

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD

19 September 2011

Report of the Director of Kent Highways and Transportation, the Director of Planning, Transport and Leisure and the Director of Health and Housing

Part 1- Public

Matters For Information

1 HIGHWAY SOFT ESTATE MANAGEMENT

Summary

An update report on the Board's resolution at its last meeting to identify innovative ways of resolving the problems arising from this year's service levels for weed-spraying.

1.1 Introduction

1.1.1 At its last meeting the Board resolved as follows:

- *That the County Council be invited to work with the Borough Council to investigate and, where appropriate, introduce innovative approaches to soft landscape maintenance of the public highway through joint working and coordinated activity with the aim of reducing the impact of budget cuts on the quality of the street scene.*

1.2 Joint Arrangements

1.2.1 The main concern of the Board was focused on weed spraying and, specifically, the impact of the County Council's reduction in the service level to a single annual spray. In line with the Board's decision, Kent County Council Highways and Borough Council officers discussed ways of mitigating the impact of the reduction in weed-spraying and identified that the best way forward for the current year would come from a second round of spray on hard surfaces year.

1.2.2 The cost of the additional spray, estimated at approximately £15,000, will be shared between the County and the Borough Councils using existing budgets, the Borough's contribution being £5,000. The timing of the spray has been set to coordinate with street cleansing operations.

1.2.3 The spray was programmed to start on 5 September taking approximately 10 working days to complete. Allowing 2 days for wet or windy weather the planned completion is 17 September. The scheduled spray routes and confirmed actual

dates have been confirmed to the Borough Council's Waste and Streetscene Team so that works can be monitored at the appropriate time following the spray.

- 1.2.4 The County Council will be reviewing its approach to weed-spraying in conjunction with Borough officers prior to next year's growing season to ensure best coordination of the spraying and the associated follow-up street cleansing.

1.3 Legal Implications

- 1.3.1 Not applicable.

1.4 Financial and Value for Money Considerations

- 1.4.1 As addressed in the report.

1.5 Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 Not applicable

Background papers:

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Nil

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