

**BLYTH TOWN COUNCIL**  
**Environment Committee**  
**Tuesday 12 December 2023**  
**Decision Report 3**

**NCC & BTC PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Recommendations**

**The Committee RESOLVE to agree: to ratify the decision of the Partnership Board to extend the present agreement for a period of one year to enable an informed decision to be made on the new working arrangements and changes made for the new season.**

Ward

Not Ward Specific

Risk Management

The provision for the enhanced services that Blyth Town Council contribute towards is already within the 2024/25 budget.

Objective

To provide high quality core services in the most effective and efficient manner which will deliver the Councils agreed priorities and objectives.

Report

Changes were proposed for areas to be maintained to a higher level to produce a quality standard these being called Gateway routes which are the main routes into Blyth. The other areas defined as Amenity areas would in effect have at least the minimum number of Core cuts carried out over the course of the cutting season. Problems have arisen through a host of issues over the course of the season which has resulted in officers having to re-evaluate and make changes as things have not progressed as well as expected. Grass cutting costs in resources both men and machines are the largest financial aspect of the Partnership Agreement. Based on what we have learned through trial and error it would not be acceptable to sign up to a long-term agreement until the trial period is extended for a further year.

Options to be considered:

- 1) Give notice to The County Council that Blyth wishes to withdraw from the Partnership Agreement from the 31 March 2024:
- 2) Consider Signing a new long-term agreement with some amendments to the current Agreement:
- 3) Extend the trial for a further temporary period (i.e.) one year to enable an informed decision to be made based on the new working arrangements and changes being made for the new season.

It should also be noted that a reassessment of the true costs of enhancing the “core” service whether current or revised would need to be an essential part of any on-going trial period.

**D Clough**  
**General Services Officer**

28 November 2023