

**ANGUS COUNCIL**  
**COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE**  
**14 APRIL 2015**  
**VERGE MAINTENANCE**

**1. BACKGROUND**

In recent years rural verge maintenance has been tendered through the Tayside Procurement Consortium for Angus, Dundee and Perth and Kinross Councils. A new contract has just been tendered for both Perth and Kinross and Angus. As Dundee having limited rural grassed areas Dundee City Council did not take part on this occasion. The tender is for three years with an option to extend for two years based on performance. For the purpose of encouraging all sizes of contractor to tender the council area was split into geographical lots and contractors were able to tender for one or more lots as in previous years.

In previous year's contractor's have been asked traditionally to cut a one metre swathe of grass each side of the road on all A, B, C and unclassified roads two times per year, once in the spring (May time) and again in July/August time with additional cut on the inside of bends and where there are hazard/warning lines and at visibility splays. Extra cutting is sometimes called for in excessive growing seasons, damp warm humid conditions particularly where visibility is impaired.

**2. DETAILS**

In order to reduce costs given pressures on the Revenue budgets it was agreed as part of the budget proposals to reduce the number of cuts from two to one per year on the unclassified roads network in addition to previous reductions in the cutting back to the boundary line once every fourth year to remove wind blown saplings, etc.

The new contract will offer a reduction by only cutting the grass once mid season on unclassified class roads whilst continuing to cut twice on A, B and C roads.

The Contracts have been awarded for a start in May.

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