

Meeting	Parks & Open Spaces Committee
Date	4 th Nov 2025
Report Title	Grounds Maintenance Working Party
Agenda Reference	11
Author	Laura Cutter, Deputy Clerk/RFO, HR & Services Manager

Officers Recommendation

1. To note the report.

Overview

Members of the Grounds Maintenance Working Party (Councillors Manro, Heyes, Hailstone, Worman, L Jackson & Park) met on Friday 17th November 2025 and received an overview from the Officers accompanied by a presentation detailing the current model and ideas to enhance the service.

Members noted an overview of this season's progress on all aspects of the Parks & Open Spaces Team – grass cutting, hedge cutting, bin emptying, street sweeping, weed spraying, play area maintenance, projects etc. and discussed the current resourcing plan and areas for improvements.

Additional Support

It is apparent from the resourcing plan that the Spring/Summer schedule maintenance requires additional support for the reactive works (collected through the POS reporting system) and seasonal budget is set aside for this each year. Proposals for additional support or changes to the service model will be captured during further grounds maintenance working party meetings, personnel sub-committee (where required), at further Committee/ Full Council meetings and at budget setting for 2026-2027 onwards.

Mower Leases

As the mower lease is due in February 2026, Officers presented options and costs for replacement. From these discussions the consensus was that Council should consider selling the mower it owns for an approx. retail value of £10,000.00 and short term leasing two mowers from April – October to avoid storing over the winter months, the costs associated with this are in line with the costs that the Council is currently paying, but there will be less maintenance and servicing costs required with a short term lease. The lead time for new leases is 8 – 12 weeks, so a decision would need to be made by 7th January 2026 latest.