

# Equality Impact Assessment



Hampshire  
County Council

## Highways

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Department: Economy, Transport and  
Environment

Date of  
assessment: 04/09/2019

## Description of current service/policy

The County Council works closely with its highway service provider to look after Hampshire's 5,400 miles of roads and 1,320 road bridges. Its duty is to maintain these roads and bridges to ensure that they are safe and can handle an 'ordinary' amount of traffic. Amenity maintenance relating to the Highways environment is also carried out, for example weed killing and grass cutting (which have both been reduced in recent years to help reduce overall highways costs and prioritise repairing defects). Funding is also provided to parish and town councils through the Parish Lengthsman Scheme, which provides for such work as cutting back hedges, cleaning signs and clearing ditches.

Geographical impact: All  
Hampshire

## Description of proposed change

Reductions to the cost of delivering Highways services may be possible by: potentially finding alternative funding for the Parish Lengthsman Scheme, and possibly inviting parish and town councils to contribute or fully fund their local scheme; working with our contracted provider to identify further business efficiencies that should not affect the overall highways service.

## Impacts of the proposed change

This impact assessment covers Service users

## Engagement and consultation

Has engagement or consultation been carried out?

Yes

No specific consultation has been carried out on this proposal – however, the County Council ran a major public consultation exercise over the Summer 2019 on a range of options for finding further budget savings including increasing Council Tax, using reserves and making changes to the way services are delivered, which may mean reducing or withdrawing certain services. The outcome of this consultation will be presented to the County Council’s Cabinet in October 2019. When decisions are made to pursue the options, further specific consultation will be carried out with stakeholders on the detailed options where required.

<b>Statutory considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Age:</b> Neutral		
<b>Disability:</b> Neutral		
<b>Sexual orientation:</b> Neutral		
<b>Race:</b> Neutral		
<b>Religion and belief:</b> Neutral		
<b>Gender reassignment:</b> Neutral		

<b>Gender:</b> Neutral		
<b>Marriage and civil partnership:</b> Neutral		
<b>Pregnancy and maternity:</b> Neutral		
<b>Other policy considerations</b>	<b>Impact</b>	<b>Mitigation</b>
<b>Poverty:</b> Neutral		
<b>Rurality:</b> Neutral		

## **Neutrality statement (if all considerations have a neutral impact)**

Modest reductions in the overall budget will be facilitated by way of efficiencies within the contract and changes to the Parish Lengthsman Scheme. Precise proposals have yet to be worked up. However, these are unlikely to have a disproportionate impact on people with protected characteristics. As detailed proposals are worked up, further assessments will be carried out.

## **Any other information**