

**CORPORATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE: 25 OCTOBER 2012**

**AGENDA ITEM: 9**

**Background Information - Grass Cutting Within West Lancashire**

**Introduction**

The Borough has approximately 1.5 million square metres of open public land which is maintained by the West Lancashire Borough Council. In 2007, the contract for the maintenance of these public areas was awarded to Street Scene.

**Grassed Area**

Each grassed area within the Borough is assigned a category that will determine the number of cuts it will receive per season (see table 1). However, due to the area location, the grass may be assigned more than one category. A typically example is

There are twelve different grass cutting categories that are employed throughout the Borough, as shown in table 1.

Table 1

<b>Grass Cutting Categories and Schedule of Rates</b>		
<b>Category</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Rates</b>
G1	12 cuts per season	0.4022p
G1sh	12 cuts per season with grass lift	0.6979p
G1a	5 cuts per season	0.4240p
G1s	Strimming	0.8530p
G2	4 cuts per season	0.3589p
G3	7 cuts per season	0.1142p
G3a	2 cuts per season	0.0305p
G4	2 cuts per year with side arm flail	0.03047p
G5	15 cuts per season on football pitches	0.02320p
G6	1 cut per season	0.0305p
O/G	Ornamental grass (cylinder cut)	1.3590p
BG1	Bowling green	1.3889p

Each of the categories has a specific schedule of rates which incorporate labour, machinery, and material charges that are required to carryout the grass cutting task.

**Grass Cutting Season**

The grass cutting season commences in early April and concludes late October. The cutting schedule can be severely affected by the weather

conditions as we have recently experienced. This has resulted in areas of the Borough not receiving the specified number of cuts due ground conditions.

### **Highways**

It is the responsibility of Lancashire County Council to cut the grass on verges where it impairs traffic sight-line visibility. However, in partnership with the County, Street Scene undertakes this work with funding from the County Council. The partnership arrangement with the County Council also involves the grass cutting of verges along rural lanes.

Such areas are extremely hazardous to carryout grass cutting maintenance and require specific traffic management control measures. This ensures the safety of our staff and road users whilst the task is being undertaken.

### **Leisure**

All Council owned grassed amenity areas within the Borough are maintained by Street Scene. These areas include football pitches, bowling greens, cricket pitches, parks and play areas. Where appropriate, pitch line markings are also applied in agreement with Leisure Services.

Street Scene liaises closely with the Leisure Services, administration team with regards to the re-scheduling or additional grass cuts, and receiving feedback from the end users including affiliated clubs.

### **Housing**

Street Scene cut the grassed areas within all the estates owned by the Council on behalf of the Housing Section. The grassed areas within sheltered housing are also cut though this differs as the specification requires these cuttings to be removed.

### **Cemeteries**

Street Scene maintain the grassed areas within the cemeteries at Liverpool Road, Skelmersdale and St Paul's Skelmersdale for which the Council has responsibility.