

TRAFFORD COUNCIL

Report to: Executive
Date: 24th June 2013
Report for: Decision
Report of: Executive Member for Highways and Environment

Report Title

End of Parking Services & Environmental Enforcement Review Consultation Report, including proposals for future service delivery

Summary

The attached report details the staff consultation process, including staff feedback and management responses. As a result of the consultation the original proposal has been amended to reduce the number of proposed Enforcement Support Assistants post reductions by one.. All other measures proposed to deliver the required budget savings remain unchanged.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that members endorse the end of consultation report and approve the proposed new structure for the service.

Contact person for access to background papers and further information:

Name: Iain Veitch, Head of Public Protection
Extension: 4174

Background Papers: None

Implications:

Relationship to Policy Framework/Corporate Priorities	Low Council Tax and Value For Money
Financial	The amendment to the original proposals following consultation will not affect the achievement of the required budget savings.
Legal Implications:	This report is cleared for Executive decision.
Equality/Diversity Implications	None as a result of this report
Sustainability Implications	None as a result of this report
Staffing/E-Government/Asset Management Implications	The proposals set out in this report will result in a number of staff being displaced and thus potentially facing a compulsory redundancy situation. In line with Council policy, every effort will be made to seek alternative employment opportunities for these staff via the redeployment process. In addition, staff will be offered outplacement support as well as emotional support through the Council's occupational health provider. Where alternative employment cannot be found then individuals will receive redundancy notice and payments, in line with their contractual entitlements.
Risk Management Implications	During the implementation of the proposals any adverse impact on environmental crime or community safety will be monitored.
Health & Wellbeing Implications	None as a result of this report
Health and Safety Implications	None as a result of this report

1.0 Background

1.1 The proposal to implement a new approach to deal with a range of environmental enforcement issues, was developed as a result of a Council-wide Review of Enforcement Services.

1.2 The proposal was then approved by Executive, subject to consultation, as part of the 2013-2014 budget savings for Environment, Transport & Operations.

2.0 Details

2.1 The attached report details the consultation process, with staff, including questions raised and alternative proposals and the management response to these.

2.2 The original budget-saving proposal has been amended, following staff consultation, to **reduce the number of proposed Enforcement Support Assistants post reductions by one.**

2.3 All of the other proposed changes to the establishment and development of new ways of working remain unchanged following consultation. Full details are included in the

attached 'Environmental Enforcement Review Staff Feedback Document', June 2013 and appendices.

3.0 Other Options

3.1 Currently the annual net cost to the Council for the provision of the Environmental Enforcement Team is in excess of £350K and this amount will increase in 2013-2014 due to the anticipated reduction in fixed penalty notices (FPNs) issued. There is no statutory requirement for the Council to provide an Environmental Enforcement service or to issue FPN's for litter and other environmental contraventions.

3.2 If the proposed budget-saving option is not approved year-on-year savings in excess of £350k would need to be found elsewhere in the Council budget.

4.0 Consultation

4.1 Staff consultation in line with the Council's 'Managing Change' framework and relevant legislation has taken place. The requisite 30 day consultation period was extended by agreement with management, staff and the unions to allow for further and meaningful consultation to take place, given the significant feedback that was received from staff.

5.0 Reasons for Recommendation

5.1 The Council Wide Review of Enforcement Services has identified that the Council's Environmental Enforcement Team cannot be operated on a self-funding basis solely from FPN income and that the high, and escalating, cost of providing this non-statutory service is unaffordable in the current financial climate. The Review identified a range of measures that the Council could put in place as an alternative to the penalty notice driven approach currently in operation. The new approach will not only deliver a considerable saving but will also be potentially more effective in some areas, e.g. parks and green space, where an enforcement-driven approach has had little impact on public behaviour.

Key Decision (as defined in the Constitution): Yes
If Key Decision, has 28-day notice been given? No

Finance Officer Clearance PC

Legal Officer Clearance MJ

CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S SIGNATURE



To confirm that the Financial and Legal Implications have been considered and the Executive Member has cleared the report.