

Following a well-publicised 'Tough Choices' stakeholder consultation a change, relating to Devon County Council's highway grass cutting service, took place during early 2015. Grass cutting on roadsides has now been limited to maintaining visibility at bends and junctions, and to provide visibility to signs.

In some areas the local community has decided that they wanted more control over what grass was cut, by procuring and managing the works themselves. This has resulted in more extensive and frequent cutting by those involved. The County Council would encourage this in certain circumstances, providing a financial contribution, in order to ensure that the Council's policy is upheld as a minimum.

All Town and Parish councils, who according to our system have highway urban visibility grass areas, have been contacted to see if they would be interested in procuring and managing the service within their area.

With growing pressure on our revenue budget this drive represents key parts of the Devon Highways Strategy, namely 'managing demand' and 'working with communities' ensuring that the best possible service is provided for the available resource.

**Rob Turner**  
**Highway Asset Senior Officer**