





**Report of: Community Scrutiny Committee**

**To: Executive Board**










**Date: 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

**Item No**

**Title of Report : Street Wardens**

**Summary and Recommendations**

**purpose of report:** To report to the Executive Board the recommendations of the Community Scrutiny Committee as part of their discussions on Street Wardens

**Key decision:** No

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr Altaf –Khan

**Ward(s) affected:** All


**Report Approved by:** Andy Collett – Financial & Asset Management Services  
Jeremy Thomas – Legal & Democratic Services

**Policy Framework:** N/A

**Recommendation(s):** The Executive Board is asked to respond to the Community Scrutiny Committee’s recommendations:

To ensure that there should be proper process for briefing new Portfolio Holders on the finer points of their budgets, particularly in cases when they did not hold the post when the budget was agreed.

**1. Background**

**1.1** The Community Scrutiny Committee requested details of the Street Warden sponsorship scheme at their meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> October. It was concerned about the about the authority for the scheme and that sponsorship was being sought in an area where there was no Street Warden presence.

- 1.2 The Neighbourhood Services Manager informed the Committee that letters had been sent to businesses with a sizeable turnover of £250,000 or more and that by accident letters had been sent to businesses outside the areas where the Street Warden Scheme operated e.g. Headington.
- 1.3 It was not clear where the authority to seek sponsorship came from and this is why the Committee requested that the 'Safer City' Portfolio Holder attend a future meeting to clarify this position.
- 1.4 The Neighbourhood Services Manager attended Community Scrutiny on 10<sup>th</sup> with the 'Safer City' Portfolio Holder to clarify that seeking sponsorship 'was an officer instruction and may not have appeared in the budget report seen by Councillors, although it was in the directorate budget.'
- 1.5 Cllr Altaf Khan added the budget was agreed before he became Portfolio Holder, but he was aware of the sponsorship letter being sent out.
- 1.6 It is understood that so far in 07/08 £1,500 in sponsorship had been raised. Based on the present budget proposals this will have to be significantly increased in the future e.g. The Street Warden Service will be asked to raise £15,000 in external funding in 08/09, £25,000 in 09/10 and £30,000 in 10/11.

## **2. Minutes of Community Scrutiny – 10th January 2008**

### **68. STREET WARDENS**

Councillor Altaf-Khan attended to answer questions on issues arising from the discussion of the Neighbourhood Renewal Business Manager's report on street wardens, which was considered at the meeting on 10 October 2007.

Steve Kilsby explained that officers had been asked as part of the 2006/07 budget to fundraise about £40,000 towards the costs of the street warden service. This was an officer instruction and may not have appeared in the budget report seen by Councillors, although it was in the directorate budget. Unfortunately there were errors made and some letters were sent to the wrong people. He also acknowledged that, with hindsight, the letters could have been better drafted.

Councillor Altaf-Khan commented that the budget was agreed before he became Portfolio Holder. He had been aware of the letter being sent out and supported the principle of fundraising. Steve Kilsby had explained what had

happened and apologised for the errors and Councillor Altaf-Khan said that as far as he was concerned that was the end of the matter.

Councillor Sinclair pointed out that the budget savings target was £45k. She asked how much money had been raised through the letters, and was told that it only about £1,500.

Councillor Van Nooijen sought clarification as to whether the failure to make the savings/raise the funds would cause a problem in the 2008/09 budget setting process

Resolved to: -

- (1) thank Councillor Altaf-Khan and Steve Kilsby for attending.
- (2) Ask the Portfolio Holder (Councillor Altaf-Khan) to check whether the apparent £40/45k shortfall in the 2007/08 savings target was going to create a problem for the 2008/09 budget and let him know the outcome.
- (3) Recommend Executive Board to ensure that there should be proper process for briefing new Portfolio Holders on the finer points of their budgets, particularly in cases when they did not hold the post when the budget was agreed.

**3. Comments from Portfolio Holder (Cllr Altaf - Khan)**

None received

**4. Comments from the Head of Service - Community Housing & Community Development:**

‘The Head of Service would note that the proposed fund raising target of £45K for 2007/08 was an aspiration, and was not included as a budget line/savings target in the 07/08 budget. There is no therefore no adverse effect on that budget from the non-achievement of that target.’

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**Background papers:** None