

**To review Cornwall Council's Local Maintenance Partnership 2025-26 and consider any actions and associated expenditure**

Saltash Town Council agreed to not sign up to the LMP 2024-25 (cutting of vegetation that grows along the surface of Public Rights of Way) due to the lack of resources within the Service Delivery Department.

Further to this, there has been no change in terms of resource within our Service Delivery Department and the Town Council have taken on other areas of responsibility therefore Saltash Town Council are advised to not partake in the LMP 2025-26 for that reason.

There is an option to sign up to the LMP and outsource the work, however, this still creates an impact to the department – obtaining insurance cert, RAMS, handing over the areas to be maintained followed by inspection of works prior to release of payment.

Cormac were contacted to obtain the LMP rate per meter for the year 2025-26 and to provide an update on the work undertaken to the footpaths and bridleways in Saltash this year and how many complaints were received from the public, if any. Below is their response in blue text received late today:

I've asked if anyone knows what the budget is likely to be for next year, but it seems this isn't known just yet, but they're hoping to finalise this next month.

We have just put together a programme of cutting for Saltash, to be undertaken over the Autumn/Winter. We are hoping to be able to cut all those that are on your schedule this year, however, by using our own gangs, may not be doable. We have asked that they prioritise paths 9, 11 and 28 as we received a number of complaints about these over the last few months.

We have received 24 complaints this year about the paths in Saltash being overgrown, however, these only related to paths 3, 7, 8, 9, 11, 17, 27, 28, 38, 45, 46 and 48.

We would like to hope that if Saltash do not sign up for next year, then we would be able to undertake some cutting, but again, it would be one cut a year later in the year and would be up to your allocation as we are keen to ensure the paths remain usable in the hope that you will eventually be back in the position you can assist once more and the network is in a condition that wouldn't require too much to keep it going.

If it helps, it may be worth having a conversation with Dave Wood, who co-ordinates LMP on behalf of Cornwall Council if you think you may be in a position to be able to help out in any way, to see if there is a way we can work together to keep your network open and available.

Below are the questions and answers received last year that may be of use when considering this matter.

1. What is the LMP rate per meter?

For the 24-25 Financial year: £147.99 per km for specific Gold paths (what is shown on the map and Schedule), £7.39 per cut for specific isolated gates or stiles and a flat rate of £59.19 per km is offered for the overall length of Silver paths in the parish. Currently there is no specific grant for Bronze paths.

2. The grant offered to Saltash Town Council, is the same grant offered across Cornwall to other T&P Council's? If it differs, why?

The grants vary on the length of gold paths to be cut, but it is all calculated using the same rates as above, this remains the same for each parish and town council.

3. Should Saltash TC decide they are unable to take next year's LMP service, who and how will the Saltash footpaths be maintained?

If Saltash TC do not join LMP then Cormac will cut key paths where we receive reports of them being overgrown. This will only be to a value of the grant only.

4. Is there an option to increase the grant offered?

We can't increase the rate, as this has to be the same and fair for all of the parishes. The only way the grant can be increased is if there is more cutting to be undertaken within the parish. This will need to be agreed before the precept letter is sent out. The grant amount does increase annually, which this year is by 4.9%.

**End of Report**

**Town Clerk / RFO**