

The proposals and feedback form

This consultation closes on Friday 5 December 2014.

Proposal 1 - Gritting and snow clearing fleet

We have two fleets of vehicles which are used to respond to winter weather situations. One is used to respond to normal winter weather and a second is used to respond to severe winter weather such as heavy and prolonged snowfalls. The second fleet of vehicles are used on rare occasions and cost a lot to maintain.

We propose reducing the number of vehicles in the second fleet to make savings. However, this would mean we would be less able to respond to issues off the main road network during periods of severe winter weather.

Current spending: £4,424,000

Proposed saving: £50,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on proposal 1

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 2 - Gritting and snow clearing routes

When temperatures are forecast to be close to or below freezing we routinely treat certain routes with salt. This is determined by criteria such as community population and traffic flows.

To achieve identified savings we propose reviewing the criteria. However, it would mean that we wouldn't be able to treat access routes to smaller communities and less well used routes with salt.

Current spending: £4,424,000

Proposed saving: £103,000 (only £40,000 in first year to allow for criteria review costs).

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further

- No comment on proposal 2

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 3 - Grit bins

Our grit bins are currently restocked with salt each year during the autumn. They are refilled during the winter when reported as necessary and resources permit.

To achieve identified savings we propose to stop maintaining or restocking grit bins. The grit bins would not be removed so community groups could take over the restocking of the bins, by purchasing salt through a contract procured by DCC.

Current spending: £4,424,000

Proposed saving: £80,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on proposal 3

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 4 - Picnic sites

We currently own and maintain the four picnic sites on the A361/ A39.

To achieve identified savings we propose closing these sites and putting the land up for sale.

Map - Picnic site locations on the A361/A39

Current spending: £133,000

Proposed saving: £133,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on proposal 4

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 5 - Grass cutting

We currently fund the cutting of all highway verges in towns and villages four times a year. On verges in rural areas, a one metre strip is cut twice a year along main roads and significant local roads.

To achieve identified savings we propose only funding grass cutting to maintain visibility at junctions and on the inside of bends in towns, villages and rural areas.

Current spending: £1,179,302

Proposed saving: £700,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on this proposal 5

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 6 - Weed treatment

We currently fund targeted weed spraying and treatment of noxious weeds (thistles, docks, and ragwort) mainly in town and village centres. Ragwort is either weed sprayed (if in large quantities), or hand-pulled if there are small isolated pockets.

We propose to stop targeted weed spraying and treatment of noxious weeds, but will maintain a small budget to enable use of Community Payback volunteers.

Current spending: £343,916

Proposed saving: £250,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on proposal 6

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 7 - Parish Lengthsmen Service

There are currently 13 teams across Devon, each made up of two people. In the past, Lengthsmen have visited each parish four times a year to carry out locally determined highway drainage and cleaning activities. Due to last winter's extreme weather and budget cuts, they have only been available for locally determined highway drainage and cleaning activities for a few months this year.

We propose reducing the number of Lengthsmen and making the cleaning of drainage features such as grips and easements, and hand cleaning of gullies their only duty. This would leave no time for locally determined highway drainage and cleaning activities.

Current spending: £1,981,624

Proposed saving: £430,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed
- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on proposal 7

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?

Proposal 8 - Neighbourhood Highway Team staffing

There are currently seven Neighbourhood Highway Teams across Devon. The frontline officers in the teams liaise with councillors, town and parish councils, and community groups. They also investigate and assess highway and traffic management enquiries and requests from customers.

To achieve identified savings we propose reducing frontline staff by about 20%. This would mean less frequent or responsive liaison, and not being able to investigate lower priority enquiries.

Current spending: £1,375,000

Proposed saving: £260,000

Based on the proposal above, would you:

- Reduce the service as proposed

- Consider alternative cost-saving
- Cut budget further
- No comment on proposal 8

What impact would this proposal have on you?

What could we do to reduce the impact on you?