

# Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

To: Environmental Services Committee

GRASS CUTTING

4 AUGUST 2015

For Decision

Report to Committee

Linkage to Corporate Plan	
Strategic Priority	To Mitigate against Loss of DRD Revenue for Grass Cutting
Objective	To rationalise grass cutting to provide savings
Lead Officer	Gareth Doyle
Cost: (If applicable)	Loss of £57,000 from DRD

## 1.1 Background

Earlier this year DRD announced that it was withdrawing the funding for grass cutting previously paid to legacy councils for maintaining grass verges, primarily along arterial routes within town boundaries.

## 1.2 Detail

Council currently maintain in excess of 2.5 million square metres of grass which includes approximately 289,000m<sup>2</sup> (12%) for DRD.

## 1.3 Options

Options include:

- a) Desist from cutting DRD grass
- b) Continue to cut DRD grass and look at ways to make savings in the management of all grassed areas. For example:
  - Use 'Don't Mow, Let It Grow' campaign to reduce both the area and frequency of grass cutting
  - Re-assess the current practice of maintaining grassed areas for other 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

A short presentation will be delivered highlighting the issues surrounding these options.

## 1.4 Recommendation

Council consider the options and agree a strategy for grass maintenance to mitigate against the loss of revenue (£57,000).