
REPORT TO:	COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: //
DATE OF MEETING:	4 OCTOBER 2001	CATEGORY: DELEGATED/
REPORT FROM:	SANDRA WHILES	OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: N/A
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	MARK ALFLAT EXT 5750	DOC: s:\cent_serv\committee reports\community services\4 oct 2001\best value review - cleansing the environment.doc
SUBJECT:	BEST VALUE REVIEW - CLEANSING THE ENVIRONMENT	REF: MEALJW
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: CS

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 Members are recommended to approve the Action Plan for Best Value Review on Cleansing the Environment.
- 1.2 That the need for additional resources be considered as part of the continuing refocusing and reprioritization exercise.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 The "Clean Team" have now completed their Best Value Review which has culminated in the production of the following documents:-

Base Line Assessment. Consultation Summary. Competitive Study (by Techman) Final Report and Improvement Plan.

The bulk of the Report relates to refuse collection, grass cutting and fly tipping. The dog warden service was considered as part of this Review.

- 2.2 In view of the fact that the bulk of the Review deals with items outside the scope of the Community Services Committee, only the final Report and Improvement Plan has been included for this Committee's consideration.
- 2.3 The purpose of the Report is to present the Final Report and improvement documents to Committee for approval (See Annexe A) and, in particular, obtain agreement to the content of the Improvement Plan prior to inspection of the Review during the second week in October.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 All required information is set out in the accompanying documents. The Final Report explains how the Review was undertaken, the Improvement Plan lists the actions required to ensure that the services are continually improved as required by the Best Value regime.

3.2 Any Members wishing to see the full range of documentation for the Review are asked to contact the Divisional Environmental Health Officer.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 As with any Best Value Review, the improvement plan identifies potential service improvements and the costs associated with those improvements.

4.2 In the case of this service, the relevant improvement identified the formation of a "Hit Squad" to deal with fly tipping, emptying of litter bins and dog fouling will cost in the region of £40,000 per annum.

4.3 Members will need to consider the priority attached to the improvements identified both in the improvement plan and consider them in the light of the overall resources available to the Council and the competing demands for those resources.

4.4 In addition, Service Managers will need to explore in more detail the potential for reprioritizing the way they spend their existing resources to respond to the improvement plans identified.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The scale of the Review has required a very substantial input from a number of staff and demonstrated the very large resource implications entailed in large Best Value Reviews of this nature.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 Consultation undertaken for the Review has confirmed the high levels of importance the public attach to these Council services.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 Although the Review has taken considerable time and staff input to complete, the process followed has been thorough and has drawn on the views of a wide range of stakeholders.

7.2 The community attaches high importance to the service areas covered by the Review and has indicated it is important for them to live in a clean environment.

7.3 The two most apparent gaps in the dog wardening service are lack of statutory enforcement and dog mess not being cleared up.

7.4 The establishment of a "Hit Squad" is an attempt to address the fouling cleansing issue. Members at the previous Community Services Committee Meeting approved the use of fixed penalty notices and a revised dog warden service strategy is being presented to Committee on this agenda.