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**Report of :Ruth Lees, WNW Environmental Action Team Manager**

**Outer North West Area Committee**

**Date: September 22<sup>nd</sup> 2008**

**Subject: The newly formed WNW Environmental Action Team**

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**Electoral Wards Affected:**

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

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## **Executive Summary**

### **Purpose Of This Report**

1.1 This report is to provide information to members about the newly formed Environmental Action Teams and how they will be working in the Outer North West area.

### **2.0 Background Information**

2.1 Prior to May 12<sup>th</sup> 2008 issues relating to Environmental crime and grime were dealt with by two teams located in two different Departments, City Services and Neighbourhoods and Housing. Although each team had its own distinct work area there was considerable overlap in some areas, particularly relating to waste and burning.

2.2 The restructure formed three new Environmental Action Teams which work in each of the three wedges of the City. The old roles of enforcement officer and Environmental Health Technician no longer exist and have been replaced by one generic role of Technical Enforcement Officer. Or as they are frequently referred to Environmental Action Officers.

### **3.0 Main Issues**

3.1 The changes have resulted in one high profile team whose aim is to provide a rapid response to Environmental Crime and Grime. The teams work with partner agencies through multi agency operations such as Operation Champion to focus that resource to areas where it is needed on a proactive basis.

3.2 The main element of the work carried out is responding to requests for service from the public, members, partner agencies and other departments. In its first 15 weeks of operation 439 requests for service, ie 30 per week have been dealt with in the Outer North West area. ( 2069 in the WNW wedge)

3.3 The main areas which the Environmental Action teams cover are:

- Domestic noise nuisance
- Fly tipping
- Domestic waste, including leaving bins out, untidy gardens etc
- Commercial waste, including the requirement to have a contract in place.
- Overhanging vegetation
- Drainage
- Littering, including on the spot fines
- Obstructions of the footpath
- Illegal banners and A boards
- Flyering and fly posting
- Odour from domestic premises
- Burning
- Illegal carrying of waste
- Education and awareness re anti littering
- Project improvements eg bin yard improvement schemes.
- Empty properties
- Rodents and nuisance properties

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

4.1 none

#### **5.0 Legal And Resource Implications**

5.1 Legislative enforcement in addition to education and awareness is carried out by the Environmental Action Teams. Currently insufficient staff are available to provide a presence in all of the townships all the time. However it is hoped that a presence will be provided to provide a high profile patrol some of the time. There is scope, should it be wanted, to provide additional resources in an area but clearly this would have a cost implication. An example of this could be to have a high profile litter patrol in certain areas in addition to that which can normally be provided by funding being made available through the area committee specifically for that activity.

5.2 Some projects which are identified and implemented by the team such as bin yard improvement schemes have a cost attached to them. Members have previously funded bin yard improvement work and may wish to consider this or similar projects in the future However it should be noted that as part of the scheme the team also carry out both advisory and enforcement action in the area to hopefully secure a long term improvement.

#### **6.0 Conclusions**

6.1 The newly formed WNW Environmental Action Team is actively working to reduce environmental crime and grime in the Outer North West area.

6.2 Additional resources can be made available if members wish to identify projects which they would like to benefit by providing additional funding.

## **7.0 Recommendations**

7.1 That members note the contents of this report.

**List of Background Documents:**  
**none**