

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

1 DECEMBER 2011

**REPORT OF ENVIRONMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE**

CABINET DECISION

Environment – Lead Cabinet Member – Councillor David Rose

EFFICIENCY, IMPROVEMENT, AND TRANSFORMATION (EIT) REVIEW OF CARE FOR YOUR AREA

1. Summary

This report presents the findings of the Environment Select Committee following the EIT review of Care for Your Area (CFYA).

The review examined a variety of services that are delivered by CFYA across the borough to ensure the environment is clean, safe and well maintained. These included refuse collection and kerbside recycling, vehicle maintenance, grounds maintenance/horticulture/urban parks, and street cleansing. The recommendations identify a number of efficiencies and savings that could be achieved through operational structures which would have a minimum impact on front-line delivery, and thereby ensuring that both service performance and customer satisfaction levels remain high. The recommendations also request officers undertake further work with depot relocation and workshops that could lead to future savings.

2. Recommendations

The Committee recommend:

1. That the following efficiencies (minimising the impact on front line service delivery) be implemented:
 - Management/Supervision - undertake a review of management and supervision structures where recent staffing changes have taken place, e.g. Countryside Parks, Markets
 - Round Reconfiguration - reconfigure refuse and recycling rounds where known efficiencies can be made without disruption to collection day
 - Parks Improvement Fund - reduce budgets by £100,000
 - Reduce supplies and services budgets (across all services) by £100,000
 - Street Cleansing / Grounds Maintenance - As part of ongoing discussions with TU partners, service condition changes to be agreed and implemented. Expressions of interest to be formally sought from those employees who may be unable to adapt to changes for a potential ER/VR scheme
 - Income from recyclable material - Increase income targets from the sale of recycling materials by £230,000
2. That the feasibility of acquiring land or existing Council-owned land suitable to house the entire service at one depot location be explored.

3. That the feasibility of partnership working and alternative delivery models be explored to deliver 24/7 workshop support service to a range of internal and external customers, including other local authorities.
4. That Officers examine the details of the newly announced Weekly Collections Support Scheme to identify whether Stockton would be eligible for any funding under the scheme.

3. Reasons for the Recommendations/Decision(s)

As part of the Council's EIT Programme, the Committee has undertaken the review with the aim of identifying options for future strategy, policy and service provision that will deliver efficiency savings while sustaining/improving high quality outcomes for SBC residents.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;
- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting;

and must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

This report presents the findings of the Environment Select Committee following the EIT review of Care for Your Area (CFYA). The review examined a variety of services that are delivered by CFYA across the borough to ensure the environment is clean, safe and well maintained

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommend that:

1. That the following efficiencies (minimising the impact on front line service delivery) be implemented:
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 - Income from recyclable material - Increase income targets from the sale of recycling materials by £230,000
2. That the feasibility of acquiring land or existing Council-owned land suitable to house the entire service at one depot location be explored.
3. That the feasibility of partnership working and alternative delivery models be explored to deliver 24/7 workshop support service to a range of internal and external customers, including other local authorities.
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DETAIL

1. The attached report presents Cabinet with the findings of the EIT Review of CFYA undertaken by the Environment Select Committee between June and December 2011.
2. The review forms part of a three year programme of EIT (Efficiency, Improvement and Transformation) reviews covering all services provided by the Council. The programme aims to ensure that all services are reviewed in a systematic way to ensure that they are provided in the most efficient manner, provide value for money and identify opportunities for service improvements and transformation. This review examined a number of highly visible front line services delivered by CFYA.
3. Following consideration by Cabinet, an action plan will be submitted to the Select Committee setting out how approved recommendations will be implemented detailing officers responsible for action and timescales.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4. It is estimated that recommendation 1 would save the Authority £830,000 as detailed below:

Efficiency Measure	Potential Annual Savings £ (from 2013/14)
- Management/Supervision - undertake a review of management and supervision structures where recent staffing changes have taken place, e.g. Countryside Parks, Markets	100,000
- Round Reconfiguration - reconfigure refuse and recycling rounds where known efficiencies can be made without disruption to collection day	100,000
- Parks Improvement Fund - reduce budgets by £100,000	100,000
- Reduce supplies and services budgets (across all services) by £100,000	100,000
- Street Cleansing / Grounds Maintenance - As part of ongoing discussions with TU partners, service condition changes to be agreed and implemented. Expressions of interest to be formally sought from those employees who may be unable to adapt to changes for a potential ER/VR scheme	200,000
- Income from recyclable material - Increase income targets from the sale of recycling materials by £230,000	230,000*
Total saving	830,000

* income savings from 2012/13

5. Recommendation 2 - 4 tasks officers with investigating issues that could lead to further savings and possible funding.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There are no specific legal implications emanating from the review at this stage.

RISK ASSESSMENT

7. This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

8. This review impacts upon the core theme of Environment and Housing, and Stronger Communities and Older Adults supporting themes.

EQUALITIES IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10. This report has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment and has been judged to have a neutral impact (score of 60).

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

11. No specific consultation exercise was undertaken as part of the review.

Name of Contact Officer: Judith Trainer
Post Title: Scrutiny Team Leader
Telephone No. 01642 528158
Email Address: judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk

Education related?

No

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

Not ward specific.

Property

None