



## Report of the Environmental Action Team Service Manager

### South (Inner) Area Committee

Date: Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2010

### Subject: Deployment of Community Environment Officers and Support Officers within Inner South

**Electoral Wards Affected:**

Beeston & Holbeck  
City & Hunslet  
Middleton Park

Ward Members consulted (referred to in report)

**Specific Implications For:**

Equality and Diversity

Community Cohesion

Narrowing the Gap

Council Function

Delegated Executive Function available for Call In

Delegated Executive Function not available for Call In Details set out in the report

## Executive Summary

The new Community Environment Officer (CEO) and Community Environment Support Officer (CESO) posts in Environmental Services have now been created. This paper proposes a draft suggestion of where these posts could work within the boundaries of the area committee. These suggestions are made having taken into account local knowledge from the Environmental Action Team (EAT), Area Management and statistical information where appropriate.

The suggestions are a “starter for 10” and are only intended to stimulate debate with the Area Committee regarding where the resources should be finally deployed. Final deployment will be for the area committee to agree.

### 1.0 Purpose Of This Report

1.1 The purpose of this report is to facilitate debate and agree where CEOs and CESOs will work within the Inner South area.

### 2.0 Background Information

2.1 Following the decision to review the Neighbourhood Warden service in Leeds. in the light of a major budget reduction arising from the ending of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding, the restructure of this service is now complete. The Neighbourhood Warden positions have now been replaced with Community Environment Officers and Community Environment Support Officers, to reflect the changing emphasis of warden role’s towards environmental issues.

2.2 The outcome of the restructure is to allocate the Inner South Area Committee is 3 Community Environment Officers (CEO) and 2.5 Community Environment Support Officers (CESO) posts based on a pro-rata reduction of the former neighbourhood warden service. The sections below outline the work which the officers will undertake as well as providing an indication of which areas the CEO / CESO's will cover.

### 3.0 Main Issues

3.1 This report follows those which have updated members previously on the Neighbourhood Warden, CEO and CESO review process. The deployment within the Inner South is for the Area Committee to decide and this reports hopes to facilitate that decision.

3.2 The job description and therefore the roles of the CEO / CESO's is different from that of the Neighbourhood Wardens, as it focuses specifically on community environmental issues. The CEO / CESO's will be tasked with working proactively within communities to identify, report and tackle the following issues:

- Neighbourhood noise nuisance
- Fly tipping
- Littering
- Dog fouling
- Commercial / domestic waste issues
- Defective drains
- Smoke nuisance
- Empty and nuisance properties
- Pest infestations
- Highways obstructions – bins on streets, a boards, overgrown hedges
- Illegal advertising – placards, banners on street furniture
- Graffiti

3.3 The CEO's and CESO's will be working as part of the existing Inner South Environmental Action Team which comprises of 1 Environmental Health Officer, 1 Senior Technical Enforcement Officer and 3 Technical Enforcement Officers - these officers work across the whole of Inner South Leeds. This will allow the CEO/CESO's to be supported by other team members to tackle a greater range of issues and more complex cases.

3.4 The Inner South Area Committee has been allocated the following resources:

- 3 CEOs
- 2.5 CESOs

3.5 It is suggested that the officers are allocated on the following ward by ward basis:

Ward	FTE
Beeston & Holbeck	1.75
City & Hunslet	1.75
Middleton Park	2

- 3.6 The role of the CEO / CESO's is to provide a visible regular presence within the community, in particular the areas which have the greatest environmental issues. It is acknowledged that each ward has its fair share of such issues and allocating CEO/CESO's on a ward basis gives them a defined patch that they are able to focus on building up local links, acting proactively picking up and dealing with issues on the ground before they result in complaints. The roles will have an element of flexibility in their work areas, for example, if a project in Beeston Hill requires an injection of officers, this can be facilitated. Also, for example, if after a couple of months the CEO/CESO's in a certain area aren't picking up sufficient work because other agencies picking up work in that locality are sufficiently tackling environmental issues, they can be transferred to another Inner South neighbourhood.
- 3.7 All areas would receive an environmental audit twice weekly focusing on the areas within each ward of greatest need.
- 3.8 It is requested that deployment is reviewed by the Area Committee on an annual basis or when there are significant changes in circumstances, such as an achieved outcome in terms of improvements in a specific locality. This will also be discussed and reviewed at ward briefing meetings.

#### **4.0 Implications For Council Policy and Governance**

- 4.1 There are no implications for Council Policy and Governance associated with this report.

#### **5.0 Legal and Resource Implications**

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.
- 5.2 The resource implications are outlined in the sections above, with regards to how officers will be allocated to area ward within the Inner South area.

#### **6.0 Recommendations**

- 7.1 Inner South Area Committee is requested to:
- Note the content of this report
  - Agree the localities where CEOs and CESOs are to work and highlight the issues which should be prioritised to be addressed.

#### **Background Papers**

- South (Inner) Area Committee Actions & Achievements Report – 10<sup>th</sup> February 2010.