

Appendix 1

Streetscene & Transportation Portfolio – Feedback from Policy Development Workshop (March 2015)

Policy - (Review of Grass Cutting Policy)

Suggestion / Challenge / Question	Response / Action
Principle roads – Views on reducing to 1 swathe width.	
Grass cutting is important in rural areas as there are no footpaths and there's a danger of signs being obscured.	The single swathe width cut would be at least 1 metre and would constitute a safe refuge for highway users; obscured signs will be identified and dealt with by the Area Coordinator.
Important that areas are litter picked before and after each cut.	The new contract recommends that litter is picked prior to grass cutting and stipulates that the area must be left free of any litter. This will be monitored by the Area Coordinator.
The general view was that 1 swathe would be acceptable except in those areas where the nature of the road presents a danger in terms of visibility e.g. long straight roads would be ok but bends or winding roads could become a danger.	These will be identified and risk assessed by the Area Coordinator and included on the visibility cutting frequency.
The timing of the single full cut on rural verges.	
June commencement acceptable, however flexibility is key dependant on the type of season.	There's a need to balance biodiversity and road safety and every effort will be made to cut once the wild flowers have died away.
There were concerns that if all cuts begin at the same time, would the Council have the resource to cope with it.	The use of external contractors would however remove this risk.
There was a view that rural roads are narrow to begin with, so less cuts or delayed timing could make pull-ins less visible and potentially create a danger.	Flexibility is key and the timing of this cut would be very much weather dependant.
Timing of the commencement of all grass cutting operations.	
Debate around the need for contractors to be flexible and considerate of peak traffic times.	The new contract included restrictions on traffic sensitive routes at peak times.
Full width verge cutting for weed and self sown sapling control on all classifications of rural roads once every 6 years.	
Generally it was felt that 6 years was too long between cuts as growth could	The new Policy will be amended and reduced to every 4 years.

be fairly substantial during that time and volume of litter that would collect behind this growth during such a significant period.	
Has there been any liaison with Community and Town Councils regarding cutting on two sides of road where FCC has cut one side and CC other	No however any suggested areas would be considered and if agreed included on the contractors schedule.
Has there been any consultation with the in house conservation team.	Yes
Concern was raised that the likes of giant hogweed and ragwort would not be controlled.	There is a requirement for noxious plants such as these to be controlled and whenever collected will be disposed of safely.
Concerns around the volume of litter that would collect behind this growth during such a significant period.	The initial proposal of a 6 year cycle has been amended and reduced to 4 years and therefore this should have minimal impact. It is also the responsibility of the Area Coordinator to monitor and deal with any litter related issues.
Utilise people on Community service.	This is being considered as part of the Alternative Delivery Model.
General comments not requiring an answer.	
People need to change their views and get used to what is happening.	
Complaints will increase but must work within constraints of limited budgets.	
Important for County to look neat and tidy. Litter picking is an issue (A55 mentioned)	Comments passed to Trunk Rd Agency
Any cut needs to be a quality cut and as the client the Council would need to have a good quality control and inspection process in place to ensure compliance by contractors with the standards set by the Council.	Area Coordinators and Chargehands to monitor.
Destination management and implications on Tourism need to be monitored.	

