

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Executive Decision Record**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member – Environment
Date:	14 October 2010
Title:	Review of Highway Weed Control Agency Arrangements
Reference:	1947
Report From:	Director of Environment

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1. The decision:

- a) That, following the successful pilot projects with Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, and Havant, the County Council's policy approach to arrangements for Highway Weed Control be to seek Agency Agreements with District or Borough Councils, provided this does not prejudice the financial interests of the County Council.
- b) That the delivery of Highway Weed Control in the Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh, and Havant district areas by Agency Agreement with each of the three Borough Councils concerned be continued for the 2011/12 financial year.
- c) That Highway Weed Control in the New Forest district area be transferred from the Term Highways Contract to New Forest District Council, to be delivered by Agency Agreement, for the 2011/12 financial year.
- d) That authority be delegated to the Director of Environment to make arrangements, in line with the policy agreed in Recommendation a) above, for the establishment or termination of Highway Weed Control Agency Agreements or for the continuance of Highway Weed Control Agency Agreements (subject to termination conditions such as those included in other established Agency Agreements).
- e) That the control of scheduled weeds on the highway (Ragwort, Japanese Knotweed, etc) be excluded from any Highway Weed Control Agency Agreements proposed in this report, and remain in the Term Highways Contract in all areas.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1. It is desirable to resolve the temporary nature of the existing weed control agency agreements, which currently need approval each year in order to continue them.
- 2.2. New Forest District Council is able to carry out the work in its area cheaper than the current cost.
- 2.3. It is necessary to make arrangements for the continuance of highway weed control in the Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh and Havant districts in order for this element of the highway maintenance service to be carried out in 2011/12.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1. Transferring highway weed control from the existing district agents (Basingstoke and Deane, Eastleigh and Havant Borough Councils) to the Term Highways Contract. This option was rejected because additional cost would be incurred unnecessarily.
- 3.2. Retaining highway weed control for the New Forest district area in the Term Highways Contract. This option was rejected because the saving identified in the review would not be realised.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1. Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: none.
- 4.2. Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: none.

5. Dispensation granted by the Standards Committee: none.

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

7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by: ----- Executive Member for Environment Councillor M J Kendal	Date: 14 October 2010
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