
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM: 8
DATE OF MEETING:	11 DECEMBER 2003	CATEGORY:
REPORT FROM:	DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES	DELEGATED OPEN
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	STUART BATCHELOR TEL 5820	DOC:
SUBJECT:	ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OFFICER	REF:
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	ALL	TERMS OF REFERENCE: FM05

1.0 Recommendation

- 1.1 The Council, on behalf of the South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership, recruit an Anti Social Behaviour Officer on a 3 year contract at a salary level of PO2.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To gain Members' agreement for the Council to employ an Anti Social Behaviour Officer on behalf of the South Derbyshire Crime & Disorder Partnership, who will deliver a multi agency response to reducing anti social behaviour across the District.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Following the launch of the Governments Anti Social Behaviour Strategy, the Home Office is offering Crime and Disorder Partnerships financial assistance to appoint Anti Social Behaviour Officers to develop, co-ordinate and deliver policy and action to reduce anti social behaviour.
- 3.2 This announcement coincides with the Districts work on the CPA Public Open Space Review and the Community Safety Best Value Review which both identify a need for an improved and co-ordinated response to the increasing problem of anti social behaviour in the District.
- 3.3 In view of the fact that many Crime and Disorder Partnerships are being offered this opportunity to appoint Officers from April, there will be a significant number of recruitment adverts published in January offering short term contracts. The actual number of people who would have the appropriate experience and qualifications for such a post is limited. Consequently if the Partnership is going to be successful in appointing an effective and experienced officer it is crucial that recruitment is undertaken early and an appropriate package of salary and contract length is offered.
- 3.4 In view of this the Partnership has initiated the recruitment process. An officer group of Council and Police officers has met to agree a role for the post and an outline job description and person specification. The Crime and Disorder Partnership has agreed that the post should be created and will underwrite additional funding to offer a longer contract. A recruitment advert has been published and subject to agreement of this Committee interviews could take place in December or January.

3.5 The officer would be located within the Crime and Disorder Support Team, which is within the Community and Leisure Development Division.

3.6 The work of the Officer will concentrate on two main areas which are:

- To deal with persistent offenders and use of legislative tools such as Anti Social Behaviour Orders
- The co-ordination of wider initiatives to reduce disorder and nuisance in particular 'hot spot' locations.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The exact level of Home Office funding has now been confirmed as being £25,000 a year, for two years. A further £11,000 has already been confirmed for this year, which can be used for the recruitment and other costs associated with setting up the post.

4.2 The Partnership has set the level of salary at PO2, £26,640 - £29,067, with on costs this rises to approximately £33,500 - £36,500. This would leave a shortfall of grant support from the Home Office of between £8,500 and £11,500 in year one and £9,500 and £12,500 in year 2. In year 3 the shortfall will be the full cost of up to £36,500.

4.3 A service development bid will be submitted to the Council plus bids to other partners such as the police, to cover the costs of the post over and above the Home Office funding for Years one and two plus the full cost of Year three. The Partnership will give some support to these costs should the bids not cover the total funding required.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The appointment of an officer to co-ordinate and direct work to deal with the persistent perpetrators of anti social behaviour meets the requirements of the Councils CPA Public Open Space Review and Community Safety Best Value Review and will contribute to the Council's aim of reducing crime and disorder and the fear of crime.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The co-ordinated and dedicated work of an officer to reduce anti social behaviour will have a significant impact on the quality of life of members of the local community who suffer disturbance and harassment on a regular basis.

7.0 Conclusion

7.1 The Home Office is providing South Derbyshire with an ideal opportunity to put into place a service to reduce one of the main issues of concern for local people. The proposal to hasten the recruitment process for the Anti Social Behaviour Officer would mean the Partnership and Council would be more likely to secure a successful appointment ahead of other agencies.

8.0 Background Papers