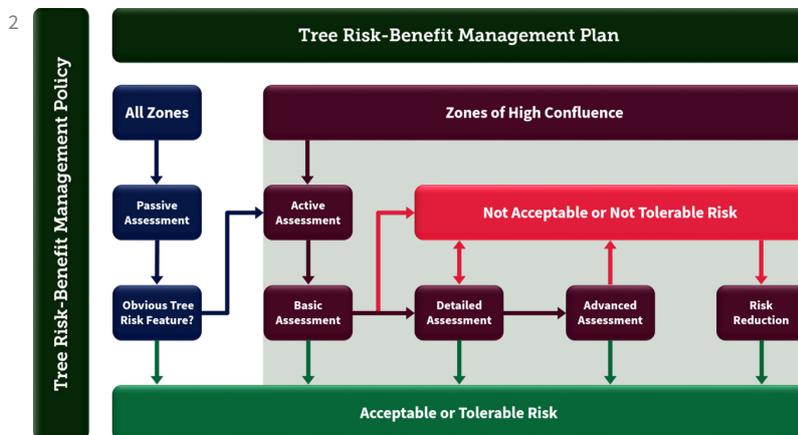to an Acceptable or Tolerable level

1   **Our tree risk-benefit management strategy**

Why and how we're going to manage the risk from our trees and branches falling

1   The structure of our Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy is illustrated in the flowchart below. Everything follows from the Policy, which sets out our position on trees, their benefits, and the risks. In brief, our Policy says;

- Trees give us many benefits that we need

- The overall risk from trees and branches falling is extremely low

- We can't entirely remove the risk, and trees are living structures that sometimes shed branches or fall over; usually because of severe weather

- We have a duty of care to be reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable when managing the risk

- We're going to manage the risk to an Acceptable or Tolerable level

The Plan explains how we'll carry out the Policy. We Plan to manage the risk by Passive Assessment in all zones of use. And by Active Assessment in zones of high confluence (high-use and large trees).

The structure of our Strategy

2

1.1   Passive Assessment

Picking up on Obvious Tree Risk Features you can't help but notice

3   Passive Assessment is simply picking up on Obvious Tree Risk Features you can't help but notice as you go about your daily routine. We carry it out in all zones of use. Passive Assessment is our most valuable risk management asset because it can be done by anyone and it's going on day in day out.
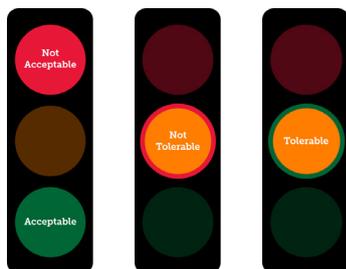
1.2   Active Assessment | Basic > Detailed > Advanced

Trained assessors looking to find risks that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable

4   Active Assessment is where we have trained assessors looking to find risks that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable. Or where Passive Assessment has picked up an Obvious Tree Risk Feature that needs a closer look. Active Assessment has three levels to it that increase in depth of investigation from Basic, to Detailed, and up to Advanced for important trees. We'll carry out Active Assessment in zones of high confluence every 5 years.

1.3   Risk ratings

Risk ratings are as easy to understand as traffic lights

5   VALID has applied ISO 31000 : Risk Management and the Tolerability of Risk Framework to tree risk-benefit assessment and management, which we've adopted. We're going to manage the risk from our trees and branches falling using four easy to understand traffic light signal coloured risk ratings.

Red   **Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level

Amber   **Not Tolerable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level, but with a lower priority than red Not Acceptable risks

Amber   **Tolerable** risks will not be reduced but may require an increased frequency of assessment than green Acceptable risks

Green   **Acceptable** risks will not be reduced

Summary | Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy

v6.0