

From: David Brazier, Cabinet Member, Highways and Transport
Simon Jones, Corporate Director, Growth, Environment & Transport

To: Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee – 17 March 2022

Decision No: N/A – For information only

Subject: **Decisions taken between Cabinet Committee Meetings**

Classification: **Unrestricted**

Past Pathway of Paper: Cabinet Member Decision

Future Pathway of Paper: N/A

Electoral Division: County-wide

Summary: The attached decision was taken between meetings of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee as it could not be reasonably deferred to the next programmed meeting of the Cabinet Committee for the reasons set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

Recommendation:

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to note that decision 22/00018: Highway Rural Swathe Contract - Maintenance Frequencies was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Highways and Transport has taken decision 22/00018 to increase the biodiversity provision of the Rural Swathe, Visibility and Hedge Maintenance to Option 3 (Two swathe cuts with a tiered approach to all biodiversity assets).
- 1.2 The decision was taken between meetings of the Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee, as it could not reasonably be deferred due to the reasons set out in paragraph 2.3 below.

2. Background to decision

- 2.1 As part of the tendering process for the Highway Rural Swathe, Visibility and Hedge Maintenance contract, contractors were asked to provide options for current provision of maintenance frequencies that have been in place for many years as well as two further options which will increase the provision of biodiversity and support the Council's Pollinator Strategy.
- 2.2 The three options were:

- Option 1: Single Swathe cut Current Specification.
- Option 2: Single Swathe with two Conservation cuts
- Option 3: Two Swathe cuts with tiered Conservation cuts

2.3 The preferred option was option 3 as this was the most flexible option and presented the greatest biodiversity benefit. The contract start date is 1 April 2022. To allow Contractors to mobilise in time to provide the works has required that the decision needed to be taken in early March before the meeting of this Cabinet Committee.

3. Recommendation(s)

The Environment and Transport Cabinet Committee is asked to note that decision 22/00018: Highway Rural Swathe Contract - Maintenance Frequencies was taken between meetings of the Cabinet Committee in accordance with the process set out in the Council's constitution

4. Background Documents

- Record of Decision: 22/00018: Highway Rural Swathe Contract - Maintenance Frequencies; <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2567>

Contact details	Relevant Director
Report Author Theresa Warford, Staff Officer Theresa.warford@kent.gov.uk 03000 417192	Simon Jones Corporate Director, Growth, Environment and Transport Simon.jones@kent.gov.uk 03000 41163