

Package J

Town & Parish Councils

Introduction

Devolution of grounds maintenance activities to Parish and Town councils has enabled communities to have greater control over service delivery and prioritisation, as well as creating capacity within communities. It has resulted in direct funding to smaller councils to carry out grounds maintenance tasks to standards and areas that are decided locally, taking maximum advantage of local knowledge and values.



This has seen a move away from larger authority lead contractors who have offered little added value, and in some cases low standards of maintenance. Linking in with other activities already carried out by Town and Parish councils, or by clustering with other Parish Council, has enabled the development of effective grounds maintenance teams and a greater control of the workforce and flexibility.

New responsibilities for grounds maintenance tasks such as grass cutting, shrub bed maintenance, hedge cutting, litter and weed removal means that the quality of the service can be controlled locally, and in many instances has led to an increase in grass cuts and other maintenance visits.

With service *devolution* comes some additional responsibilities and accountabilities which employers are liable for, including the health and safety of their employees. As *services are devolved*, Parish and Town Councils *will have to develop and follow their own health and safety arrangements* and will be responsible for ensuring that their operatives work in a safe and appropriate manner.

GroundsConsulting are pleased to offer a new grounds maintenance package developed especially for Parish and Town councils that carry out grounds maintenance works in-house. This package will enable your organisation to quickly set up some key health and safety documents that are required by law. These include Safe Systems of Work, Task Specific Risk Assessments and the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) assessments.



Methodology

GroundsConsulting will review the current role of the grounds maintenance team in order that the package can be tailored specifically to meet your needs. We will look at the responsibilities of your in-house team, identifying key tasks and operations such as grass cutting, hedge cutting, shrub bed maintenance, weed spraying and maintenance of floral displays. This will enable us to develop Safe Systems of Works and Risk Assessments for carrying out these tasks.

In addition we will discuss your use of chemicals and weed spraying operations in order to develop a list of chemicals regularly used, and to develop COSHH assessments for them.

The package will consist of five of each of the following documents:

- Safe Systems of Work
- Task Specific Risk Assessments
- Control of Substances hazardous to Health Assessments

Additional Services

Additional Safe Systems of Work, Task Specific Risk Assessments and COSHH sheets are available at extra cost.

GroundsConsulting have a wealth of grounds maintenance experience, both within local authorities and the commercial sector, and can offer additional support such as Training, Health and Safety Audits, Management of Hand Arm Vibration and Noise.



grounds|consulting
Grounds Maintenance Management Consultants

Partnership Number: OC355629 Registered Office: Martlet House,
Unit 1E, Yeoman Gate, Yeoman Way, Worthing, BN13 3QZ.
VAT Registration Number: 737 0590 28

GroundsConsulting is a trading division of WasteConsulting LLP