

To receive Cornwall Council's Local Maintenance Partnership 2024-2025 and consider any actions and associated expenditure

Summary:

This years contract was terminated at the early part of the season due to lack of in-house resources. Some work was undertaken and a charge of £414.75 submitted to Cormac. By doing some LMP work meant an extended backlog of Town Council Services work.

We have now received next year's Local Maintenance Partnership together with supporting information, for Members consideration – see attached.

Discussing with the Service Delivery Manager and Assistant Service Delivery Manager the amount of work involved, especially during the Summer period, it is felt that taking on the LMP is too much to add to the existing workload, I have to agree.

The position may be different if additional staff were onboard but we are not yet at that stage and it is not as simple as recruiting, we would also need to consider appropriate training.

Overview of Cornwall Council's LMP:

The LMP rate per meter for the 24-25 Financial year is £147.99 per km for specific Gold paths, £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. Saltash Town Council estimated grant for 2024-25 is £1,613.77 an increase of £161.48 from 2023-24.

Cornwall Council 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 Town and Parish Council in Cornwall.

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

Saltash Town Council to sign post complaints to the Countryside Access Team (Environment) countryside@cormacltd.co.uk

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

Next Steps:

Members are asked to consider not signing up to the 2024-25 LMP to undertake in-house due to the volume of existing work against available resources, and to allow time for the department to be set running efficiently. Unfortunately, the department is almost starting from the beginning therefore we need to walk before we can run.

Further to the above, there is an option to outsource the work to a contractor, however, it is highly likely that the estimated grant of £1,613.77 will not cover the cost of a contractor, three quotes would need to be obtained (cost dependant). The Services Committee has a budget that may support the service but please be mindful sub-contracting costs at this stage are unknown:

Budget 2024-25:

Budget Code: 6506 Grounds Maintenance and Watering

Budget Availability: £10,730

**End of Report
Town Clerk/RFO**