



Portfolio Holder Report

The portfolio holder will make a decision on this item after seven days have elapsed (including the date of publication).

Report of:	Portfolio Holder	Date of publication
Mark Billington, Service Director People and Places	Councillor David Henderson, Leader of the Council and Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder	25 January 2018

Lancashire County Council – Public Realm Services

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval for the continuation of the delivery of services within the public realm on behalf of Lancashire County Council.

2. Outcomes

- 2.1 The continued provision of high quality services including grass cutting, leaf sweeping and highway weed spraying on behalf of Lancashire County Council (LCC).

3. Recommendation/s

- 3.1 That the Council continue with the agreement to undertake all services currently provided as referred to under section 4.5 of this report for the financial years 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21.
- 3.2 That any changes to the agreement be the subject of a future report.

4. Background

- 4.1 On the 16 March 2017, Portfolio Holder approval was given to continue to undertake all services currently provided as part of the Public Realm agreement for the financial years 2017/18 and 2018/19 at a subsidy level of £30,195 each year.
- 4.2 It was also agreed that any changes to the agreement prior to commencement of year two would be the subject of a future report.

4.3 Traditionally Wyre Council has subsidised the delivery of services undertaken under the agreement mainly as a result of cutting the grass on highway verges more frequently than that specified by LCC.

4.4 Following a review, LCC has requested to terminate the current agreement a year early and asked that Wyre Council enter into a revised agreement for a three year period from April 2018. As part of the agreement, payments made in respect of Public Realm activities are to be increased from £69,390 to £95,650 to accommodate an improved specification for grass cutting.

4.5 The agreement covers the provision of the following services:

- Highway verge cutting within the urban area.
- Highway verge cutting within the rural area – this agreement does not cover all rural verges as LCC make alternative provisions with some parish councils for service delivery.
- Highway Tree Maintenance - Inspection and management of work by private contractors is undertaken by the council's Tree and Woodland Officer.
- Leaf Sweeping – A contribution to leaf sweeping undertaken by the council's Street Cleansing Team.
- Weed Control – The council appoints a private contractor to undertake this work.

5. Key issues and proposals

5.1 Under the proposed three year agreement Wyre will receive £95,650 each year with no further budgetary reduction providing all services listed above are undertaken by the council to the required levels. As such, the income received from LCC will increase by £26,260, more accurately reflecting the higher specification already delivered across the borough.

5.2 Whilst the services provided can be accommodated within the proposed budget there would still be a slight ongoing subsidy provided by Wyre Council which is estimated at £3,935, which is a significant reduction on the existing subsidy level.

6. Delegated functions

6.1 The matters referred to in this report are considered under the following executive function delegated to the Street Scene, Parks and Open Spaces Portfolio Holder (as set out in Part 3 of the council's constitution): namely "to consider issues relating to the development and co-ordination of the Council's approach to 'street scene'".

Financial and legal implications	
Finance	LCC will pay a fixed contribution of £95,650 in 2018/19, 2019/20 and 2020/21 towards the various highways related maintenance activities described in the report above. The value of the subsidy will be reduced to £3,935 (from £30,195) per annum, representing a saving to the council.
Legal	An agreement with LCC for delivery of the public realm services as outlined in the report will be entered into.

Other risks/implications: checklist

If there are significant implications arising from this report on any issues marked with a ✓ below, the report author will have consulted with the appropriate specialist officers on those implications and addressed them in the body of the report. There are no significant implications arising directly from this report, for those issues marked with a x.

risks/implications	✓ / x
community safety	x
equality and diversity	x
sustainability	x
health and safety	x

risks/implications	✓ / x
asset management	x
climate change	x
data protection	x

report author	telephone no.	email	date
Mark Billington	01253 887456	mark.billington@wyre.gov.uk	12.01.18

List of background papers:		
name of document	Date	where available for inspection
None.		

List of appendices

None.

arm/ph/st/cr/18/2501mb1