

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL****Executive Decision Record**

<b>Decision Maker:</b>	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
<b>Date:</b>	19 January 2017
<b>Title:</b>	Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update
<b>Reference:</b>	8048
<b>Report From:</b>	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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**1. The decision:**

- 1.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval for the continuation of the Parish Lengthsman Scheme for the 2017-2018 financial year with Highway funding for the participating parish and town Councils maintained at 2016/17 funding levels.
- 1.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves the principal of extending the existing Parish Lengthsman Scheme to include additional parish and town councils who have expressed an interest in joining the scheme prior to 31st January 2017.
- 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.

**2. Reasons for the decision:**

- 2.1. The Parish Lengthsman Scheme ("the scheme") is funded from the Highway Maintenance revenue budget which is under pressure. Given further savings targets the future of the scheme is considered to be vulnerable. However, interest in the scheme has continued to grow since its implementation in 2010, with a growing number of parish and town councils keen to join the scheme. Whilst the scheme's long term funding cannot be guaranteed at this stage, it is felt to provide effective local action and good value for money, and should therefore be continued in 2017/18, whilst the overall funding position is reviewed.
- 2.2. There is a shared desire from both the County Council and many of the parishes involved to enhance the current scheme so as to allow the lengthsman to carry out additional tasks.

2.3. The Culture, Communities & Business Services Department contributed towards the scheme during the 2016/17 financial year which enabled the lengthsman to attend to minor defects on public footpaths and bridleways which had been identified by the parish councils and the public.

**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 lead to inequality amongst Hampshire's parish and town councils.

3.3. To do nothing. This option was rejected due to the need to inform parish and town councils of the County Council's intentions, so that they can plan and engage future resources.

**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:**

I would like to thank Cllr Porter for her continued work on this project.

**Approved by:**

**Date:**

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**19 January 2017**

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