

APPENDIX K

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE - 31 MARCH 2009

Title:

TEMPORARY FUNDED POST - SUSTAINABILITY ASSISTANT

[Portfolio Holder: Cllr John Sandy]

[Wards Affected: All]

Summary and purpose:

The purpose of this report is to consider the proposal for a temporary part-time sustainability post to be created to support the Sustainability Co-ordinator.

How this report relates to the Council's Corporate Priorities:

The Environment is one of the Council's priorities and more specifically contributing to tackling climate change by achieving year-on-year improvements in the Council's carbon footprint.

Equality and Diversity Implications:

There are no equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

Resource/Value for Money implications:

The post would be fully-funded by the Area Based Grant of £22,500 per annum, for three years. Officers will ensure that the term and grade of the appointment will allow for full provision to be made from this funding for any severance costs that may arise at the end of this fixed-term contract.

Legal Implications:

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

Introduction

1. As part of the Area Based Grant scheme, Waverley has been awarded a grant of £22,500 per annum, for a period of three years, to support Climate Change responsibilities. The first tranche of funding has been received towards the end of 2008-09, with no expenditure or commitments incurred to date. Therefore the grant will cover the temporary post as proposed for the years 2009/10 to 2011/12.
2. The Climate Change responsibilities that Waverley has as a Local Authority are increasing continually and this has been identified as a priority area for Waverley. In addition to working towards delivering an increasing number of initiatives, there are also complicated requirements with regard to the detailed amount of information that needs to be collected and analysed for us to comply with national performance indicators in this area.

3. Having given consideration to the possible best use of this funding, it is proposed that the appointment of a temporary member of staff to assist the Sustainability Co-ordinator in an administrative capacity would be most productive. The work programme for this post will include a number of specific objectives to be achieved during the three-year period, which can include, for example
 - The smooth introduction and continued operation of the Heatseekers Project (a time-limited project);
 - Implementation of the Energy Use Action Plan and taking forward ideas created by the Green Advocates Group
 - Assisting with the creation of the Model Demonstration Garden at the Council Offices in the Burys.
4. It is anticipated that this post will enable the initial investment of time required to get a number of key initiatives up and running and that these will then be able to be maintained by the current staff.
5. The Council has also recently applied for the Carbon Trust's Local Authority Carbon Management Programme which will hopefully bring together various action plans which are currently being worked upon and it is anticipated that this appointment would be an opportunity to enhance our capacity and commit the time required to the programme, without compromising our ability to carry out additional activities.

Resource Implications

6. The funding available is sufficient to cover a part-time post (0.75 FTE) at Pay Band 8. It is hoped that the post can be advertised in a way that will attract a range of applicants who may have some experience or background in this unusual area of work.

Conclusion

7. As the climate change agenda gathers momentum and becomes high profile, increased resources in this area would help to achieve more actions required to demonstrate the Council's commitment to Climate Change.

Recommendation

It is recommended that a temporary part-time Sustainability Assistant be appointed at a salary level to keep total costs within the funding available of £67,500 for the three-year period.

Background Papers (SDCS)

There are no background papers (as defined by Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) relating to this report.

CONTACT OFFICER:

Name: Emma McQuillan **Telephone:** 01483 523351
E-mail: emma.mcquillan@waverley.gov.uk

Comms/exec/2008-09/323