
REPORT TO:	FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE	AGENDA ITEM:	11
DATE OF MEETING:	5th September 2002	CATEGORY:	DELEGATED
REPORT FROM:	CHIEF EXECUTIVE	OPEN	
MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT:	David Soanes Economic Development Manager Ext 5714	DOC:	
SUBJECT:	Footpaths Officer	REF:	
WARD(S) AFFECTED:	All	TERMS OF REFERENCE:	FM05

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 That Members approve the transfer of the Footpaths Officer post from Planning to Economic Development.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 To advise Members of the proposal to transfer management responsibility of the Footpaths Officer post from Planning to Economic Development.

3.0 Detail

3.1 As Members are aware, the Footpaths Officer is retiring from the Council on 13 September 2002. The post has been advertised and generated a significant level of interest.

3.2 It is proposed that the post be transferred from Planning to Economic Development.

3.3 The desire for the footpath agency to be located outside of the Planning service arises principally from the following factors:

- The Senior Enforcement Officer will be able to concentrate on improving the performance of the enforcement function in the context of the Council employing a new enforcement assistant
- The need to further develop the promotional aspects of the role particularly relating to access to the countryside.

3.4 The key benefit to the Economic Development service of taking over this post is it's linkage with certain Tourism activities, specifically the various Walks which have been developed and which have proved to be very popular. There are opportunities for this post to assist with the further development of these and other walks and additional initiatives to promote wider access to the countryside.

- 3.5 The postholder will also need to liaise more closely with other officers who have responsibility for promoting leisure initiatives.
- 3.6 The current postholder will provide a couple of days training to the new postholder upon their appointment. Additional training will be sought from Derbyshire County Council.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 None anticipated

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 Following full consultation, Unison has indicated that they have no concerns regarding the proposed changes
- 5.2 There are no known personnel implications, including any grading issues

6.0 Conclusion

- 6.1 The retirement of the existing postholder provides an opportunity to transfer the management of the post from Planning to Economic Development, releasing the Enforcement Officer to concentrate on the development of that function and providing additional support to develop Tourism related initiatives.