

Part A

Initial Impact Assessment

Proposal name

Grass Verges

Brief aim(s) of the proposal and the outcome(s) you want to achieve

There is around 2.8 million m2 of grass verges which form part of the public highway, maintained by Amey on behalf of the Council.

All aspects of Highways Maintenance (from surfacing of footways and carriageways, litter and fly tipping removal, street lighting and street signs, gritting and environmental maintenance such as tree care and planting, flower beds and shrubs and grass cutting) for highways maintainable at the public expense is undertaken by Amey on behalf of the Council as part of a PFI contract to 2037.

Across the city, residents and communities aspire to different uses and methodologies for verges and to maintenance. On some roads, parking is at a premium as Sheffield's housing stock and verges were constructed when most people didn't own a car. Some communities are keen to invest in new street trees to provide shading and new ecology whilst others value wildflowers or the traditional look of regular mowing.

The report proposes approval of a range of options available for managing verges across the city: Grass Verge and Community Funded Street Tree Planting Policies.

The options allow the flexibility to use different approaches across neighbourhoods depending on local needs and priorities of the Council's customers.

Proposal type

Budget

non-Budget

If Budget, entered on Q Tier? Yes No

Q Tier reference

Year of proposal (s)

21/22 22/23 23/24 24/25 other

Decision Type

- Committee (select below)**
- Adult Health and Social Care Policy Committee
- Communities, Parks and Leisure Policy Committee
- Economic Development and Skills Policy Committee
- Education, Children and Families Policy Committee
- Housing Policy Committee
- Strategy and Resources Policy Committee
- Transport, Regeneration and Climate Policy Committee
- Waste and Street Scene Policy Committee
- Regulatory Committees (e.g. Licensing Committee)
- Other Policy Committee or sub-Committee
- Local Area Committees

- Leader**
- Executive Director/Director**
- Officer Decisions (Non-Key)**
- Council (e.g. Budget and Housing Revenue Account)**

Lead Committee Member

Lead Director for Proposal

Person filling in this EIA form

Equality Lead Officer

Lead Equality Objective

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Understanding Communities | <input type="radio"/> Workforce Diversity | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Leading the city in celebrating & promoting inclusion | <input type="radio"/> Break the cycle and improve life chances |
|---|---|--|--|

Portfolio, Service and Team

Lead Portfolio

Is this Cross-Portfolio?

- Yes No

Is the EIA joint with another organisation (eg NHS)?

- Yes No Please specify

Consultation

Is consultation required?

- Yes No

If consultation is not required please state why

Consultation process was carried out in September/October 2022 and 1,891 responses were received. Details of this are included in the report.

Are Staff who may be affected by these proposals aware of them?

- Yes No

Are Customers who may be affected by these proposals aware of them?

- Yes No

If you have said no to either please say why

Page 522



Initial Impact

Under the [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) we have to pay due regard to the need to:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation
- advance equality of opportunity
- foster good relations

For a range of people who share protected characteristics, more information is available on the [Council website](#) including the [Community Knowledge Profiles](#).

Identify Impacts

Identify which characteristic the proposal has an impact on tick all that apply

<input type="radio"/> Health	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Transgender
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Age	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Carers
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Disability	<input type="radio"/> Voluntary/Community & Faith Sectors
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Pregnancy/Maternity	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Partners
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Race	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Cohesion
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Religion/Belief	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Poverty & Financial Inclusion
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sex	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Armed Forces
<input checked="" type="radio"/> Sexual Orientation	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Other

Cumulative Impact

Does the proposal have a cumulative impact?

- Yes No

<input checked="" type="radio"/> Year on Year	<input type="radio"/> Across a Community of Identity/Interest
<input type="radio"/> Geographical Area	<input type="radio"/> Other

If yes, details of impact

This project/process will be across the City

Does the proposal have a geographical impact across Sheffield?

- Yes No

If Yes, details of geographical impact across Sheffield

This will be the same across the City

Local Area Committee Area(s) impacted

- All Specific

If Specific, name of Local Committee Area(s) impacted

Initial Impact Overview

Based on the information about the proposal what will the overall equality impact?

In providing a range of options and a flexible approach to managing verges across the city, the policy should support fostering good relations. The clear explanation of options and approach to handling complaints should help mitigate conflict in local neighbourhoods.

Ultimately, as the Highway Authority our prevailing duty is to provide a safe, accessible highway for all users.

Is a Full impact Assessment required at this stage? Yes No

If the impact is more than minor, in that it will impact on a particular protected characteristic you must complete a full impact assessment below.

Initial Impact Sign Off

EIAs must be agreed and signed off by an Equality lead Officer. Has this been signed off?

Yes No

Date agreed 31/01/2023

Name of EIA lead officer Louise Nunn

Part B

Full Impact Assessment

Health

Does the Proposal have a significant impact on health and well-being (including effects on the wider determinants of health)?

Yes No *if Yes, complete section below*

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

Verges across the city range from small, narrow strips of land to more substantial spaces which can accommodate recreational activities. Verges also form green corridors to bigger green spaces such as parks and also the rural environment. The policies proposed include measure to protect verges, options for localised wild flower planting and facilitating additional street tree planting. The health benefits of green spaces are well documented across academic and government research. Green spaces encourage exercise with derived benefits ranging from the physical gains of reduced obesity, increased mobility to mental health and wellbeing gains.

The proposals include community funding option for additional street trees. Street tree cover provides shade, reducing the intensity of the sun during hot weather. In addition, they help lower air pollution levels. These will be localised positive impacts for those with breathing impairments.

The report also recognises available parking may be a local pressure and verges may get used for this. Whilst this reduces the green benefit of verges, in providing clarity of how we will manage such use of verges, it should help alleviate customer's stress and frustration which can have a negative impact to health.

Comprehensive Health Impact Assessment being completed

Yes No

Please attach health impact assessment as a supporting document below.

Public Health Leads has signed off the health impact(s) of this EIA

Yes No

**Name of Health
Lead Officer**

Age

Impact on Staff

Page 526
Impact on Customers

Yes No Yes No

Details of impact

Key issue arising from the policy proposals is any perception of impact to accessibility and this having a negative impact to those with low mobility. There are numerous sources of evidence that mobility is the most frequently reported impairment older people. Therefore, the proposals may negatively impact older people. The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge. Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases the only alternative may be the road.

Disability

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

As with age, impact of increased/ longer vegetation may negatively impact customers with reduced mobility.
The proposal for localised placing of stones or alternative as a physical preventative parking may also impact people with visual impairment. Again the key mitigation there should be access via footpath and no need for use of the verge. The proposal for the stones or alternative to be on the verge and not in to the footpath or road. The council will remove any stones etc that are identified as a hazard and prevent safe highway use.
The council will ensure clear lines of sight are maintained at junctions, cutting back vegetation as necessary.

Pregnancy/Maternity

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.
Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Race**Impact on Staff**

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.
Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Religion/Belief**Impact on Staff**

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.
Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Sex**Impact on Staff**

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.
Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Sexual Orientation

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge. Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Gender Reassignment (Transgender)

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge. Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Carers

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge. Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Voluntary, Community & Faith sectors

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The proposals include a scheme for community funding for additional street trees. The scheme is a positive impact, providing clear guidance on where street trees can be planted. The costs are provided so groups know the target for donations. It open to individuals and or community groups and all faith sectors to donate funds and identify a spot for a new street tree to be planted. The local benefits of street tree planting are identified above in the health section.

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.

Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Partners

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.

Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Cohesion

Staff

Yes No

Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge.

Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Poverty & Financial Inclusion

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Please explain the impact

Armed Forces

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge. Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Other

Please specify

Impact on Staff

Yes No

Impact on Customers

Yes No

Details of impact

The policy proposals may encourage areas of longer grass length, wildflowers and increased vegetation discouraging access of/ over the verge. Mostly, the mitigation to this access issue is there will be a footpath alongside the verge. In some cases, the only alternative may be the road.

Action Plan and Supporting Evidence

What actions do you need to take following this EIA?

What evidence have you used to support the info in the EIA?

A rapid evidence review of the benefits of parks and green spaces for people and communities https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/media/insights/documents/Space-to-thrive_2019-A-rapid-evidence-review.pdf?mtime=20191018095850&focal=none

Benefits of Street Trees: <https://www.streettreesforliving.org/benefits-of-street-trees>

UK disability statistics: Prevalence and life experiences:
<https://researchbriefings.files.parliament.uk/documents/CBP-9602/CBP-9602.pdf>

Detail any changes made as a result of the EIA

Following mitigation is there still significant risk of impact on a protected characteristic. Yes No

If yes, the EIA will need corporate escalation? Please explain below

Sign Off

EIAs must be agreed and signed off by an Equality lead Officer. Has this been signed off?

Yes No

Date agreed Name of EIA lead officer

Review Date