REPORT TO: Finance and Management Committee   AGENDA ITEM: **8**

DATE OF   CATEGORY:
MEETING: 22 July 2004   DELEGATED

REPORT FROM: Director of Community Services   OPEN
                                                  PARAGRAPH NO:

MEMBERS'   Stuart Batchelor   DOC: \\boka\data\cent_serv\committee
CONTACT POINT: Ext 5820   reports\finance and management\22 july
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SUBJECT: Community Partnership Officer   REF: SB/LJW

WARD(S)   TERMS OF
AFFECTED: All   REFERENCE: HCS07

1.0 Recommendations

1.1 Members note the report and authorise the recruitment of the Community Partnership Officer.

2.0 Purpose of Report

2.1 The report updates Members on the delay in recruiting the Community Partnership Officer and proposes that the recruitment should now take place.

3.0 Detail

3.1 For the 2004/5 budget setting process, a Service Development Bid was submitted for the recruitment of a Community Partnership Officer jointly funded by the Council and Crime and Disorder Partnership. The officer would be recruited on a two-year contract. This Service Development Bid was successful

3.2 During the Council's consultation on the 2004/5 budget with community partners, it was suggested that the post could support the work of South Derbyshire CVS and consideration should be given to the best location for the post.

3.2 Over the past two months, the situation has been reviewed and the following issues considered.

- If the post was based at CVS it wouldn't be able to take on the administration of the Crime and Disorder Partnerships funding or have the officer support to secure further funding for Crime and Disorder projects. Consequently the Crime and Disorder Partnership will not provide the 50% support of the post.

- The cost of allocating half a post to undertake support for voluntary sector projects for CVS was £16,000. The South Derbyshire District Council allocation to the post was £13,000.

- Since the post was proposed, the Partnership Development Officer, for whom the new post was set to support, has picked up significant work in allocating the

£150,000 given to the Local Strategic Partnership by the Derby and Derbyshire Economic Partnership. This work includes supporting groups in making applications for the funding as well as managing the allocation on behalf of the LSP. It is thought that this will take at least one day a week of his time.

3.4 In view of these considerations, it is proposed that the Community Partnership Officer should be recruited to work within the Community and Leisure Development Division but liaise closely with South Derbyshire CVS to support voluntary groups where necessary.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The cost of the post over the two years of the contract is approximately £53,000 and this will be jointly funded by the Council and the Crime and Disorder Partnership.

5.0 Corporate Implications

5.1 The Community Partnership Officer will support the Council in providing leadership and assistance to the local community and release capacity within the Community and Leisure Development Division to develop stronger partnerships to deliver the Council's key aims.

6.0 Community Implications

6.1 The Community Partnership Officer will enable increased support to be given to the community, maximising the benefits to be gained by the Community Partnership Scheme.

6.2 The support given to securing funding for Crime and Disorder projects will help reduce crime and the fear of crime.

7.0 Conclusions

7.1 The partnership working that exists between the Council and CVS is excellent and continues to be prioritised in the work of the Community and Leisure Development Division.

7.2 Further opportunities to secure funding for CVS based services which give support to the voluntary sector will be investigated whenever possible.

7.3 The appointment of the Community Partnership Officer will enable increased external funding to be brought into the District and this will give great benefit to the local community.

8.0 Background Papers

8.1 None.