



Derby City Council

## COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY REVIEW BOARD 20 August 2018

# ITEM 6

Report of the Strategic Director of Communities  
and Place

### Grass Cutting

#### SUMMARY

- 1.1 The grass cutting service for parks, public open spaces and highway verges is carried out by the Grounds Maintenance team within Streetpride.
- 1.2 An additional £55k has been allocated to highway verge cutting this year, following a Council Cabinet report in June 2018. This will fund 2 FTE's to assist with grass cutting in the peak season.
- 1.3 The planned programme for grass cutting is:  
  
Highway Verges – approximately every 2-3 weeks and currently on cut 5 this season  
  
Derby Homes – approximately every 2-3 weeks and currently on cut 6 this season  
  
Parks – Approximately every 2 weeks for 15 cuts with sports pitches cut every week as and when needed
- 1.4 Prior to the additional funding the frequency of cutting was approximately every 4 weeks.
- 1.5 Cutting in some areas will cease over the next few weeks due to the exceptionally dry conditions. Parks and verges that are still growing will still be cut
- 1.6 The service has an additional requirement for cutting of the outfield to cricket pitches; this to support the additional cricket pitches that have been put into parks. Due to the weather this has not caused too great an issue this summer but will do in future years under more average summer conditions.
- 1.7 The Grounds Maintenance team are also responsible for hedge cutting, bedding and weed spraying

#### RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 To note what the additional funding has enabled the service to achieve

- 2.2 To note that the exceptionally dry weather has lessened the pressure on the service this summer, but after sustained rainfall the pressure will obviously increase again
- 2.3 To note the pressure from parks to increase the number of cricket outfields that need cutting and to find an efficient way of integrating this into the service offer

#### **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 To enable a slightly enhanced service to be delivered
- 3.2 To be aware of the pressures facing the team

#### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 None.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 5.1 None.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	David Kinsey - Head of Highways and Grounds Maintenance
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	David Kinsey 01332 641837 david.kinsey@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

1.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**Legal**

2.1 None

**Personnel**

3.1 None

**IT**

4.1 None

**Equalities Impact**

5.1 N/A

**Health and Safety**

6.1 N/A

**Environmental Sustainability**

7.1 N/A

**Property and Asset Management**

8.1 N/A

**Risk Management and Safeguarding**

9.1 N/A

**Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 N/A