

Environmental Impact assessment

1. Name of activity:	Grounds Maintenance Contract Review				
2. Main purpose of activity:	A contract review process has been undertaken in the lead up to an agreed possible break point (31 st March 2022) within the existing contract with John O’Conner Grounds Maintenance Ltd (JOC)				
3. List the information, data or evidence used in this assessment:					
Area of Potential Impact	Examples to Consider (non-exhaustive)	Neutral (X)	Negative (X)	Positive (X)	<p><i>Describe the contribution/impact on the area that the decision may have - assess whether this impact is a negative or positive or neutral one.</i></p> <p>Negative: What are the risks?</p> <p>Positive: What are the benefits?</p>
1. Impact on greenhouse emission and support adaption to the effects of climate change	Will energy needs be met through renewable sources?				Negative
	Will it reduce emissions through retrofitting new technology?			X	
	Will it reduce greenhouse gas emissions by reducing energy consumption and the need to travel?				<p>Positive</p> <p>Reduced emissions from fewer vehicle journeys and reduced cutting regimes.</p>
2. Use of natural resources including water and energy	Will it reduce water consumption?				Negative
	Will it reduce energy consumption?			X	
					Positive

					In removing summer and winter bedding, this can minimise water consumption that would have been required to maintain aesthetic floral displays.
3. Minimisation of flood risks to the area (i.e. promotion of SUD's. protect surface and ground water quality)	Will it minimise flood risk from all sources of flooding?	x			Negative
	Will it reduce property damage due to storm events/ heavy rainfall by improving flood resistance and flood resilience?				Positive
4. To protect, enhance and create environments that encourage and support biodiversity	Will it protect, enhance and increase biodiversity and protect habitats?				Negative
	Will it improve access to and promote educational value of sites of biodiversity interest?				Positive The corporate review of its approach to greenspace with a focus on the wilding agenda will seek to enhance the green spaces and increase biodiversity in the district. The reduction of annual Highway grass cuts from 12-14 to 6-9 can help increase biodiversity by allowing growth of a range of flowering plants and thus helping to attract wildlife to verges Longer grass also gives shelter and protection to small animals and insects and thus encourages biodiversity.

					<p>It can also help to join up fragmented habitats and provide 'highways' or 'corridors' for wildlife.</p> <p>Grass should be mown to a higher height than at present so there will be an increase in the plant species that can survive in the verges. Additionally, the arisings will remain on site so they will compost back into the ground. This provides further temporary habitats for insects etc</p>
<p>5. To improve Air Quality</p> <p><i>(air quality describes how polluted the air we breathe is)</i></p>	<p>Will it improve air quality?</p> <p>Will it reduce emissions of key pollutants?</p>			x	Negative
					Positive
<p>6. To reduce need to travel, the use of private motorised vehicular transport as well as</p>	<p>Will it encourage increased walking, cycling and use of public transport?</p> <p>Will it increase the proportion of journeys using modes other than a car?</p>				Negative
					Positive

<i>encourage walking, cycling, and use of public transport</i>				, fewer vehicle trips will be made owing to reduced cutting regimes and playground inspections, hopefully resulting in reduced emissions.
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<i>7. To reduce waste production and increase recycling, recovery and reuse of waste</i>	<p>Will it lead to reduced consumption of materials and resources?</p> <p>Will it reduce household waste?</p> <p>Will it reduce construction waste?</p> <p>Will it increase recovery recycling and re-use?</p>			<p>Negative</p> <p></p> <p>Positive</p> <p></p>
	<i>8. To enhance the public realm and street improvements</i>	<p>Will it reduce litter?</p> <p>Will it enhance the quality of public realm?</p>		

					<p>still a proportion of the community that will resist change and perceived reductions in any standards of maintenance regardless of the impacts or benefits to the environment.</p> <p>Positive</p>
					<p>Negative</p>
<p>9. To protect, enhance and seek opportunities to increase open space</p>	<p>Will it improve open space? Will it improve landscape character? Will it minimise development on Greenfield sites?</p>			x	<p>Positive</p> <p>The Greenspace Team structure review as part of this process now focuses itself to the management of existing LNR's and promoting biodiversity by moving away from a specific contract monitoring role.</p>
					<p>Negative</p>
<p>10. To reduce noise and impact of noise</p>	<p>Will it reduce noise pollution from vehicles?</p>				<p>Positive</p> <p>The reduction number of vehicles on road and reducing highway grass cuts potentially minimise frequency and contribution to noise pollution also (</p>
					<p>Negative</p>

6.0 Results			
	Yes	No	
Were positive impacts identified?	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Were negative impacts identified (what actions were taken)	x <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitigation not possible. Negative impact was increased pollen causing irritation for people with hay fever
7.0 Consultation, decisions and actions			
Describe the decision on this activity (refer to section 3.2)			
Consultation has been undertaken as part of a Project Board process with those named within the Cabinet Report 29 th June 2021			
List all actions identified to address/mitigate negative impact or promote positive impact			
Action	Responsible person		Completion due date
Diligent management and monitoring of the ground contract with John O'Conner's should mitigate any negative impacts as far as reasonably practical and at the same time promote the positive aspects of the contract review	Andrew Mills		31 st March 2027
When, how and by whom will these actions be monitored?			
The contract is continuously monitored against the specification			
8.0 Signatures			
Assessor (report author):			
Name: Andrew Mills		Signature**	
Validated by (line manager):			
Name:		Signature**	

Forward to the Corporate Policy inbox: corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk	
Signature**	
Assessment date:	Review date:

** Please type your name to allow forms to be sent electronically.

A copy of this form should be forwarded to corporatepolicy@north-herts.gov.uk and a duplicate filed on the council's report system, alongside any report proposing a decision on policy or service change.