

Report of the Director of Environment and Sport to the meeting of Bradford South Area Committee to be held on 28 March 2013.

BJ

Subject:

Development of Council Wardens – Bradford South

Summary statement:

This report outlines the development of Council Wardens in Bradford South.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate



Suzan Hemingway, City Solicitor

1. SUMMARY

This report outlines the development of Council Wardens in Bradford South.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Bradford South Area Committee at the meeting held on 22 November 2012 considered the report "Devolution to Area Committee – Council Warden Service" (Document AF). The Area Committee's third resolution resolved:

(3) That a report be presented to the March meeting of this Committee on development of the Council Warden Service.

- 2.2 The new Council Warden Service enables a responsive and flexible service to be provided encompassing as it does the roles previously undertaken by Neighbourhood Wardens, Civil Enforcement Officers and Park Rangers. The structure was developed after very careful consideration. Council Wardens across the District normally sign in at 9.00 a.m. and in the case of Bradford South this is at City Hall. Council Wardens work flexibly and have started earlier to address specific parking and dog fouling issues. As Council Wardens now have such a wide range of responsibilities they are all briefed each morning on the current issues and priorities. These briefings are essential in ensuring that we are able to effectively and efficiently deploy the appropriate resource to address issues within individual Wards.
- 2.3 Direct communication with local residents, etc is essential in the work of Council Wardens, and will of course continue to develop. How issues raised with Council Wardens are tasked is the responsibility of the Council Warden Manager to ensure the most appropriate and effective response, which may not necessarily be a Council Warden on foot.
- 2.4 In addition to Council Wardens on foot, the new structure provides for 3 motorcycle Council Wardens within Bradford South. This has ensured a rapid response when required. Motorcycle Council Wardens, from 1st March to the 30th November, work in shifts so that we have a service available from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 p.m. This is in addition to the City Centre based Council Wardens who also work shifts, from 7.30 a.m. until 9.00 p.m., and are often deployed in Bradford South to address specific issues.
- 2.5 Issues which need to be addressed outside the normal working hours of area-based Council Wardens who work 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. and patrol on foot are accommodated by prior arrangement with the Warden Manager.
- 2.6 With a wider range of responsibilities and resources, it is essential that the service is not only accessible, but there is clear and complete accountability. Therefore Council Wardens are managed by the Warden Manager and tasked by the appropriate Ward Officer. This ensures that in Bradford South the single point of contact, which is the Ward Officer, remains in place.

- 2.7 The Council Warden Service structure in Bradford South is a Warden Manager, Team Leader, 3 Council Wardens on motorcycles and 9 on foot patrol. The deployment, when fully staffed, is intended to be on a 2 Ward basis of Great Horton & Queensbury; Royds & Wibsey; and Tong & Wyke with 3 Council Wardens on foot a motorcycle Council Warden. There is, however, greater flexibility on the deployment of Motorcycle Council Wardens with the opportunity to get additional support from the City Centre Council Wardens to ensure adequate responsiveness.
- 2.8 At present there are 3.5 vacant Council Warden posts which include 2 Motorcycle Wardens. Whilst these vacancies have required a more flexible approach to the deployment of Council Wardens, it is essential to keep the link between named Council Wardens and individual Wards. To ensure that is the case each Ward has at least 1 named Council Warden with Great Horton Ward having 1.5 and Wibsey Ward having 2. In addition the Motorcycle Warden, with support from the City Centre Council Wardens, provides a mobile response for both parking and environmental issues.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

There are no "Other Considerations".

4. OPTIONS

- 4.1 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report.
- 4.2 That Bradford South Area Committee adopts the recommendations outlined in this report, with amendments.
- 4.3 That Bradford South Area Committee decides not to accept the recommendations outlined in this report.

5. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

5.1 Financial

The budget for Council Wardens in Bradford South is provided from within the existing resources of the Neighbourhood Service.

5.2 Staffing

The staffing structure is being provided from within the existing resources of the Neighbourhood Service.

6. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are no significant risks arising out of the proposed recommendations in this report.

7. LEGAL APPRAISAL

This work relates directly to the Local Government Act 2000 and to the Duty of Well-being placed upon the Council to promote and improve the well-being of the District.

8. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

8.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The work undertaken by Council Wardens will promote fairness and inclusion while supporting Bradford South Area Committee's commitment to equal opportunities for all.

8.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

Sustainability considerations are an element in actions taken to address priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2011-14 supported by the work of Council Wardens.

8.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

Actions to assist in identifying the greenhouse gas impacts of actions will be undertaken. These will include a consideration of for example energy efficiency opportunities in purchasing new equipment, etc.

8.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

8.4.1 Community Safety issues are acknowledged as a key contributor to the quality of life in neighbourhoods. Community safety priorities have therefore been identified for inclusion in the Bradford South Area Committee Action Plan 2011-14. Council Wardens contribute to work to address these priorities.

8.4.2 A key aspect of this work relates to supporting the Safer Communities Strategy, the Council's obligations under Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Act 1998 and the work of the Safer Communities Partnership.

8.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

8.5.1 No direct implications arising from the Human Rights Act.

8.6 TRADE UNION

8.6.1 No direct Trade Union implications arise from this report.

8.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

8.7.1 The work of Council Wardens will help to address issues in the Great Horton, Queensbury, Royds, Tong, Wibsey and Wyke Wards.

**8.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

- 8.8.1 The priorities within the Bradford South Area Committee's Action Plan 2011-14 help to inform the work of Council Wardens.

9. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10.1 The report be noted.

11. APPENDICES

None.

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

“Devolution to Area Committee – Council Warden Service” (Document AF), Report to Bradford South Area Committee, 24 January 2013.

“Neighbourhood Service Re-structure 2011/12 (Document E), Report to Bradford South Area Committee, 28 June 2012.