

SCRUTINY TOPIC REGISTRATION / ASSESSMENT FORM FOR COUNCILLORS

What is the broad topic area?

The protection of grass verges in York.

What is the specific topic area?

i.e. what should be included & excluded from the topic? what are the driver behind the topic?

This topic is suggested in response to concerns about damage being done to grass verges across the city by vehicles, particularly in suburban streets.

Ambitions for the review:

i.e. what is the review trying to achieve & why e.g. financial / efficiency savings and/or performance improvements? what will be different as a result of the review?

The starting point for the review could be the following question:

“How can City of York Council work in partnership with residents to protect and improve the condition of grass verges?”

The ambitions for the review could be to:

- Establish the council's current policies and procedures in relation to the management of grass verges
- Clarify the legal position in relation to issues such as parking on verges
- Assess potential options for protecting verges, such as the use of grass-filled plastic cells¹
- Seek out examples of policies introduced by other local authorities designed to maintain or improve the condition of grass verges
- Investigate any central government initiatives of relevance
- Make recommendations for action (which could, of course, include doing nothing)

1. Does it have a potential impact on one or more sections of the population?

Yes No

¹ See examples at <http://www.pavingexpert.com/grasspav.htm>

2. Is it a corporate priority or concern to the council's partners? Yes No
3. Will the review add value? and lead to effective outcomes? Yes No
4. Is it timely, and do we have the resources? Yes No
5. Will the review duplicate other work? Yes No

If the answer is 'Yes' to questions 1 – 4 and 'No' to question 5, then the Committee may decide to proceed with the review. To decide how best to carry out the review, the Committee will need to agree the following:

1) Who and how shall we consult?

i.e. who do we need to consult and why? is there already any feedback from customers and/or other consultation groups that we need to take account of?

Consultation could be undertaken with:

- Ward councillors
- Residents
- Parish councillors

2) Do we need any experts/specialists? (internal/external)

i.e. is the review dependent on specific teams, departments or external bodies? What impact will the review have on the work of any of these?

- Highways department

3) What other help do we need? E.g. training/development/resources

i.e. does this review relate to any other ongoing projects or depend on them for anything?

what information do we need and who will provide it? what do we need to undertake this review e.g. specific resources, events, meetings etc?

4) How long should it take?

i.e. does the timings of completion of the review need to coincide with any other ongoing or planned work