

To: PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE		Subject: ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS – CONTINUATION OF FUNDING TO 2008
From: DIRECTOR OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT		
Date: 12 October 2005	Ref: RS/58/508	

1. Purpose of Report/ Introduction

1.1 The Environmental Wardens have been established for one year, and have been operating as an integral part of the Environmental Protection Team within Environmental Health since February 2005. The Environmental Protection Team and the Environmental Wardens were established on a temporary basis until March 2006, and funding has been allocated to enable the extension of this important and successful service until March 2008.

2 Background

2.1 The enforcement of the litter and fly tipping provisions of the Environmental Protection Act was previously carried out on an ad-hoc basis by a range of departments and agencies. In July 2004 the Environmental Wardens were employed to tackle these issues, and in February 2005 the Environmental Protection Team was established within Environmental Health to enable a co-ordinated and concerted approach to be taken in respect of litter and fly tipping enforcement and education, and also to deal with fly posting, waste management duty of care and partnership working with external agencies. These services and activities are now being carried out by North Lanarkshire Council on a programmed, systematic manner. The service of fixed penalty notices for littering and fly tipping has been implemented, there have been successful prosecutions of fly tippers and duty of care issues are being addressed in a programmed manner in partnership with SEPA.

2.2 The Policy and Resources Committee approved the Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities Funding Report in June 2005, allocating funding to support the Environmental Protection Team and the employment of the Environmental Wardens until 31 March 2008. This funding will ensure the continuation of the team who have achieved a CoSLA Bronze Award this year, providing external recognition of their achievements in such a short period of time.

3 Proposals/Considerations

3.1 Eight Environmental Wardens and one Senior Clerical Assistant are employed on temporary contracts until 31 March 2006. It is proposed that their contracts be extended until 31 March 2008.

3.2 The Environmental Protection Team within Environmental Health was established on a temporary basis until 31 March 2006. It is proposed that this team be continued until 31 March 2008, and that the temporary Senior Environmental Health Officer and Environmental Health Team Leader posts, as defined in the Proposed Secondment of Team Leader to Environmental Protection Project report approved by the Planning and Environment Committee on 24 January 2005, be continued until 31 March 2008.

3.3 The effectiveness of this project will be monitored and a further report may be presented at the end of the funding period.

4 Sustainability Implications

4.1 The recommendations to the committee are consistent with policy and there are no sustainability implications.

5 Corporate Considerations

5.1 The Head of Personnel Services and the Director of Finance have been consulted in the compilation of this report. The costs of the temporary posts will be met from the funding detailed in the Building Strong, Safe and Attractive Communities Funding Report to the Policy and Resources Committee which was approved in June 2005.

5.2 All decisions or actions with possible legal implications to be confirmed with North Lanarkshire Council's Legal Services.

6 Recommendations

6.1 That the committee notes that the enforcement work associated with litter and fly tipping will be continued, and approves the continuation of the Environmental Protection Team and the Senior Environmental Health Officer and Environmental Health Team Leader posts established to support this team within Environmental Health on a temporary basis until 31 March 2008, at the existing grades.

6.2 That the committee approves the extension of the contracts of the eight Environmental Wardens and Senior Clerical Assistant on a temporary basis until 31 March 2008, at the existing grades.

6.3 That the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources (Personnel) Sub-Committee for approval.



David M Porch
Director of Planning and Environment
28 September 2005

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