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| REPORT TO: | ENVIRONMENTAL & DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE | AGENDA ITEM: 12 |
| DATE OF MEETING: | 13th July 2006 | CATEGORY: DELEGATED |
| REPORT FROM: | DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES | OPEN PARAGRAPH NO: |
| MEMBERS' CONTACT POINT: | JACK TWOMEY (5856) | DOC: |
| SUBJECT: | UNIFORMS FOR SAFER NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDENS | REF: |
| WARD(S) AFFECTED: | ALL | TERMS OF REFERENCE: EDS14 |

1.0 Recommendations

- 1.1 To approve the uniforms to be worn by the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens, as detailed in the report.
- 1.2 To approve also that the Head of Environmental Services be given the authority to determine the detail relating to the exact appearance of the uniforms for the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens, in consideration of their varying availability from suppliers.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 To determine the style and design of uniform to be worn by the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 When determining the type and style of uniforms that the Safer Neighbourhood Wardens (SNWs) will wear, a number of elements must be considered:
 - They should be instantly recognisable as wardens, not as Police Officers or Security Guards;
 - they should be highly visible, preferably with reflective strips;
 - they should be provided with layered clothing to take account of weather conditions, including waterproof coats, trousers, hats and gloves;
 - and they should have safe and comfortable footwear.
- 3.2 In addition to these general requirements, a number of elements relating to their role for the Council must also be considered. These include:
 - Corporate image;
 - embroidered logo / crest
- 3.3 It is hoped that the new SNWs will provide a key service in not only tackling low level environmental crime, but also in providing eyes and ears for other agencies, including the Police, in order to tackle issues of anti-social behaviour more efficiently. With this in mind, it is considered that the uniforms need to be relatively formal in nature, thereby conveying an appearance of authority. For this reason, it is recommended that the uniforms take the appearance of shirts and ties rather than the more commonly seen polo shirts which some Authorities use.

- 3.4 In view of all these requirements, it is proposed that the SNWs be provided with uniforms consisting of dark trousers, white shirts and in keeping with the corporate colours, green ties or cravats (clip-on for safety reasons). To enable the Wardens to be further easily identifiable, it is proposed that the shirts have green epaulettes on the shoulders. Pullovers are proposed to be similar in style to the Police uniform pullovers, though in green. A high visibility, waterproof jacket and fleece combination will also be provided.
- 3.5 Proposals for identification of the SNWs consist of an embroidered SDDC Crest on the left side chest of the shirt, fleece and jacket, with the words "SDDC Safer Neighbourhood Warden" embroidered beneath. It is further proposed that the jacket and fleece have the SDDC Crest embroidered on the back with a large font "Safer Neighbourhood Warden" beneath.
- 3.6 These proposals, it is thought, will ensure the SNWs are easily identifiable by the public and ensure maximum impact in terms of being seen on the district.
- 3.7 Images or actual samples of uniforms will be available for inspection at the committee meeting.
- 3.8 Notwithstanding these proposals, there may be occasions when SNWs are required to come to work in casual clothing, to improve the success of covert surveillance operations.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost of the uniforms will be met from current budgets.

5.0 Corporate Implications

- 5.1 The SNWs will represent a very visible service for the Authority, and it is therefore important to easily recognisable to have maximum impact.

6.0 Community Implications

- 6.1 Not only will the SNWs have a very real impact on low level environmental crime, but their very presence will impact on the communities in which they serve in terms of enabling residents to feel safer in their homes. The highly recognisable proposed uniforms will improve this impact.

7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 The new Safer Neighbourhood Wardens require an easily recognisable uniform which conveys an element of authority. This report sets out the proposals for this uniform, ensuring that it also is in keeping with the Authority's corporate image.

10.0 Background Papers

- 10.1 None