Service and Community Impact Assessment (SCIA)

Front Sheet:

Directorate and Service Area:
Environment and Economy: Commercial

What is being assessed:
Reduction and efficiencies in Roads Maintenance (16EE7)
- Remove Locality Area Stewardship based funding

Responsible owner / senior officer:
Mark Kemp

Date of assessment:
December 2014

Summary of judgement:
This proposal is regarding the removal of locality area stewardship based funding, which was established for local members to take forward small scale highways projects in their communities.

By prioritising the overall highway maintenance budget (Inc. rural routes) on the basis of good asset management principles, safety and customer feedback, it will ensure that the road condition, safety and customer feedback are addressed within the scope of the available resources. On-going dialogue with local councillors and rural communities will ensure maintenance issues are captured and prioritised accordingly.

Defects in the vicinity of doctors' surgeries, day care centres etc., will still be categorised as requiring particular attention and any urgent repairs will be addressed as priority. Signing and lining for those registered disabled to allow parking outside their homes will continued to be delivered.

By prioritising the overall highway maintenance budget on the basis of good asset management principles, safety and customer feedback, it will ensure that the road condition, safety and customer feedback are addressed within the scope of the available resources. No specific impact on communities and groups has been identified. There may be some impact on staff as changes in the overall budget available for

highway maintenance may lead to a reduction in the number of staff required.

Detail of Assessment:

Purpose of assessment:
The Council will need to assess the impact of any proposed budget changes on groups and communities as defined by the Equality Act 2010, and people living in areas of deprivation or in rural parts of the county

Social Value
Under the Public Services (Social Value Act) 2012 the Council also has an obligation to consider how the procurement of services contracts with a life value of more than £173,934[1] might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the area affected by the proposed contract, and how it might act to secure this improvement. However, it is best practice to consider social value for all types of contracts, service delivery decisions and new/updated policies. In this context, 'policy' is a general term that could include a strategy, project or contract.

Context / Background:
The Area Stewards Fund was established for local members to take forward small-scale highways projects in their communities. Many of the projects funded have in fact created new highways works (e.g. pedestrian crossings, parking schemes, vehicle activity) which are themselves generating on-going revenue costs. The fund continued for one more year and has only been available for projects focused on maintenance activity, but is to be removed in 2015/16.

Proposals:
The scheme was extended in 2014/15 for one year only.

Evidence / Intelligence:
It is known from past customer surveys that defects are considered to be a high priority for our customers.

Alternatives considered / rejected:
As the pressure on the highway maintenance budget has increased year on year, it is reasonable to review the Area Stewards Fund in the context of the total resources available for highway maintenance. Highway maintenance budgets are disaggregated on the basis of good asset management principles, safety and customer feedback and therefore it is considered more manageable in terms of overall impact and risk to remove the ring fencing of the Area Stewards Fund.

[11] EC Procurement Threshold for Services

Impact Assessment:

Impact on Individuals and Communities:

There will be a reduction in service as far as the local perception of highway maintenance is concerned. However, by prioritising the overall highway maintenance budget on the basis of good asset management principles, safety and customer feedback, it will ensure that the road condition, safety and customer feedback are addressed within the scope of the available resources. One of the features of the Area Stewards Fund was around providing choice in delivering services prioritised locally but not necessarily on sound asset management principles.

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Mitigation:
On-going dialogue with local councillors and rural communities will ensure maintenance issues are captured and prioritised accordingly.

Areas of Deprivation
No specific impact anticipated

Older People
No specific impact anticipated.

Defects in the vicinity of doctors' surgeries, day care centres etc., will still be categorised as requiring particular attention and any urgent repairs will be addressed as priority.

Children & young adults
No specific impact anticipated

Disabilities
No specific impact anticipated

Defects in the vicinity of doctors' surgeries, day care centres etc., will still be categorised as requiring particular attention and any urgent repairs will be addressed as priority.

Signing and lining for those registered disabled to allow parking outside their homes will continued to be delivered.

Dropped crossings will continue to be assessed on a needs basis as identified by communities or individuals.

Race
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Religion & belief
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Sex
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Gender reassignment
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Sexual orientation
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Pregnancy & maternity
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Marriage & civil partnership
No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Impact on Staff:

The removal of the Area Stewards Fund will lead to reduction in the overall budget available for highway maintenance which may to lead to a reduction in the number of staff required.

What actions will be taken to mitigate this risk?
Formal consultation setting out a fair and equitable process in line with the Council's equal opportunity and recruitment policies will be required if staff numbers are reduced as a result. Staff will have access to help and advice from managers and Staff Care services.

Impact on other Council services:

No specific impact anticipated at this time.

Impact on providers:

The Area Stewards' Fund was delivered via our highway maintenance contractor and therefore no specific impact anticipated.

What actions will be taken to mitigate this risk?
Ensure clear communications between officers, Members and the local community.

Social Value

If the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 applies to this proposal, please summarise here how you have considered how the contract might improve the economic, social, and environmental well-being of the relevant area.

How might the proposal improve the economic well-being of the relevant area?

N/A

How might the proposal improve the environmental well-being of the relevant area?

N/A

Action plan:

Action	By When	Person responsible
Review as appropriate	*6 months*	*Mark Kemp*

Monitoring and review:

Person responsible for assessment: Mark Kemp

Version	Date	Notes (eg Initial draft, amended following consultation)
1	December 2014	Initial draft