

Chris Turvey Planning Clerk
Ryde Parish Council

Dear Chris

Ringway Island Roads Service Savings

First of all, I would like to apologise for the delay in responding to your enquiry in respect of the revised Highways services to be provided by Island Roads (IR) on behalf of the council which follows on from decisions taken to reduce the budget.

As you may be aware, I recently presented a summary of this overall savings package to the town and parish councils with a summary of the implications for the first tranche of £608,000. A summary list of these savings is attached to this letter.

This first tranche forms part of an overall savings programme in which £2 million annually will be removed from the Island Roads contract for the remaining 18 years.

This savings programme was approved by Full Council for the 2018/19 and 2109/20 financial years. The decisions made on reducing certain services provided by Island Roads were extremely difficult and had to be determined based on safety, risk and other implications for the public. As you will appreciate, the services delivered under the contract are essential to the running of a highways service. However, these difficult decisions needed to be made given the pressure on the overall council finances.

A summary list of savings is appended to this email. The four main areas for you to be aware of in the first tranche of savings are as follows:

- CCTV Monitoring Service
- Street Cleansing
- Grass Cutting
- Winter Maintenance

CCTV Monitoring Service

We have recently been liaising with the Police and have reached an agreement on a revised protocol that meets their requirements. As a result of these discussions we have retained £50,000 for the service to ensure that the Police continue to be supported, in reviewing CCTV footage, viewing specific cameras, or using the CCTV control room for the purposes of specific operations. All the current 100 CCTV cameras will still operate from fixed positions in the original locations.

We have agreed with the Police we will review the revised arrangements and the implications of these changes with them over the next 6 months. We will ensure that

full use is made of this period to liaise with town and parish councils and determine whether additional resources could be used to positively enhance the service.

Street Cleansing

The main implications of this decision was to reduce the overall frequency of street cleansing which is considered not to overly impact on the general cleanliness of streets and open spaces, and brings the council in line with the practice of most other local authorities on the mainland.

As per the CCTV service we are looking to review the impacts of these new service standards with the potential for areas where town and parish councils could potentially make a contribution, if required, and if they were minded to do so.

Grass Cutting

This involves the reduction in the frequency of grass cutting in rural and town areas on road verges and other open spaces which form part of the highways contract. As per the street cleansing service this reduction brings the standards in line with common practice experienced on the mainland and focusses primarily on safety considerations. Reducing the frequency of grass cutting can also encourage enhanced biodiversity on our verges, roundabouts and other grassed areas. Again, town and parish councils could potentially make contributions, if required, and if they were minded to do so.

Winter Maintenance

IR will be reducing the overall coverage for gritting routes on the Island. Although this means a reduction in the overall miles covered to 33% of the network this is still considerably above the 25% average for the South East.

I hope that this letter goes some way to setting out the first part of a substantial savings programme we are working to deliver with Island Roads. I would hope that there will be opportunities for us to further discuss these matters and explore ways in which the town council can support services for the benefit of your local residents and I would urge you to please come back to me if you have any further questions relating to this matter.

Network Safety and Improvements Register

The Network Safety and Improvement Register is maintained by Island Roads (IR). Inputs can come from a variety of sources: the general public, town and parish councils, IoW council members or via routine inspections by Island Roads or IoW council officers.

I would advise you to submit any requests for schemes to the following address: info@islandroads.com. They will then be assessed and registered by trained IR staff members.

The Isle of Wight Council Highways Contract Management Team will coordinate with Island Roads to develop an annual improvements programme, which will be driven by high priority items on the register. Town and Parish Councils will have the

opportunity to fund items which are not currently at the top of the priority register, which can be facilitated by the council and IR.

Yours Sincerely

Colin Rowland
Director of Neighbourhoods

CC. Saskia Blackmore
Jonathan Baker
Ady White

Summary of Tranche 1 Island Roads Savings

- CCTV Service – Revised protocol
- Street Cleansing – Revised frequencies
- Grass Cutting – Revised frequencies
- Winter Maintenance – Revised routes
- Review of Street Furniture and Signs, Markings – declutter and rationalise
- Events Traffic Management - to be self-funded by organisers
- Additional Drainage Services – to be called off when required
- Trimming and Dimming of Street Lights - pilots already underway
- Traffic Modelling and Counting – revised protocols
- Rail Bridges and Structures – Network Rail standards on weights
- District Responders Day Work – revised protocols