

Housing and Community Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 4 October 2011

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

EIT Review of Community Safety and Security Services

It has been proposed to delete a number of vacant posts in order to achieve some of the savings expected of an EIT review. This would provide £118,000 of the savings target for the review of £153,000. The Committee was previously concerned that this would impact on crime figures in the borough especially at a time when there are plans nationally to cut police officer, police community support officer and other police staff numbers. This was resolved at a tripartite meeting on 26 July.

Consultation packs were subsequently issued to all staff in Community Safety and Security Services on 3 August regarding the deletion of posts, and to the three relevant trade unions (GMB, Unison and Unite) inviting responses by 5 September. In addition, face-to-face briefing sessions were provided for Security staff on 12 and 16 August, attended by 4 and 8 members of staff respectively, and for staff in Community Safety, held on 22 August in their workplace, with 12 members of staff present.

The posts identified for deletion have a total full year value of £142k. In addition to this, a further saving of £7k from the Emergency Planning budget has been identified from 2012/2013 onwards. The remaining £4k required to reach the 15% target level of £153,000 can be met from supplies and services budgets.

This review may no longer conflict with the intentions of the EIT Review of Commissioned Carers and Independent Living Services (CASSI Select Committee) as it previously suggested that an additional £35,000 income could come from a combination of increased income generation (Care Call) and a reduction in supplies and services.

EIT Review of Housing Benefits

This gateway review will present options to the Committee at an extra meeting on 3rd November.