

Road Wardens

It is hard to believe that it is less than a year since we launched the concept of the road warden scheme at the town and parish council's conference in the autumn. After a slow start, there is now more interest in receiving the training that is being offered, probably because of the effects that some of our service reductions are having on communities.

Work is progressing on updating the [current documents](#), on guidance, risk assessment etc. The members briefing note is also to be updated to include advice on funding sources for the scheme to assist the parishes with some of the set up costs. Money is still available from the Investing in Devon funding stream, and it has been clarified that this can be used by members to draw down funding for Parish/Town Councils to buy some of the tools that might be required. Additionally groups of parishes can work together through the Towns and Parishes together funding to obtain a similar grant. Let's not forget that the Parish Paths Partnership (P3) has been successfully running for over 20 years. So thank you to all who have contributed to this scheme, including the advice and ongoing support received from the PROW team.

15/16 budget

With only 4 months of the financial year behind us we are aware that the Place Directorate budget is starting to overheat and that action will need to be taken to contain the projected overspend, which is already more than £1million. Work is ongoing across the directorate to identify potential in year savings and cost reductions. There will be more detail circulated, but at the moment we are looking at;

- some budget reductions, where there have been previous year underspends
- possible savings from changes to work practices
- income generation

16/17 budget preparation

Discussions are currently being held with members as to the way forward for next year and onwards. Over the next 3 year period, the Place Directorate needs to find savings in excess of £20million. The main focus of our work here is looking at;

- income generation,
- cashable efficiencies that might be realised
- policy reviews on high spend areas
- digital by design
- cost realignment from revenue to on street parking account or capital

Any service reductions will need to be included in our autumn consultation, to help inform the budget debates in March 2016, so there is still a lot of work to do here. Any suggestions from anyone on savings/income will be gratefully received.