

**AMENITY SERVICES BUDGET SAVINGS – PROPOSED MODEL MID ARGYLL,  
KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS**

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**1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report is to advise the members of the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee of the proposed maintenance schedules in relation to ground maintenance for the forthcoming season. The Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee agreed the Amenity Services schedule of work for 2014/15 at a special area committee on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2013. This report details the maintenance regime set out for 2014/15 and the proposed maintenance regime for 2015/16, following a recent member engagement workshop.

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**2.0 SUMMARY**

- 2.1 This report asks Members to approve the proposed schedule of works for the 2015/16 maintenance season.

**3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 That the members of the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee agree to the proposed future service model for the forthcoming season.

**4.0 DETAILS**

- 4.1 The maintenance regime for the maintenance season was approved by full Council on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2013, following a series of Area Committee meetings and member workshops.
- 4.2 The work schedules implemented for the 2014/15 season have been successfully delivered. Following the season an engagement meeting of the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area committee was held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2014. Members raised the issue of the application of herbicide around headstones, feeling that this was unsightly. It was agreed for Amenity Services to re-assess the application of herbicide within burial grounds.
- 4.3 The members agreed that they wished to see the maintenance of grass around headstones return to the previous method of maintenance. However, the members agreed that they were content for the maintenance of other grassland areas such as cemetery path edges and the path surfaces within cemeteries to be maintained with the use of herbicide.
- 4.4 The Amenity Manager indicated that the frequency of the previous maintenance regime could not be returned to, in relation to the maintenance around headstones. During the maintenance season 2014/15, grassland edges, including the

maintenance around headstones was carried out by strimming all edges once during April/May and thereafter, by applying herbicide on two occasions, one application May/June and a follow up application during August.

- 4.5 The proposal for 2015/16 is to carryout grassland edging around headstones on three occasions by strimming, the three cycles will be carried out during May, July and September respectively. The two additional strimming cycles will require a total of 131 hours of resource across the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands areas. These works have been scheduled without any alteration to the frequency of other ground maintenance tasks. However, the reactive capability of the Amenity teams will be reduced greatly for unscheduled works, including the burial service.
- 4.6 The service delivery model for 2014/15 as agreed by Council in December 2013 is as follows:

- Reduce sportsfield cuts 32 to 28
- Reduce amenity cuts 24 to 18
- Reduce rose and shrub beds to low maintenance
- Closure of 3 public conveniences
- Reduce strim edges from 6 to 1
- Reduce low maintenance grass areas to 1

The proposed service delivery model for the maintenance season 2015/16 is as follows:

- Reduce sportsfield cuts 28
- Reduce amenity cuts 18
- Reduce rose and shrub beds to low maintenance
- Increase strim edging to 3
- Maintain low maintenance grass areas to 1

## **5.0 CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 Following the recent member engagement workshop and the concerns relating to maintenance of grassland around headstones, the proposed service model accommodates the requests of the members, however, this reduces the reactive capacity of Amenity Services. The appropriate schedules to reflect the proposal in 4.6 have been re-worked in preparation for the forthcoming season, to prevent any delay in delivering the necessary works.

## **6.0 IMPLICATIONS**

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| 6.1 | Policy     | None |
| 6.2 | Financial  | None |
| 6.3 | Legal      | None |
| 6.4 | HR         | None |
| 6.5 | Equalities | None |

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|-----|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6.6 | Risk              | The reactive capabilities of Amenity Services teams within the Mid-Argyll, Kintyre and the Island areas. |
| 6.7 | Customer Services | None                                                                                                     |

**Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure**

**Policy Lead** Councillor Ellen Morton

24<sup>th</sup> March 2015

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