

## Amenity Services Savings

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### 1.0 SUMMARY

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide details to Members regarding the budget savings by Amenity Services for 2014/15 and progress to date.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That Members note the contents of this report.

### 3.0 DETAIL

3.1 This report provides information to members on current situation within Amenity Services Section.

3.2 Amenity Services had carried out a series of workshops with members in the Spring of 2013 to allow feedback and suggestions on how the front line delivery should be carried out in light of further savings of £62,087 needed in 2014/15 within OLI Amenity Services Section.

3.3 To allow these savings to be met, it was reported the department would need to shed 2-3 Full Time Employees and reduce the fleet size by 2 vehicles.

3.4 Amenity Services had through the summer of 2013 trialled new work schedules to incorporate the efficiencies required, the area work teams completed "job cards" that enabled management to keep a record of works carried out and look at areas where anomalies / inefficiencies were found.

3.5 The data collated over summer 2013 has been used to allow further improvements to work schedules to be made and the current schedules are in place for summer 2014, the main areas of change within the OLI area are:

- All grass borders around obstacles, paths and walls are to be cut once in the growing season and weed killed thereafter to reduce the need for strimming throughout the growing season. (this includes around headstones)
- Schedules are set up to ensure that teams are working to take in full range of duties, routes are set up to stop crossover of staff thereby carry out the wide range of tasks whilst in the particular area i.e. pavement sweeping / litter picking / annual flower bed maintenance and grass cutting.
- All Amenity open space grass that had been cut 24 times per season will now be cut 21 times per season Apr-Oct.

- Rose Beds & Shrub borders have been pruned / mulched with forest bark (weed killed where appropriate) to reduce seasonal maintenance.
- Partnership working/Closure of 3 public conveniences (Taynuilt/Coll/Salen)

3.6 The current establishment numbers within the Bute & Cowal Grounds/Cemeteries, Street Sweeping and Local Environment teams are as follows:

Lorn - 15  
 Mull - 5  
 Tiree - 4  
 Coll - 1

- 3.7 Amenity Services are in discussion with a number of Community Groups where there appears to be a willingness in Partnership working to run the three public conveniences originally proposed for closure. The aim of these discussions is to allow rural communities/businesses/sports clubs to take ownership of their facility with minimal support from the council. Where agreement can be reached support could involve a financial sum to assist in running the facilities for a period of time, thereafter the groups would be expected to become self financing.
- 3.8 Staff within Amenity Services have been kept informed of changes and Union Shop Stewards have been fully briefed on changes within the section.
- 3.9 Our Amenity Services Enforcement Officers (new name to be adopted by Environment Wardens) will support the Parking Enforcement team (Amenity Wardens) in Lorn to cover the recent introduction of DPE (Decriminalised Parking Enforcement) this will assist in traffic flow concerns within OLI town/village centres.

#### **4.0 CONCLUSION**

Argyll and Bute Council have been forced to make financial reductions in all departments; Roads & Amenity Services have had to implement change to continue front line service delivery. The future structure of Amenity Services will be set up to allow for multi-tasking / flexible working to ensure that acceptable levels of maintenance are in place and statutory duties such as burials / collection of waste continue to be delivered by A&BC staff. Where Capital investment is needed to improve the infrastructure, Business Plans will be drawn up to look at prioritising Capital spend in future years.

#### **5.0 IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Policy: Environmental / Amenity Services
- 5.2 Financial: Revenue / Capital
- 5.3 Legal: N/A
- 5.4 Risk: Service Delivery
- 5.5 HR: Employees leaving Department due to VR

**For further information contact: Stuart McCracken, Amenity Services Performance Manager (South A&B) 01369 708617**