

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

13 June 2011

Report of the Director of Kent Highway Services

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 KENT HIGHWAY SERVICES SOFT ESTATE MAINTENANCE 2011/12 - UPDATE

Summary

An update on planned levels of service for soft estate maintenance of the highway during 2011/12

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 Kent Highway Services carries out programmed highway vegetation maintenance throughout the county. The works to grass verges, shrub beds and hedges, as well as weed control on hard surfaces, are currently carried out by contractors or other councils on our behalf.

1.2 The Funding Context

1.2.1 The KHS soft estate budget was reduced by 30% for the financial year 2011/12 compared to that of the previous year. As a result savings of £1.5M had to be made to the soft estate maintenance budget. The only way to achieve these savings was to reduce the service.

1.2.2 In order to remain within the available budgets in 2011/12 the service will be delivered as follows: -

- 8 urban grass cuts
- 1 rural swathe cut
- 2-3 visibility cuts
- 1 visit to shrub beds to weed and cut back
- 1 weed spray
- 1 hedge cut

1.2.3 Reimbursements to district councils who carry out work on our behalf will be benchmarked using the above frequencies. Please note some districts may carry out extra operations at their own expense.

1.3 Legal Implications

1.3.1 None applicable.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

1.4.1 No direct financial considerations for the Borough Council and, for the County Council, as described above.

1.5 Risk Assessment

1.5.1 The inevitable risk is an increase in public concern about the state of the highway as a result of service level reductions.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Director of Kent Highway Services