

## Appendix 2

<b>Project/Item</b>	Reduced grass cutting
<b>Date</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2011
<b>Brief Description</b>	<p>Due to the expected effects of the Comprehensive Spending Review it is necessary to find savings and efficiencies within service areas. The function of grass cutting is one such service where savings could potentially be made.</p> <p>The Council maintain the grass at varying frequency depending on location and usage. The annual mowing regime is currently as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemeteries: 15 cuts per season (fortnightly).</li> <li>• High profile sites (formal and memorial gardens): 30 cuts per season (weekly).</li> <li>• Amenity sites: 10 cuts per season.</li> </ul> <p>These frequencies are in general a guideline and can be exceeded in some circumstances, or not achieved in others, due to varying conditions, such as in periods of inclement weather, for example.</p> <p>If the number of cuts on average were to be reduced by 2-3 cuts per annum, this could generate a saving of £39,600 in year one and £45,600 in year 2.</p> <p>However, a blanket 2-3 cut frequency reduction would not be appropriate due to the different nature of the various sites, but this could be facilitated through a flexible approach, which would still allow some sites to be maintained at the current frequency, but would see other, less high profile sites, mown less often, or perhaps unmown to encourage more of a wild meadow approach, which would be facilitated with an initial investment in wildflowers and shrubs.</p> <p>All sites would be considered on an individual basis in order to identify where changes could be made appropriately.</p>
<b>Recommendation</b>	Reducing the average number of grass cuts across the Borough by 2-3 per annum generating a saving of £39,600 in year one and £45,600 in year 2.

<b>Identify Risk</b>	<p>Where grass grows longer, this can potentially attract some criticism. This can be mitigated with additional wild flower and shrub planting, to create a deliberate, more natural effect.</p> <p>A longer time between grass cuts makes a more tufted and thicker sward. This can be less accessible to some people with mobility issues. This will be mitigated by considering sites on a case by case basis and ensuring accessibility where necessary.</p> <p>When people drop litter it can get caught up in longer grass. In these areas there would need to be a commitment to litter picking.</p> <p>Significant reduction in frequency means each cut takes longer. If this coincides with other factors such as poor weather then targeted frequencies may be difficult to achieve. Staff teams would be re-profiled to account for this.</p>
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