

**SEVENOAKS JOINT TRANSPORTATION BOARD 11<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2007**

**GRASS CUTTING IN SEVENOAKS DISTRICT**

Report of the: Director of Kent Highway Services

Status: For Consideration

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**Recommendation:** That the content of this report be noted.

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**Background**

1 At a previous meeting of the Board, Members requested that a report be produced clarifying the details relating to grass cutting operations within the Sevenoaks District.

**Introduction**

2 A two year Contract was awarded to Landscape Services in the winter of 2006 and the Contract covers amenity, swathe and visibility splay grass cutting operations.

**Frequency**

3 The frequency of grass cutting is dependent on location and is as follows:

- Amenity (typically non rural highway verges) – 10 cuts per annum
- Swathe (rural verges) – 2 cuts per annum
- Visibility splays (typically rural verges at junctions) - 5 – 7 cuts per annum

**Quality of operations**

4 During the tendering process for the new contract it became apparent that detailed legal matters (TUPE) were in need of investigation and clarification. This resulted in a delay in awarding the contract and subsequently the first swathe cut was carried out later than expected. The second swathe cut, which has recently been carried out, was far more successful and this was reported at a recent meeting of the Association of Kent Parish Councils.

**Future Operations**

5 As part of the Transformation of Kent Highway Services, cyclic maintenance operations are to be part of the new County Wide Operations team and as such, any new arrangements will be reported to a future Board meeting once finalised.

**Key Implications**

Financial

None

Resource (non-financial)

None

Legal etc.

None

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