



Report To: Council

23 February 2018

Lead Officer: Director, Health and Environmental Services

Swavesey Byeways Rate 2018/19

Purpose

1. To report on the annual meeting of the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee held on 5th February 2018 and to set the level of the Swavesey Byeways rate.

Recommendations

2. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee recommends Council:
 - (a) Maintains the current level of the Swavesey Byeways rate of £1.10 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2018/19 in order to fund the required level of maintenance.

Reasons for Recommendations

3. Since the enactment of the byeways legislation in 1984, local charge payers have agreed to provide labour and plant on a voluntary basis while the Council provides materials for use along the byeways, funded by the byeways rate.
4. The Advisory Committee, having considered the current condition of the byeways, are satisfied that a rate of £1.10 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2018/19 will be sufficient to fund the required level of maintenance, subject to the availability of suitable material.

Background

5. The Swavesey Byeways' Act 1984 governs the financial provision for maintenance of the Swavesey Byeways. Under the Act the District Council is required to determine the amount of money necessary for maintenance in each financial year. It can then recover 50% of this amount from the Byeways Charge Payers at a uniform amount per hectare of land within the charge paying area and 16% from the Parish Council.
6. The Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee is an informal group comprising representatives of charge payers, parishioners, the Parish and District Council. The Advisory Committee advises the District Council on all matters relating to the discharge of its byeways responsibilities including the level of the byeways rate.

Considerations

7. The Advisory Committee met on 5th February 2018 to consider the level of maintenance required in the coming year and the level of rate required. A draft copy of the minutes of the meeting as well as supporting documents, which were presented to the meeting, are attached as **Appendix A**.

Options

8. Council could agree the recommendation of the Advisory Committee or opt to set an alternative rate for 2018/19.

Implications

9. The Advisory Committee, having considered the current condition of the byeways, are satisfied that a rate of £1.10 per hectare for land within the charge paying area for the period 2018/19 will be sufficient to fund the required level of maintenance, subject to the availability of suitable material.
10. In the writing of this report, taking into account financial, legal, staffing, risk management, equality and diversity, climate change, community safety and any other key issues, no significant implications have been identified. Budget provision is available for 2018/19.

Consultation responses

11. Consultation has been undertaken with parishioners, the Parish Council and local landowners through the Swavesey Byeways Advisory Committee.

Effect on Strategic Aims

12. Accepting the advice of, and engaging with, the Advisory Committee contributes towards delivering the Council's Vision and Objectives by protecting, maintaining and improving the natural and built environments, enhancing local economic activity.

Background Papers

Background papers as appended to this report:-

- Appendix A1 – Finance Report (Report of the Executive Director (Corporate Services))
- Appendix A2 - Health and Environmental Services Report (Report of the Director of Health and Environmental Services)

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