

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment
Date:	19 November 2020
Title:	Parish Lengthsman Update
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Economy Transport and Environment confirms the County Council's intention to continue to fund the Parish Lengthsman scheme at existing levels, for the year 2021/22.
- 1.2. That arrangements are made to enable Parish Lengthsmen to undertake works on the live carriageway from 1 April 2021, subject to the relevant individuals undertaking mandatory Traffic Management training, to be funded from the Hampshire Highways Service Contract (HHSC), in order to ensure they are able to work safely and with appropriate signage in place.
- 1.3. That the Executive Member for Economy, Transport and Environment agrees an updated process for securing returns from parishes, to ensure that the County Council's view of return on spend meets auditable standards.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. Both the County Council and parish councils greatly value the role of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme in undertaking permitted works in support of Hampshire's highway network.
- 2.2. The scheme enables responsiveness to issues and improvement of the environment on a local basis. The County Council wishes to ensure the continuation of the scheme and the important role that it plays, into next year.
- 2.3. The County Council also wishes to permit Lengthsmen to undertake permitted duties on the live carriageway where it is safe to do so. Mandatory Traffic Management training will enable Lengthsmen to work in a manner which is safe to both themselves and highway users, with the appropriate signage put in place.
- 2.4. There will be a commitment to fund and deliver this training via the HHSC, noting the added benefit it will bring in terms of local responsiveness. Therefore, the training will be at no cost to parish councils.

2.5. By improving the existing process for securing returns from parish councils, the County Council will ensure its view of return on spend meets auditable standards. It will also increase levels of accountability for parish councils, thereby ensuring that the scheme continues to deliver value to Hampshire and its residents, in return for the County Council's investment.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

3.1. The County Council could either reduce or withdraw funding for the Parish Lengthsman scheme. It is felt, however, that the benefits of the scheme on a local basis justify continuing to fund into next year.

3.2. The County Council could also choose not to increase the scope of the Lengthsman scheme, and not improve the process for securing returns. Without these changes, however, the authority would miss an opportunity to further enhance the value that the scheme can deliver.

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:

19 November 2020

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