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| <b>Meeting</b>          | Parks and Open Spaces Committee                                                           |
| <b>Date</b>             | 10 January 2023                                                                           |
| <b>Report Title</b>     | Autumn Shrub Bed & Hedge Maintenance                                                      |
| <b>Agenda Reference</b> | 11                                                                                        |
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### Officer's Recommendations

To note the report.

### 2022 Winter Shrub and Hedge Maintenance

The grounds team has commenced the winter maintenance of shrub beds and hedgerows.

The team has been bolstered by two temporary staff and one additional vehicle from 5<sup>th</sup> December. The intention is that these staff and the vehicle will be with us until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

An order has been raised for additional handheld power tools.

The scheduled winter works will continue alongside this program.

The team is currently finishing in Abbey Meads and working towards Haydon Wick, Greenmeadow and Moredon areas. The quality of the workmanship has received excellent feedback, please see attached some before/after pictures, but be mindful due to the nature of the cut backs it will look scruffy until the shrub regenerates in the spring.

### Training

This training will be funded from the previously agreed surplus in the Grounds Maintenance Contract budget, which will be taken to Finance & Policy to vire across to the training budget.

- Chain saw training is booked for two persons.
- Basic Tractor operation is to be booked for two persons
- Tractor and Side arm training as a follow on to basic tractor training is to be booked for two operatives.

### 2023/2024 Service Delivery Model

The Officers have been working with the Grounds Maintenance Facility working party presenting high level comparison costs for the autumn/winter shrub and hedge maintenance contract from 2023/2024 onwards for the next three years.