



Subject:	Update on grass cutting and horticultural maintenance of Transport NI sites within Belfast
Date:	10 May 2016
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Director of City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Rose Crozier, Assistant Director

Is this report restricted?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	Members will be aware that Council agreed to enter into an arrangement with Transport NI to provide grounds maintenance to five sites (<i>Michael Ferguson roundabout, Stewartstown Road and on the roadside verges at Kingsway Dunmurry, Knock dual carriageway and at the top of the Cregagh Road</i> , all of which are under the ownership and responsibility of Transport NI), and that officers should investigate an appropriate arrangement between Belfast City Council and Transport NI for maintenance of these sites. This report provides Committee with an update on arrangements that have been agreed for the current year.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Note the arrangements in place for the maintenance of the five sites under ownership of Transport NI for the 2016/2017 year.
3.0	Main report
3.1	The provision of environmental maintenance including grass cutting within the public road boundary is the responsibility of Transport NI and the levels of this service are set out in Transport NI's published Road Maintenance Standards.

3.2	<p>However, due to the financial constraints being faced by the Department for Regional Development (DRD) and Transport NI during 2015/16, environmental maintenance service delivery has been reduced with grass cutting limited to one cut across all areas and further cutting only undertaken in respect of road safety such as visibility splays at junctions. Grass cutting arrangements were supplemented in 2015/16 by BCC providing one cut to five sites.</p>
3.3	<p>Council agreed at its meeting of September 2015 that Council would enter into an arrangement with Transport NI for the maintenance of 5 sites on the basis that each organisation would contribute resources within existing budgets.</p>
3.4	<p>It was agreed that grass cutting/horticultural maintenance would be provided at the following sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Ferguson roundabout, Stewartstown Road • Kingsway Embankment, Dunmurry • Knock dual Carriageway • Cregagh Road with the Knock dual carriageway
3.5	<p>After further discussions a legal agreement has been drawn up between Belfast City Council and Transport NI to facilitate these arrangements. A schedule of maintenance for 2016/2017 is attached at Appendix 1.</p>
3.6	<p>Staff training has been provided to ensure the health and safety of Council staff working on or near highways.</p>
3.7	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The proposals are provided for within existing budgets. Additional services may be specified based on allocation of additional funding received from sponsorship.</p>
3.8	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
4.1	Appendix 1 – Schedule of Maintenance for Transport NI sites for 2016/2017.