

Report

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Report to:	Community Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	31 March 2009
Report by:	Executive Director (Community Resources)

Subject:	Environmental and Strategic Services - Management Rationalisation
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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ Advise on the Management Review within Environmental and Strategic Services to improve service integration and achieve an efficiency saving as previously agreed at the Executive Committee on 28 January 2009.

2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Committee is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the Management Rationalisation resulting from the Management Review providing an efficiency saving of £55,000 be noted.

3. Background

- 3.1. Environmental and Strategic Services are responsible for the delivery of Environmental Health, Consumer and Trading Standards, Home Safety, Sustainable Development and the co-ordination and development of Resource performance, policies, plans and strategies. The Head of Environmental and Strategic Services has overall responsibility for the range of services delivered and the services are managed through four functional sections.
- 3.2. The four sections within Environmental and Strategic Services are Commercial (Environmental Health), Environmental Protection (Environmental Health), Consumer and Trading Standards and Strategic Services. Each of the sections has a functional Manager. The functional Managers are supported by Divisional Officers of which there are 5 in Environmental Health and 3 in Consumer and Trading Standards.
- 3.3. Environmental Health and Trading Standards services are presently in a climate which involves participation in the national Better Regulation Agenda which is being addressed by the service through a Best Value Review. The aim of Better Regulation is to lessen the burden on business and ensure that the principles of openness, fairness, consistency and proportionality are being exercised when dealing with business. The agenda will require the Council to look at how services are delivered to business.

- 3.4. The services, through previous management restructuring and Best Value reviews, have reduced management costs by over 50% since 1996. However, the Better Regulation Agenda challenges the services to review current methods of working. Whilst looking at improvements in how services are delivered, it is crucial to ensure that Environmental Health services maintain sufficient capacity, leadership and expertise to deal with infectious disease outbreaks such as E.coli 0157. This was indeed a recommendation in the Pennington Report following the central Scotland outbreak in 1996 and to ignore it could potentially have a negative impact in the future. The demonstration of appropriate capacity and expertise is also a requirement of the new Public Health etc (Scotland) Act 2008.
- 3.5. As part of the Resources 2009/2010 efficiency proposals Environmental and Strategic Services identified the opportunity to reduce the senior management structure by a further post with this being agreed at the Executive Committee on 28 January 2009. As a consequence of the deletion of this post the service has taken the opportunity to implement a number of further management changes.
- 4. Proposals**
 - 4.1. It was proposed that the two sections within Environmental Health services be integrated with one functional Manager assuming responsibility for overall delivery of the service and one other Manager will leave the service on grounds of efficiency.
 - 4.2. An existing post of Divisional Environmental Health Officer would be redesignated Divisional Environmental Health Officer (Food Safety) to ensure that the Council remains compliant with the Pennington Report recommendations and with Food Standards Agency requirements and scrutiny.
 - 4.3. An integrated Environmental Health service will be better placed to meet the challenges being posed by the Better Regulation Agenda as it will result in business receiving advice from a single point of contact.
- 5. Employee Implications**
 - 5.1. An existing Manager will leave the service on grounds of efficiency as agreed at the 28 January 2009 Executive Committee.
- 6. Financial Implications**
 - 6.1. There are no financial implications other than the £55,000 efficiency previously agreed.
- 7. Other Implications**
 - 7.1. None
- 8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**
 - 8.1. The report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
 - 8.2. Consultation was undertaken with all the Managers in Environmental and Strategic Services and thereafter with the Trade Union.

Norrie Anderson
Executive Director (Community Resources)

2 March 2009

Link(s) to Council Objectives and Values

- ◆ Accountable, effective and efficient.

Previous References

Executive Committee of 28 January 2009

List of Background Papers

None

Contact for Further Information

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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