

**TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**06 February 2006**

**Joint Report of Director of Health and Housing and Cabinet Member for  
Environmental Services**

**Part 1- Public**

**Matters for Recommendation to Council**

**1 ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT OFFICER**

**Summary**

**The report recommends that the temporary, part-time post of Litter Enforcement officer is made permanent, full-time and redesignated Environmental Enforcement Officer.**

1.1.1 The council's key priorities include:

- achieve a cleaner, smarter and better maintained 'street scene' and open space environment;
- reduce ..... environmental crime.

1.1.2 To meet these key priorities requires a combination of high performing direct services - street cleansing, education and enforcement. One of the initiatives directed at achieving these key priorities is the appointment of a part-time (18.5 hours/week) Litter Enforcement Officer. At its meeting in August 2003 the Street Scene Advisory Board recommended, and Cabinet subsequently agreed, that the post be established initially for a three-month temporary period. Following consideration of progress reports at meetings of the Advisory Board in July 2004 and January 2005 the appointment was extended up to 31 March 2006.

1.1.3 The Street Scene Officer Study Group has considered what should happen when the existing temporary appointment ends on 31 March. It is firmly of the view that the case for an enforcement presence has been demonstrated and that it needs to be widened beyond littering to deal with enforcement aspects of other related 'environmental crime' such as fly-tipping and graffiti where appropriate. The OSG has therefore recommended that the post should be established on a full-time, permanent basis with effect from 1 April. To recognise the wider aspects to be dealt with by the postholder, the designation "Environmental Enforcement Officer" is felt to be more appropriate. A job description is attached at **[Annex 1]**. The Senior Personnel Officer considers that the appropriate grade is scale 3/4. The full year cost of the post (inclusive of on-costs and car allowance) is £27,051 and

this has been included in the council's Medium Term Financial Strategy and the revenue estimates for 2006/07. Members may recall that a substantial part of the salary costs of this post in the current year are being met from external funding of the Cleaner Borough Campaign. We are hopeful of securing a continuation of this funding, part of which could be used to defray the cost of this post.

- 1.1.4 A report on this topic has also been submitted to the meeting of the Street Scene Advisory Board on 31 January. The Board is asked to recommend that Cabinet endorse the principle of continuing and expanding the proportionate response to enforcement outlined above. As a consequence, this committee is requested to address the staffing implications arising from that proposal.

## **1.2 Legal Implications**

- 1.2.1 The council has a range of enforcement powers in relation to littering, fly-tipping and graffiti.

## **1.3 Financial and Value for Money Considerations**

- 1.3.1 The Best Value Review of amenity street cleansing identified enforcement as an area for improvement. We have taken a considered and measured approach by testing the effectiveness of enforcement by an initial temporary appointment. Full funding for a full-time permanent post has been included in the Medium Term Financial Strategy and revenue budget, but we are hopeful of continuing to meet costs from external contributions.

## **1.4 Risk Assessment**

- 1.4.1 By implementing the recommendation in this report the council is demonstrating positive and proportionate action to achieve two of its key objectives.

## **1.5 Recommendations**

- 1.5.1 It is **RECOMMENDED** that a full-time, permanent post of Environmental Enforcement Officer **BE ESTABLISHED** with effect from 1 April 2006.

Background papers:

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Nil

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Cabinet Member for Environmental Services