

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	16 January 2018
Title:	Parish Lengthsman Scheme
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for the continuation of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme for the 2018/2019 financial year, with Highway funding for the participating parish and town Councils maintained at 2017/18 funding levels, at a cost of £206,800 to the County Council's Highways Revenue budget for the 2018/19 financial year.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the principle of extending the existing Parish Lengthsman Scheme to include additional parish and town councils that have expressed an interest in joining the scheme prior to 31st January 2018, at additional cost to the County Council's Highways Revenue budget for the 2018/19 financial year subject to the availability of funding.
- 1.3. That authority is delegated to the Director of Economy, Transport and Environment, in consultation with the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, to make the necessary arrangements to extend the scheme to new parishes when funding is confirmed, providing the increase in costs can be accommodated within the Highways Revenue Budget.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. The Parish Lengthsman scheme is valued by Parish and Town Councils as it allows them to prioritise and undertake low value, low risk maintenance work within their villages and towns. It provides a mechanism for local delivery of specific work that is important to the Parish/Town Council and the Community, and would be a low priority for the County Council when assessed against the countywide highway maintenance needs. The Parish Lengthsman Scheme is a discretionary service area funded from the Highways Revenue Budget, which also funds significant statutory responsibilities. With the ongoing pressure on revenue funds due to removal of Government rate support grant funding and rising demand in social care

services, it is inevitable that this programme will be kept under review, and options considered for more sustainable funding arrangements in the future.

- 2.2. Since its implementation in 2010, interest in the scheme has continued to grow from Towns and Parishes wishing to join the scheme. In the current financial climate the continuing operational expansion of the scheme in its current format is unlikely to remain financially sustainable.
- 2.3. There is a desire from both Hampshire County Council and many of the parishes involved to enhance the current scheme to allow the Lengthsman to carry out additional tasks.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Withdrawing County Council funding for the scheme after the current financial year. This option was rejected on the grounds that it would provide insufficient notice to participating parishes.
- 3.2. Continuing the scheme for future years, restricting involvement to the Parishes that are currently signed up to it. This option was rejected on the basis that it would constitute unequal funding to parishes across the county.
- 3.3. Doing nothing. This option was rejected due to the need to respond to the interests expressed by parishes both already participating in the scheme and wishing to do so.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker:
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted:

5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.

6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:

Date:

16 January 2018

**Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Councillor Rob Humby**