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

VALID

1   Our tree risk-benefit management strategy

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

1 This flowchart shows the structure of our Tree Risk-Benefit Management Strategy. Everything follows from the **Policy**. The Policy 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 remove the risk entirely. Trees are living structures that sometimes shed branches or fall during severe weather

- Our duty of care, when managing the risk, is to be reasonable, proportionate, and reasonably practicable

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

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

The Strategy at a glance

2
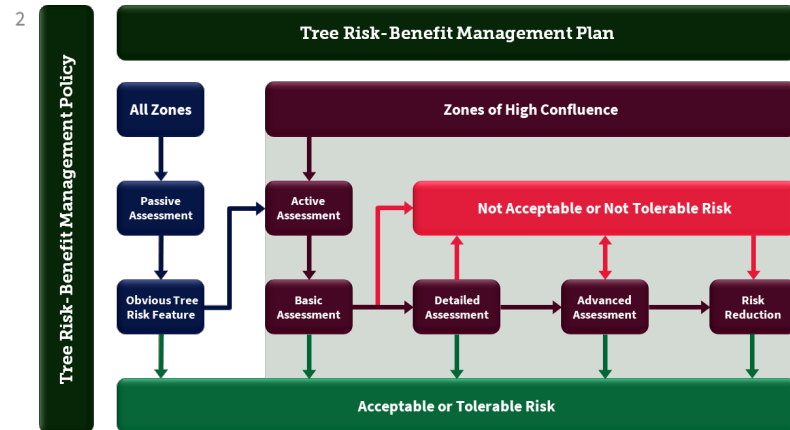
1.1 Passive Assessment

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. Passive Assessment is our most valuable risk management asset because we carry it out in all zones of use, day in day out. It's the most effective way to pick up trees where the risk might not be Acceptable or Tolerable.

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 for risks that might not be Acceptable or Tolerable. Active Assessment has 3 levels to it that increase in depth of evaluation. The 3 levels are, Basic > Detailed > Advanced. We carry out Active Assessment in Zones of High Confluence every 5 years.

1.3 Risk objectives & 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' (ToR) to tree risk-benefit management and assessment, which we've adopted. In ISO risk terms, our 'objectives' are to grow, maintain, and conserve trees because of the many benefits they give us we need. And, to manage the risk from tree failure to an Acceptable or Tolerable level. We have four easy-to-understand traffic light coloured risk ratings to show how we'll manage the risk.
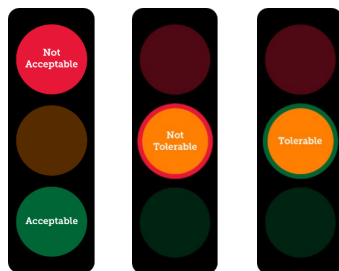
Red   **Not Acceptable** risks will be reduced to an Acceptable level

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