

REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION TEAMS (NEATS)

1. SUMMARY

This report brings to the attention of Area Committees the introduction of Neighbourhood Environmental Action Teams (NEAT) within Street Scene to improve the local environment. The report also seeks to involve Area Committees in identifying suitable locations for the deployment of the teams within local neighbourhoods.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Area Committees :-

- (i) note the content of this report;
- (ii) suggest suitable locations and projects for deployment of the teams.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Improving the quality and appearance of the environment is a top local and national priority. Progress has been made over the past three years but much work remains to meet increasing customer expectations.
- 3.2 At present, Street Scene staff mainly focus on maintaining the local environment – cutting the grass, removing litter, clearing fly-tips, etc. There is a need to move beyond this and pay greater attention to improving the local environment. In practical terms, this means focusing on the things that are often not included as scheduled work and so sometimes get overlooked e.g. painting of benches and bins and transforming derelict / scruffy areas of land.
- 3.3 The aim of NEAT teams is to improve customer satisfaction in two main ways. Firstly, by having a high profile, visible presence outside of normal working hours. Secondly, by 'blitzing' a range of environmental issues in one visit.
- 3.4 The teams will focus on cleaning up and improving problem areas which will be identified by Area Committees, Members and local residents.

4. OPERATION OF THE TEAMS

- 4.1 Initially, three high profile NEAT teams are being established with a minimum of two staff and a vehicle per team working within local neighbourhoods across the City. Each team will cover three Area Committee areas.
- 4.2 The teams will be clearly identifiable with a NEAT logo on the vehicles and uniform.
- 4.3 The scope of work will include repairs/ painting of street furniture, pressure washing, ground clearance works, cutting back of shrubs, strimming grassed areas and small scale site improvement works to Council owned land and parks.
- 4.4 The teams will operate outside of normal working hours, Wednesday to Sunday from 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. to maximise the opportunity to be involved in community projects.
- 4.5 The teams will work with Area Committees, community groups and other agencies to identify priority sites for environmental clean-ups.
- 4.6 They will promote and participate in community clean ups and city-wide initiatives such as Spring Clean and Nottingham in Bloom.
- 4.7 A NEAT website will be developed to promote the initiative and enable users to input suggestions for projects.
- 4.8 Recruitment to the teams is currently taking place.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Three vehicles have been purchased through NRF funding. The revenue costs will be met from mainstream budgets.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

Improving the quality of the environment has a major impact on the overall quality of life of local residents, especially in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

7. CRIME AND DISORDER ACT 1998

NEAT teams will contribute to increasing the quality of the environment which in turn contributes to people's overall feelings of safety.

8. STRATEGIC AIMS

This report is consistent with the Community Strategy and Corporate Plan objectives, to transform the quality of life in local neighbourhoods.

9. VALUE FOR MONEY

NEAT Teams will be deployed to focus on local priorities and needs in order to target resources most effectively.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

None.

11. PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

Local Area Agreement
Neighbourhood Renewal Floor Targets

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