

Delivering Enhanced Highway Maintenance – Options and Opportunities

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Council

Highway Steward

- The Highway Steward is a skilled highway operative, in a branded vehicle, who visits parishes and towns to a defined works programme but is also empowered to undertake ad hoc works when identified.
- The Highway Steward scheme delivers minor works within the capability of a single operative.



Highway Steward

- The Parish or Town Council decide on the local priorities.
- The Highway Steward targets discretionary parish works. Any statutory or safety-related work (potholes, damaged regulatory signs, etc.) should be reported in the usual way for the Highway Authority to inspect and assess the appropriate response.



Highway Steward

- The scope of works could include:
 - ‘Low tech, high value works’ such as:
 - verge maintenance,
 - highway surface water drainage maintenance
 - weed removal
 - sign cleaning
 - cutting back vegetation



Highway Steward



Pound Walk, Dulverton—vegetation management

Highway Steward



Recent works in Clatworthy



Signage works at Winsford

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Options for delivery of the Highway Steward and other functions:

- Through Somerset Councils' Highway Maintenance Contract, or
- Self-delivery through suppliers commissioned by a Parish, or by Parish collaboration (note, there are examples around the county of this happening already...)

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Costs:

- Through Somerset Councils' Highway Maintenance Contract, or
 - Currently in dialogue with the new highway maintenance contractor for a '*Parish Price List*'.
- Self-delivery through a Parish, or by Parish collaboration
 - Volunteer network at no cost, or
 - Market rates through the local supply chain.

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Others works Parishes could undertake (but not limited to):

- Winter services (snow clearance and salting of footways and paths)
- Minor repairs to Footway and off-road cycle ways
- Verge cutting and weed control
- Tree and hedge maintenance
- Rights of way maintenance
- Passenger transport infrastructure maintenance (bus stop flags and bus shelters)
- Repair and maintenance of road signs

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Considerations NOT barriers:

- Permission from the Highway Authority to undertake the works, together with any necessary form of licence/ legal agreement.
- An approved Temporary Traffic Regulation Order and temporary traffic signals (if required).
- Risk assessments.
- Public liability insurance.
- Confirmation of health, safety, and welfare of operatives and those travelling through the site.

Time for Questions

