

Residents Services Business Case for Future Provision of Environmental Enforcement

Business Case Title	Environmental Enforcement Future Provision		
Revision No:	1	Date:	22nd July 2016
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Summary

The Environmental Enforcement Function was previously dealt with by a Community Protection Team at Thurrock. In 2013/14 this team consisted of 10 officers and dealt with 2016 service requests for environmental enforcement. As a result of successive departmental restructures and staff changes over the intervening period this team now consists of two officers. These officers have an interim manager from Environmental Health who currently undertakes this work in addition to his substantive duties.

The number of service requests received between 1st April 2015 and 28th March 2016 for potential environmental enforcement is 3699. The types of work included under the heading of environmental enforcement are fly-tipping, littering, abandoned vehicles, waste carrier offences, fly-posting, dog fouling, littering from vehicles, graffiti. Officers undertaking environmental enforcement would also be responsible for dealing with Freedom of Information requests associated with these activities.

In light of the reduced resources and increased workload the Environmental Enforcement officers are falling behind in addressing incoming work to the point where numerous incoming service requests are not being addressed quickly enough.

In addition to the previous staff changes and consequent reduction in resources devoted to combatting environmental crime the intervening period has seen the enactment of the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. This widens the scope for councils to pursue environmental crime by the use of community protection notices. It also raises public expectation and provides a means for Councils to be held accountable for their actions on these issues by way of the introduction of community triggers, a mechanism for residents to call for action to address shortcomings on the part of authorities.

Appendix 2

Proposal

Provide an embedded admin resource to liberate officers to undertake further investigation work

Strategic rationale

Reducing the administration burden on the existing environmental enforcement officers will enable them to devote more of their time to detection of environmental crime and prosecution of offenders.

Approximate Cost

33k

Timescales

Activity	Timescale
Recruitment or redeployment process	Subject to HR timescales

Risks /Consequences

This option relies on the ability of the embedded admin officer to take evidence gathered by the enforcement officers and formulate legal case files, in addition to answering queries and update records. This will split the process of investigating and actioning service requests between multiple officers and could potentially result in an increase in officer time spent on admin as communication and meetings between officers required will increase.

Finance costs

Financial summary

General Fund budget 2014-15

	Staff £000s	Premises / Transport £000s	Supplies/ Services £000s	Direct Payments £000s	Third Party Payments £000s	Total Expenditure Gross £000s	Income £000s	Net Expenditure £000s
	33k							

Staff Related costs

Current number of posts (FTE and headcount)	0
Number of posts to be created/deleted (FTE and headcount)	1
Amount of salary cost/saving (inc on-costs)	33k

Non- Staff Related costs

Appendix 2

Premises and buildings (inc utilities)	
Transport	
Supplies and services	
Other (please specify)	

Benefits – non financial

Improvement in the quality of the public realm

Costs & Resources Required

Direct costs	
Redundancy costs	
Accommodation costs	
Procurement and/or Legal costs	
Other HR costs	
Other (please specify)	

Impact/Consequences of proposal – not covered in financial section

Impact on Corporate Priorities/objectives/ performance targets/standards

Priority 1. Create a great place for learning and opportunity	
Priority 2. Encourage and promote job creation and economic prosperity	
Priority 3. Build pride, responsibility and respect	
Priority 4. Improve health and well-being	
Priority 5. Promote and protect our clean and green environment	Provides increase in the capacity to address this council priority.

Impacts on partners

As existing

Impacts on customers / community and equality/diversity implications

Positive benefit.

Other impacts/implications

Detailed above

Assumptions, Dependencies & Exclusions

Timeframes Assumptions/ Dependencies/Exclusions	
Benefits Assumptions/ Dependencies/Exclusions	
Costs Assumptions/ Dependencies/Exclusions	
Other/ General Assumptions/ Dependencies/Exclusions	

Any other comments to support proposals

This option increases the costs to the Council by 33k but will have a considerable benefit on the detection and prosecution of environmental crime offences by way of freeing up investigation capacity.