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Report of: Environmental Action Team Service Manager

Inner North West Area Committee

Date: 8th April 2010

Subject: Deployment of Community Environment Officers and Support Officers within the Area Committee.

Electoral Wards Affected:

Weetwood
Headingley
Kirkstall
Hyde Park and Woodhouse

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, Area Management and statistical information where appropriate.

The suggestions are a “starter for 10” only and are only intended to stimulate debate with Area Committees over where the resources should be finally deployed. Final deployment will be for Area Committees to confirm.

Purpose of report

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

Background

2. This report follows those which have updated members on the Neighbourhood warden and CEO, CESO review process. The deployment within the area is for Area Committees to decide and this reports hopes to facilitate that decision.
3. The proposed localities which local intelligence suggests should benefit from CEO/CESO resources working in the area are:

Locality	Issues to deal with	FTE proposed
Priority areas within the Kirkstall Ward to include Hawksworth Wood, Haddons, Woodsides and projects within the Beechwoods, Knowles and Stanmores	Waste in gardens, fly tipping, bins on streets, tackling binyards	0.8 CESO
Priority areas within the Hyde Park and Woodhouse ward – Little London and Woodhouse Carr	Waste in gardens, fly tipping Operation Titan in Woodhouse Carr for 12 months, tackling binyards, fly tipping, empty properties.	0.8 CEO
Priority areas within Headingley ward including the Harolds and Thornvilles, Richmonds and Manors, Otley Road	Working with the Senior Technical Officer carrying out small projects in the area, including bins on street, waste in gardens, litter patrols.	0.2 CEO 0.2 CESO

4. These localities are relatively small as it is believed that intensively working in a small area is more likely to achieve visible results quickly, rather than a larger area producing diluted results. The locality boundaries would be “porous” boundaries. This proposal means that the area is defined in order to provide focus for the staff member but, as issues may arise outside but close to the boundaries and could have an impact on the overall result, the boundary would not preclude that issue from being dealt with.
5. This Area Committee is allocated the following posts
 - a. 1 CEOs – The CEO post is a new post graded at C1-C3. The post has similar responsibilities to the Environmental Action Team’s technical officers and can deal with more complex legal issues.
 - b. 1 CESOs - The CESO post is graded at B3. The job description is essentially the same as the old neighbourhood warden with added powers to issue fixed penalty notices.

6. At its last meeting, the Area Committee recommended that the new CEO and CESO posts should be deployed in the two priority neighbourhoods of Little London and Hawksworth Wood on the basis of deprivation and previous warden cover.
7. It is acknowledged that the previous warden posts were located in Hawksworth and Little London and the positive impact that these roles had in these areas. However, the amount of work generated in these areas which comes under the remit of the Environmental Action Team is significantly less than in the previous warden role. This includes some activities now carried out by the local West North West Homes housing offices such as waste in garden letters and increased frequency of estate walkabouts.
8. The Environmental Action Team is keen to seek continued environmental improvements Hawksworth Wood and Little London, and would support a continued resource in these areas. It is proposed that these areas would remain a top priority.
9. However, local intelligence suggests that neither area would require an officer to be deployed full time, and that this could free up officer time to concentrate on other priority areas outlined above.
10. The work of the CEOs and CESOs would continue to be supported by all officers in the Environmental Action Team. It is also recommended that the CEO and CESO are able to respond to the needs of Weetwood ward to assist with projects as required.
11. It is hoped 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.

Recommendations

12. Members of the Area Committee are asked to debate and agree the localities where CEOs and CESOs are to work and highlight those issues which they should tackle.