

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19TH JANUARY 2005

Report of the Acting Director of Community Services
"CHOOSING HEALTH, MAKING HEALTHY CHOICES EASIER" - PUBLIC HEALTH WHITE PAPER

purpose of the report

1. To inform Members of the publication of a government White Paper which sets out a strategy for improving the public's health.

background

2. Members will be aware that a government commissioned report prepared by Derek Wanless ("The Wanless Report") highlighted a number of issues regarding the current and future health status of the UK's population which, if not tackled, will have serious financial and social implications for the nation.
3. That report, the findings of which were generally accepted by the government, led to a response in the form of a White Paper entitled "Choosing Health, Making Healthier Choices Easier". A summary of this paper prepared by our Management Support Unit is attached at Annex 1 for your information. Copies of the White Paper are available for perusal if required.
4. There are clearly significant implications for local authorities who are seen, in partnership particularly with Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) and other health partners, as key to the delivery of the strategy.
5. The White Paper, and the attached summary, recognises that local authorities may incur additional costs as a consequence of responding to the aspirations of the government. The White Paper does indicate that local authorities will be reimbursed for such additional expense. In this regard it appears likely that such funding will be channelled through the NHS and the PCTs - with possibly some to local authorities, Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs) and other partnerships.

financial implications

6. This authority has a good record of partnership working, particularly with the Durham Dales PCT and has always taken an innovative approach to the provision of health improving incentives and opportunities. It is anticipated that this partnership will enable effective responses within Wear Valley to the objectives of the White Paper. It will, however, inevitably incur additional costs despite the comments referred to earlier. Proposals in respect of further intentions will be considered only if the required financial provisions are available.

timescale

7. There is an intention that, with effect from April 2005, there will be 21 pilot Local Area Agreements. It is not anticipated that Wear Valley will be included in any such pilot area. Additionally however, during 2005 the Government will produce guidance outlining the manner in which Councils are expected to contribute.

RECOMMENDED that Members note the objectives of the government's "health" White Paper and endorse the intention of this Council to contribute, in partnership with others, to the achievement of the objectives of the document.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19TH JANUARY 2005

Report of the Acting Director of Community Services **BEST VALUE PERFORMANCE INDICATORS**

purpose of the report

1. To provide Members of the Committee with information regarding the key Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) which are the responsibility of the Community Services Department.

background

2. Attached at Annex 2 is the schedule of Community Services BVPIs as prepared by the Management Support Unit based on information/data provided by relevant staff of the Community Services Department.
3. The six month review period 2004/05 covers the period April to September 2004 inclusive. The following notes may be helpful to Members:

Colour Code	Dark green	Top quartile (nationally)
	Light green	Above average (nationally)
	Blue	Average (nationally)
	Yellow	Below average (nationally)
	Red	Bottom quartile (nationally)

4. Three of the six indicators are top quartile or above average. Three of the six indicators are below average or in the bottom quartile. The following comments are offered in respect of the three low performing BVPIs.

BV082a (Percentage of Waste Recycled)

Prior to the introduction of the "green box" recycling system, Wear Valley District Council was operating well below the national average. As can be seen at Annex 2 the introduction of the green box system enabled Wear Valley District Council to move above average nationally and, most importantly, achieve and exceed the current government target of 10% recycled material. There was substantial public interest generated allied to the introduction of the recycling service. As the "novelty" has worn off there has been a dip in percentage recycled - although we are still achieving the 10% target. In order to achieve the next target of 18% recycled the additional planned service improvements are important - allied to robust promotional activities. A separate report dealing with these matters is included elsewhere on the agenda.

BV082b ("green waste" composting)

There are currently no arrangements in the Wear Valley District for the collection of green waste - therefore the zero score. Members are aware of the plans for the introduction of a green waste service. The extent of the service will be determined by available finance. A successful service will contribute to the achievement of the next (18%) recycling target.

BV84 (kilograms of waste per head)

The greater the amount of recycled material the lower the residue taken as waste to landfill sites. As one is a function of the other it is vital that as much effort as possible is devoted to increase the percentage recycled figure.

financial implications

5. As reported elsewhere on the agenda the financial provisions made available for 2004/05 will see the introduction of the first tranche of the wheeled bin service and the "green waste" collection service. This should be reflected, within a reasonable timescale, in improved BVPIs BV082a, BV082b and BV84.

conclusion

6. It is proposed to provide information regarding the key BVPIs on a regular basis. It is also likely that information regarding relevant local performance indicators will be included in future reports.

RECOMMENDED that Members of the Committee note the information provided on the BVPIs for which the Community Services Department is responsible.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19TH JANUARY 2005

Report of the Acting Director of Community Services **WHEELED BIN IMPLEMENTATION**

purpose of the report

1. To update Members on the progress of the implementation of wheeled bins and a green waste collection service and to seek Members' approval for the intended timetables for the process.

background

2. Members may recall a report to this Committee on 22nd September 2004 with regard to the implementation of wheeled bins and associated policy and procedures. Action has been taken as follows:
 - Present round scrutiny and rescheduling exercise undertaken.
 - New rounds to facilitate the introduction of wheeled bins developed which will commence January 2005.
 - Following a tender exercise undertaken by the North East Procurement Organisation (NEPO), Otto UK was chosen as the preferred supplier of the wheeled bins.
 - A Wheeled Bin Working Group was set up including representatives of the workforce, union representatives, Refuse Supervisor and the Head of Service Contracts. The group meets regularly and feedback is given regarding any developments recently undertaken.
 - A leaflet was distributed to every property throughout the District informing residents of the Christmas working arrangements and advising them of the new collection day prior to the implementation of wheeled bins.

timetable for future events

3. The following outlines the intended sequence of promotion and implementation of the wheeled bin and green waste services.
 - The appointment of a consultant for a four month period to oversee all issues surrounding refuse/green waste/recycling collection commencing in February 2005.
 - A mobile caravan-based display unit will tour the District stopping at various locations to advise residents on all issues relating to wheeled bins. It is anticipated this will be undertaken during February 2005.

- It is anticipated that a second leaflet explaining all aspects of the proposed wheeled bin implementation will be delivered to every household throughout the District during February 2005.
- An article is to appear in the spring edition of Wear Valley Matters regarding the implementation.
- It is anticipated that a newspaper "wrap" publicising the forthcoming implementation will be undertaken during March 2005.
- Week commencing 29th March 2005 - first delivery of wheeled bins to the District. The first areas to be covered by the wheeled bins will be the Weardale, Crook and Willington areas. Week commencing 18th April 2005 - first collection of wheeled bins will be undertaken in those areas.
- Week commencing 18th April 2005 - delivery of first bins to Bishop Auckland area to be undertaken.
- Week commencing 16th May 2005 - first collection of wheeled bins in Bishop Auckland area.
- Week commencing 23rd May 2005 - first collection of wheeled bins on rural round to be undertaken.
- Prior to delivery of the wheeled bins an exercise will be undertaken by officers to determine those areas not suitable for wheeled bins as well as visiting all properties where residents have raised concerns regarding the scheme.

green waste collection services

- Investigations undertaken by the Waste Project Officer and the Refuse Supervisor have identified approximately 6,000 properties for green waste collection throughout the District. Following the tendering process undertaken by NEPO, Otto UK was selected as the preferred supplier of green waste receptacles.
- Order placed for the first tranche of green waste bins.
- A leaflet will be distributed to selected properties explaining the green waste collection service during January 2005.
- Week commencing 11th April 2005 - delivery of green waste receptacles to properties.
- Week commencing 29th April 2005 - first scheduled green waste collection.
- Officers of the Community Services Department and the Management Support Unit are working together in respect of the promotional elements of the project(s).

financial implications

4. A capital allocation of £375,000 has been made available in this year's (2004/05) capital budgets which has enabled the purchase of the first tranche of wheeled bins (15,000 out of a total of 30,000) and green waste bins (2,700 out of a total of 5,000). The purchase of the second tranche of wheeled and green waste bins is subject to the confirmation of an appropriate capital allocation in the 2005/06 budgets.

legal implications

5. Under Section 45 of the Environmental Protection Act Wear Valley District Council has a duty to collect household waste as a waste collection authority. Under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act, the Council can require the occupier to place the waste for collection in a receptacle or receptacles of a kind and size and number specified and to place their receptacle at a specified place for collection.
6. It is important to note that the collection point will be at the curtilage of the property and not the kerbside as under Section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act waste collection authorities would require the permission of the highway authority to place receptacles at kerbsides. Obviously it would be inappropriate to place receptacles at kerbsides as they would create significant obstacles on the pavement.

crime and disorder implications

7. It is envisaged that the larger capacity bins will reduce the likelihood of indiscriminate dumping. Furthermore, the wheeled bins will reduce the amount of littering and untidiness in the District. It is also anticipated that wheeled bins will remove the possibility of operatives suffering a drugs-related needle stick injury.

human resource implications

8. As part of the negotiations for improved conditions of service the implementation of wheeled bins was discussed and it was agreed that there would be a requirement to reduce crew numbers thereby displacing staff into other services. Consultation will obviously take place with employees and trade unions.

RECOMMENDED that Members endorse the proposed implementation timetable and promotional activities regarding the wheeled bin and green waste services.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19TH JANUARY 2005

Report of the Acting Director of Community Services **COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL SERVICES SECTION - EXTERNALLY FUNDED POSTS**

purpose of the report

1. To seek approval from Members for the submission of an application to Sport England for funding to enable the continuation of work currently delivered by externally funded posts.

background

2. As Members are aware, a significant number of posts within the Community Services Department are enabled as a result of external funding. This is particularly so in the Community and Cultural Services Section of the department. The posts affected are listed below:
 - Community & Health Development Manager
 - Club Development Officer
 - Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator (Coundon/Leeholme)
 - Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator (Crook/Willington/Tow Law)
 - Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator (Woodhouse Close/Henknowle/St. Helen's)
 - Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator (Mid and Upper Weardale)
 - Assistant Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator 1
 - Assistant Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator 2
 - Assistant Community Physical Activity Co-ordinator 3
 - Walking the Way to Health Co-ordinator
 - Physical Activity Development Officer
 - Physical Activity Instructors (2 posts - shared)
 - Youth Arts Co-ordinator (Bishop Auckland)
 - Youth Arts Co-ordinator (Crook and Weardale)
 - Cultural Programmer
 - Arts in Health Co-ordinator (part time post - shared with Teesdale)
3. Members will also be aware that, as part of the current budget preparation process, the Director of Central Resources has prepared, based on information provided by departments, a schedule setting out the cost to the revenue budget of replacing external funding (when it expires) from the Council's revenue budget.

4. For the Community Services Department alone the costs would be:

2005/06	£156,075
2006/07	£455,700
2007/08	£514,400

A significant part of these costs arise from posts in the Community and Cultural Services Section.

5. Clearly, given that other departments similarly have posts funded by external funding which will eventually expire, the capacity for the revenue budget to replace external funding is limited and will not be sufficient to meet needs. Consequently, the Acting Director of Community Services and the Sport Action Zone Manager are seeking to obtain ongoing external funding with which to ensure that very successful work is continued. As a result of this work it is intended to submit an application to the Sport England administered Community Investment Fund.
6. Despite the fact that a significant amount will be requested (probably in excess of £400,000 over three years) discussions with Sport England have provided significant encouragement as the "outreach" work delivered by the posts in question has been very successful and will, if continued, be complementary to the Wellness on Wheels mobile fitness facility which will operate in Wear Valley from April 2005 for three years.
7. However, there is no certainty regarding the outcome of the application - but it will be necessary to be able to confirm that there is Council approval for the application and for the subsequent management of any funding which may be offered.

financial implications

8. There would be no financial implications arising from a successful bid for external funds. There will be a need for "in kind" contributions in terms of desk space, access to computers, etc., as is the situation with the currently externally funded posts.

legal implications

9. There will not be any legal implications arising from any successful bid for external funds.

crime and disorder implications

10. Almost all of the externally funded posts in the Community Services Department engage with young people providing physical activity opportunities which have obvious health benefits but are also used as diversionary activities targeting hot spots of anti-social behaviour. Specifically the Positive Futures Co-ordinator (an officer seconded from the Police) is required to meet government targets to engage with at least 50 young people who have offended or are identified as having the potential for offending. All of the posts in the section work with young people having as a central objective providing activities that tackle anti-social behaviour.

human resource implications

11. The employment of any posts enabled as a result of external funding will be administered through the Council's payroll system.

timescale

12. It is expected that a funding application can be prepared, submitted and resolved prior to the cessation of current funding for three of the posts in March 2005.

RECOMMENDED that Members approve the preparation and submission of an application for external funding with which to continue the work of a number of posts in the Community and Cultural Services Section of the Community Services Department.

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COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

19TH JANUARY 2005

Report of the Acting Director of Community Services
OPEN SPACE STRATEGY

purpose of the report

1. To seek Members' approval for the suspension of standing order 8.1 in order to facilitate the appointment of Groundwork West Durham to undertake work directed at the production of an Open Space Strategy for Wear Valley.

background

2. It has been agreed that there is a need to produce, for the District of Wear Valley, a clear vision as to the future provision, quality and future upkeep of open space(s) in the District.
3. Attached at Annex 3 is a draft scoping report which will be subject to endorsement by the already established Open Space Strategy Steering Group. The scoping report is included here for Members' benefit as it provides the essential background to the project.
4. In short an Open Space Strategy for the District is required to:
 - (i) Determine future policy in these matters which will influence work planning and budget decisions.
 - (ii) Contribute to the new development (Local Development Framework) plans for the District.
 - (iii) Contribute, together with other strategies such as the Waste Management Strategy to the development of a Liveability Strategy for the District.
5. The attached, proposed scoping report sets out (at paragraph 3) those areas/facilities which are the subject of the strategy, the key tasks (at paragraph 4) and the membership of the Open Space Strategy Steering Group (at paragraph 13). Paragraph 13 also refers to the division of responsibility between the "executive" role and the "project planning" role, together with a proposal that Groundwork West Durham should undertake the project planning (and management) role.
6. A Neighbourhood Renewal Fund grant of £50,000 has been secured to assist and enable the work required to produce the strategy. Part of this grant will be used to secure the services of Groundwork West Durham.

reason for proposal

7. Groundwork West Durham has detailed knowledge of the District and is familiar with the working practices and plans and strategies of the District Council and most of the partners to the project. Whilst, theoretically, there are other consultants and agencies which may be able to undertake the work, it is envisaged that a substantially higher level of briefing/guidance would be required than that needed should the services of Groundwork West Durham be used.
8. The detailed brief which will guide the work of the appointed consultant has yet to be finalised and it is therefore not possible to be specific regarding the likely fee structure. It will, however, fall within the £10,000 to £100,000 band normally requiring three written quotations - but less than the £50,000 provided by NRF.
9. Therefore, because of the specialist nature of the work it is proposed that the Council's standing order 8.1 be suspended to enable the appointment of Groundwork West Durham.

financial implications

10. The total costs of the production of the Open Space Strategy including the costs arising from the appointment of Groundwork West Durham will be met from within the £50,000 NRF grant and existing revenue budget of those departments principally involved in the production of the strategy.

legal implications

11. The Director of Central Resources and the Head of Legal Services have been consulted and support the suspension of the relevant standing order.

timescale

12. It is anticipated that the time required to produce the Open Space Strategy will be approximately 18 months which, given the work already undertaken, will result in an approximate completion date of May 2006.

RECOMMENDED that due to the specialist nature of the work, the Council's standing order 8.1 be suspended in order to enable the appointment of Groundwork West Durham to assist with the production of an Open Space Strategy for the District of Wear Valley.

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