

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17: Highways Maintenance		Mark Edwards – Head of Highways and Transport	19 January 2016 Version 2 (Exec)
Proposal:	To reduce the Highways Maintenance budget by 19%.		
Total budget 15/16:	£2,875,010	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£552,000 (19%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£552,000 (19%)	Final recommendation to Executive 16/17:	To proceed with this savings proposal, without any modifications.
Nos of responses:	44 in total, including 17 from Parish Councils		
Key issues raised:	Concern that reductions in the amount of road repairs and drainage works carried out will result in worsening road conditions and more surface water leading to more accidents and claims for damage. In short, any cuts would be a false economy.		
Equality issues:	None were drawn out from the responses as these cuts will affect all highway users although a number of responses commented that the young and elderly could be most affected along with those living in rural areas.		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	One Parish Council suggested it could carry out regular highway inspections	Very helpful but wouldn't enable the Council to stop carrying out its own inspections by trained highway technicians due to legal implications.	
	One Parish Council suggested using Youth Offending Service (YOS) to repair roads	Not practical – we have a contract in place for this work.	
	One Parish Council suggested residents could take over grit bins	Not practical – WBC are asking Parish and Town Councils to take on this responsibility.	
Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response	
	No Practical suggestions put forward – see summary for details.		
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	No practical suggestions put forward – see above and summary for details.		

NB: This overview and recommendation paper should be read in conjunction with the Summary of Responses and Verbatim Responses received in relation to this proposal, circulated electronically to all members alongside the agenda pack and published online on our [Consultation Portal](#).

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Officer conclusion as a result of the responses:	The exercise has not highlighted any impacts that were not already anticipated such as worsening road condition, more surface water and increased numbers of claims and complaints.		
Officer recommendation as a result of responses:	Feedback has not uncovered any further issues to those already identified which would prevent the council from proceeding with this proposal. It's therefore recommended to implement this proposal with no changes.		

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