
REPORT TO THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE 16 JULY 2014**PORTFOLIO: COMMUNITY****REPORT FROM HEAD OF COMMUNITY SERVICES****SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF COMMUNITY SAFETY ACCREDITATION SCHEME****1 DECISION BEING RECOMMENDED**

- 1.1 To agree, in principle, to the Council making an application to Essex Police to be an accredited employer for the Community Safety Accreditation Scheme, subject to further consideration of the potential Human Resources related issues.

2 KEY DECISIONS DOCUMENT REFERENCE No: 9/14**3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 Under the Police Reform Act 2002, the Police are empowered to operate Community Safety Accreditation Schemes (CSAS). The purpose of these schemes is to create effective relationships with communities that lead to improved community safety and reduced crime and anti social behaviour. These can involve organisations such as local authorities, housing associations and private sector companies carrying out community safety functions. A number of the other Essex authorities have already become accredited and the Essex scheme currently includes over 300 individuals.

- 3.2 The accredited organisations in Essex include various district and borough councils, housing associations and hospitals, with a range of staff having undertaken the required training. These included:-

- Housing Wardens
- Parking Officers
- Environmental Enforcement Officers
- Park Rangers
- Security Staff
- Street Wardens
- Anti Social Behaviour Officers

- 3.3 In order to become an accredited employer under the terms of the scheme, the Council would need to submit to Essex Police the official application form and enclose the additional required documentation. This would include

various policies and procedures such as the Recruitment Policy; Equal Opportunities Policy; Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures; External Complaints Procedure, Freedom of Information Act Policy, Staff Handbook etc.

3.4 The basic requirements of accreditation are that:-

- The employing organisation must have a satisfactory complaints procedure.
- The employing organisations must have a fit and proper person to supervise the work of an accredited person.
- The employee is suitable to exercise the powers that are to be conferred to them.
- The employee has received adequate training for the exercise of these powers.

4 BENEFITS OF THE SCHEME

- 4.1 CSAS should be seen as a benchmark for community safety enforcement. Employers benefit from public confidence that their employees have reached acceptable standards of appearance, suitability for the post and training. The public is also assured that the organisation itself has reached acceptable standards in management and accountability.
- 4.2 There are advantages to the Council with our relatively low levels of manpower, as the Police can offer improved levels of support that could address, for example, concern about having lone enforcement officers working out in the district. The Police have offered to establish a more joined up approach with accredited persons on the basis of both sharing data and coordinating particular activities, with the availability of Police support.
- 4.3 Since local needs and problems vary from area to area, organisations may apply for some or all of the powers available. The decision to grant powers is at the sole discretion of the Chief Constable.
- 4.4 Full details of available powers are shown in Appendix 1. These include 19 fixed penalty notices for general nuisance offences such as cycling on pavements; throwing fireworks; trespassing on Railways; behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress and offences under the Licensing Act 2003 in respect of the sale of alcohol.
- 4.5 Specific powers are given to accredited persons in respect of obtaining name and address details, the confiscation of alcohol in alcohol free zones, the confiscation of tobacco from minors, the removal of vehicles that are dangerously or obstructively parked or broken down and the power to stop cycles.

- 4.6 Accredited persons wear the uniform of their employing organisation upon which the Home Office approved accreditation badge will be displayed. They also carry an identification card which will confirm the powers the individual is able to exercise.
- 4.7 Having reviewed the opportunities where these additional powers may be useful and compliment existing enforcement arrangements, the following Council service areas were identified as potentially being suitable:
- Community Safety team
 - Streetscene team
 - Woodlands / Open Spaces section
 - Transportation section
 - Rochford Housing Association – from initial discussions with Housing Association management they have indicated that they would be very interested in putting forward their Housing Officers for the training.
 - Other registered social housing providers – the intention would be to promote the benefits of the scheme to the other registered providers that operate housing in the District.
- 4.8 Before making an application further consideration would be required from a Human Resources perspective in terms of potential impact on job descriptions, grading, CRB checks, whether or not this role would be a requirement or voluntary, and so on.
- 4.9 The availability of these powers for enforcement officers throughout the Council needs to be carefully considered. There is a potential to make a positive contribution to community safety and the overall living standards existing across the District.
- 4.10 None of the additional powers listed are compulsory and the Council needs only take on the ones that it and the Police consider would be of particular benefit.

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Currently Essex Police has stated that they will provide employer accreditation at no cost. However, there would be a need for individuals to attend a certified course run by an external trainer. The cost would be £120 per day for 5 full days for up to 10 candidates. At the end of 5 days, each attendee would be required to sit and pass a test in order to become accredited.

6 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The Council can become an accredited employer by completing the necessary application form. Once individual officers have undertaken the necessary training, they can become accredited persons under the Police Reform Act 2002.

I confirm that the above recommendation does not depart from Council policy and that appropriate consideration has been given to any budgetary and legal implications.

SMT Lead Officer Signature: _____



Jeremy Bourne
Head of Community Services

Background Papers:-

None.

For further information please contact Jeremy Bourne, Head of Community Services (on:-

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If you would like this report in large print, Braille or another language please contact 01702 318111.

Appendix 1

The powers exercisable by accredited persons are defined by legislation and include:-

The power to issue fixed penalty notices in respect of:-

- Riding on a footway, committed by cycling;
- Throwing fireworks in a thoroughfare
- Trespassing on a railway
- Throwing stones etc at trains or other things on railways
- Wasting police time or giving false report
- Behaviour likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress
- Consumption of alcohol in designated public place
- Using public electronic communications network in order to cause annoyance, inconvenience or needless anxiety
- Contravention of a prohibition or failure to comply with a requirement imposed by or under fireworks regulations or making false statements
- Sale of alcohol to a person who is drunk
- Sale of alcohol to children
- Purchase of alcohol by or on behalf of children
- Buying or attempting to buy alcohol for consumption on licensed premises, etc by child
- Consumption of alcohol by children or allowing such consumption
- Delivering alcohol to children or allowing such delivery
- Knowingly giving a false alarm of fire
- Penalty notice in respect of failure to secure regular attendance at school of registered pupil;
- Fixed penalty notices in respect of dog fouling;
- Fixed penalty notices in respect of litter.

Power to require giving of name and address in respect of:-

- a relevant fixed penalty offence for the purposes of any powers exercisable by the accredited person by virtue of paragraph 1; or
- an offence under section 3 or 4 of the Vagrancy Act 1824; or
 - an offence the commission of which appears to the accredited person to have caused—
 - a) injury, alarm or distress to any other person; or
 - b) the loss of, or any damage to, any other person's property;
- A person acting in an anti-social manner
- Road traffic offences

The Power to:-

- Control traffic for purposes other than escorting a load of exceptional dimensions
- Confiscate alcohol in designated public places
- Confiscate tobacco etc from children
- Remove vehicles under Section 99 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act
- Stop vehicle for testing
- Stop cycles