

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**Decision Report**

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	19 May 2016
Title:	Parish Lengthsmen Scheme – Yateley Amendment
Reference:	7477
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

Contact name: Steve Spender

Tel: 01256 382409

Email: steve.spender@hants.gov.uk

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to seek approval for an amendment to the proposed payment in respect of the participation of Yateley Town Council in the Parish Lengthsman scheme for the financial year 2016/17, increasing the sum payable from £1,000 to £3,000 plus the agreed 10% administration fee.
- 1.2. The paper also seeks an increase in the budget for the scheme of £10,000 for the financial year of 2016/17 to provide a provisional resource for the inclusion of any additional parishes other than those identified in the Decision Day report of 21st March to join the scheme provided they complete the enrolment process by 31st October 2016, to ensure the funds can be properly spent.
- 1.3. The agreed fees for the financial year 2016/17 for the participating parishes and/or Town Councils were proposed in the Decision Day report presented on 21 March 2016 and were subsequently approved by the Executive Member, and these amendments are in relation to that report.
- 1.4. This paper seeks to
 - set out the background to the recommendation.
 - consider the financial impact on the budget

2. Contextual information

- 2.1. The background information in respect to the establishment of the Parish Lengthsman scheme since the introduction of the pilot scheme in 2010, was contained within the report of 21 March 2016. The report also outlined the historical payments made to those parish councils that have been participants within the scheme.

- 2.2. The parish councils have historically been paid a sum of £1,000 per parish (paid through a lead parish of a cluster) with an additional administrative payment of 10%. The exception to this has been Fleet Town Council, which covers a network length of approximately 2.5 times that of the majority of parishes across the County, and has therefore been in receipt of a sum of £3,000 plus 10% administration fee.
- 2.3. The report of 21st March 2016 also contained details of 26 parishes seeking to join the scheme during the 2016/17 financial year. This list included Yateley Town Council.
- 2.4. Following a request from Yateley Town Council a review of the network length of Yateley Town Council's area was undertaken and was found to be comparable to that of Fleet Town Council. The network length of Fleet has been calculated as 92,500 metres whilst the network of Yateley was calculated as 83,200 metres. The network length of the other parishes and Town Councils across the County vary between 12,500 metres and 40,000 metres.
- 2.5. With the comparability of the network lengths between the Town Councils of Fleet and Yateley it was considered appropriate to review the proposed sum payable to Yateley to align it with that payable to Fleet.
- 2.6. The scheme continues to remain popular with those parishes that participate, and interest from parishes wishing to join continues to be received. Since the approval of the 26 parishes contained within the previous report, further enquiries have been received from other interested parishes.
- 2.7. In order to permit an increase of parishes from those already agreed, additional funding would be necessary as the current level is only sufficient for those parishes already involved in the scheme, together with the 26 approved in the report of 21st March.

3. Finance

- 3.1. The additional payment of £2,000 plus the administration fee for the increased payment to Yateley will be covered from the Highway Traffic and Transport revenue budget for 2016/17.
- 3.2. The additional £10,000 would be set aside as a provisional sum for any parishes over and above those agreed in the previous report seeking participation during the financial year, provided that the parish joins prior to 31 October 2016 to ensure the monies are spent.

4. Future direction

- 4.1. A review of the future of the Parish Lengthsman scheme is proposed to be carried out in the autumn of 2016 when the future funding and continuation of the scheme will be determined. It would be appropriate during this review to reconsider individual future payments to parishes and Town Councils.

5. Recommendations

- 5.1. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport gives approval to revise the sum payable to Yateley Town Council in respect of the Town Council's inclusion in the Parish Lengthsman scheme for 2016/17 to £3,000 plus 10% administration fee.
- 5.2. That the Executive Member for Environment and Transport approves an increase in the budget for the Parish Lengthsman scheme for 2016/17 of £10,000 to allow the opportunity for additional parishes outside of those already agreed in the Decision Day report of 21 March 2016 to join the scheme, provided they complete the enrolment process by 31 October 2016, to ensure the funds are properly spent.

CORPORATE OR LEGAL INFORMATION:**Links to the Corporate Strategy**

Hampshire safer and more secure for all:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Maximising well-being:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	
Enhancing our quality of place:	Yes
Corporate Improvement plan link number (if appropriate):	

Other Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:		
<u>Title</u> Parish Lengthsman Scheme Update	<u>Reference</u> 7292	<u>Date</u> 21 st March 2016
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives		
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
None	

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS:

1. Equality Duty

1.1. The County Council has a duty under Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 ('the Act') to have due regard in the exercise of its functions to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
- Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, gender and sexual orientation) and those who do not share it;
- Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Due regard in this context involves having due regard in particular to:

- a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons sharing a relevant characteristic connected to that characteristic;
- b) Take steps to meet the needs of persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic different from the needs of persons who do not share it;
- c) Encourage persons sharing a relevant protected characteristic to participate in public life or in any other activity which participation by such persons is disproportionately low.

1.2. Equalities Impact Assessment:

The Parish Lengthsman Scheme seeks to ensure that local highways and amenity issues are resolved at a local level promoting a good quality of life, now and in the future. It seeks to benefit all users encompassing all those with protected characteristics.

2. Impact on Crime and Disorder:

2.1. The scheme will have no impact upon rates of crime or disorder.

3. Climate Change:

3.1. How does what is being proposed impact on our carbon footprint / energy consumption?

As the majority of work carried out by the Parish Lengthsmen is carried out by hand it is considered that this scheme will not alter the existing carbon footprint.

- 3.2. How does what is being proposed consider the need to adapt to climate change, and be resilient to its longer term impacts?

By maintaining footpaths and encouraging people to walk on them this scheme will be encouraging non-motorised transport.