



REPORT TO EXECUTIVE

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PORTFOLIO AREA: COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Date of Meeting 18th September 2001

Agenda Item No

Public/Private*

Delegated: Yes/No

* Not for publication by virtue of paragraph of Part 1 of
Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972

Key Decision: Yes

Recorded in Forward Plan: Yes

Title	Neighbourhood/Street Wardens Scheme
Report of	Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Report reference	TC - 202

Summary

On 31st July 2001 a ministerial announcement was made for a new round of bidding for Street Wardens. Expressions of interest are being sought from relevant agencies. A bid is being prepared with involvement from the Housing Department, Carlisle Works the Community Safety Co-ordinator and the Riverside Group who have been successful with previous bids for Neighbourhood Wardens.

Recommendation

That members support an initial bid for the Neighbourhood/Street Wardens Scheme as outlined in this report and note that if the initial bid is successful a further report on funding will be made to the executive.

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Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers: None

1. BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND OPTIONS

The proposed areas for the scheme would be Raffles, Botcherby and Petteril Bank estates.

Funding is available for up to 50% of the scheme costs and expressions of interest must be submitted by 25th September 2001.

Schemes can vary from a “caretaker” type approach with responsibility for environmental issues only through to a patrolling, uniformed presence with powers of enforcement and in some cases, powers of arrest.

Following discussions with partner agencies the proposed scheme in Carlisle would combine the above approaches and would involve a vehicle based service patrolling from 6:00 p.m. until 2:00 a.m.

Responsibilities will include recording and reporting issues such as empty property management, environmental maintenance and estate security including street lighting.

2. CONSULTATION

Consultation will take place through the Hotspots Task Group which is a Carlisle sub group of the Carlisle and Eden Community Safety Strategic Group and wider consultation with the tenants and residents groups in each area should a final bid be invited.

3. STAFFING/RESOURCES COMMENTS

The initiative would require the provision of four new posts, a scheme manager and administrative support.

The unit would operate within Carlisle Works using their infrastructure, I.T. and vehicle. Patrolling would cover the three designated areas with two members of staff/vehicle operating between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 2:00 a.m.

4. FINANCIAL COMMENTS

Based upon a 15 month pilot project, January 2002 – March 2003, the staffing compliment and overall scheme cost is estimated at £120,000. On the basis of 50% match funding should the application to the DTLR be successful, the City Councils contribution over that period would be £60,000.

The Director of Housing has indicated that the pilot initiative could be part funded from the Carlisle 2010 existing budget provision (20k) and the balance from the existing budget provision within the HRA (Housing Planned Maintenance Budget)

The Director has also advised that subject to successful transfer of the housing stock to the authority's preferred partner, Riverside Housing Group, agreement has been reached that they will contribute the full match funding of £12,000 to cover the scheme costs for the period December 2002 – March 2003.

The issue of funding beyond 2003 would need further consideration and would largely depend on the outcome of the stock options process and the Riverside Group.

5. LEGAL COMMENTS

None at this stage.

6. CORPORATE COMMENT

The concept of Neighbourhood Wardens is supported by the Corporate Management Team but the issue of long term funding is recognised as an important issue.

7. RECOMMENDATION

That members support the initial bid for the Neighbourhood/Street Wardens Scheme as outlined in this report and note that if the initial bid is successful a further report on funding will be made to the executive.

8. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

The Council has been invited to bid for this initiative. The geographical areas in question are identified within the District Crime and Disorder Strategy as requiring support. The concept of a patrolling warden service would help to reduce youth nuisance, disorder and vandalism to void properties and bring about a reduction in fear of crime and would help deliver the strategic aims.