Agenda item: 4

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Executive Decision Record

Decision Maker:	Executive Member for Environment and Transport
Date:	5 March 2013
Title:	Parish Lengthsman
Reference:	4693
Report From:	Director of Economy, Transport and Environment

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1. The decision:

- 1.1. That the Parish Lengthsman initiative be extended into 2013-2014 for the parishes currently involved in the project.
- 1.2. That approval be give for the initiative to be widened in 2013-2014 to cover additional viable clusters which can be formed from the parishes who have expressed an interest in joining the project, at an approximate cost of £95,000.

2. Reasons for the decision:

- 2.1 The current round of pilots under the lengthsman initiative are due to finish at the end of March 2013. Following the success of the Parish Engagement Event and the involvement of the Hampshire Association of Local Parishes (HALC), there has been an increased awareness of the project and consequently other Parish Councils have expressed an interest in joining.
- 2.2 The project benefits Hampshire County Council and improves the perception of the highway maintenance service. There is clearly a high level of satisfaction with the initiative, and feedback indicates the parishes involved are keen for funding to continue. It also suggests that Parishes are pleased that they are able to tackle their problem areas within their own community, some of which have been longstanding issues. By empowering communities in this way, the project fits well with the concept of the 'Big Society' and the aims of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.3 There is an expectation from other parishes that the scheme will be expanded. It is expected that as clusters develop this will encourage other

neighbouring parishes to join. In future years if the schemes popularity with parishes continues then it is likely the project will continue to expand until the majority of Hampshire parishes and town councils will be involved.

3. Other options considered and rejected:

- 3.1 Continuation of the initiative in 2013-2014 with only the current Parishes involved.
- 3.2 Withdrawing funding from Fleet Town Council and Minstead Parish Council unless they become part of an expanded project.
- 3.3 Restricting the initiative to smaller parishes who financially are unable to employ their own lengthsman.
- 3.4 Delaying any expansion of the initiative until 2014-2015 to allow additional time to set up new clusters of Parishes.
- 3.5 Abandoning the project.

4. Conflicts of interest:

- 4.1 Conflicts of interest declared by the decision-maker: None.
- 4.2 Conflicts of interest declared by other Executive Members consulted: None.
- 5. Dispensation granted by the Conduct Advisory Panel: none.
- 6. Reason(s) for the matter being dealt with if urgent: not applicable.
- 7. Statement from the Decision Maker:

Approved by:	Date:
	5 March 2013
Executive Member for Environment and Transport Councillor M J Kendal	

Decn/4693/TL