

APPENDIX C

[Additional Information]

WAVERLEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

ENVIRONMENT AND LEISURE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE - 12TH JANUARY 2010

Title:

FINANCIAL STRATEGY 2010/2011 – 2012/2013
GENERAL FUND BUDGET 2010/2011

[Wards Affected: ALL]

Attached as a separate document are the notes from the Environment and Leisure Performance Sub-Committee, which met on 4th January to have a detailed discussion on the budget papers.

At the meeting, clarification was sought from the Head of Environmental Health on the changes proposed to the out of hours and animal control services. This information is noted below for the Committee and any further clarification can be sought at the meeting.

Out of Hours Service

The current night-time noise service operates only on Saturday nights from June to September on a reactive basis. Officers on standby will await calls and may undertake visits but not all calls will merit a visit as the matters complained of might be resolvable by phone. For H&S reasons, night-time visits are carried out by 2 officers and are for observation purposes only (unless Police are in attendance). Many problems have stopped before officers witness anything due to travelling times involved. On busy nights this might also prevent all complaints being visited.

A targeted service would operate periodically 12 months of the year, with visits being carried out on any appropriate night of the week (e.g. Many noisy licensed premises operate late on Thursdays and Fridays). Evidence will have already indicated the likelihood of noise issues and the visits will be to finally establish whether Notices are needed, being breached (or complied with). A trial run in November resulted in 5 premises receiving formal action (Notices, etc) - more than the whole of last year's Out of Hours service for the whole summer.

Animal Control Service

In February 2009, Council approved the Star Chamber recommendation to combine the roles of Dog Warden and Pest Control; and to delete one of the two Environment Control Officer Posts. It was anticipated that approximately

2/3 of the combined Post would be spent on Pest Control and 1/3 on Dog Control, with the Pest Control element being covered by income. Unfortunately, due to operational reasons during the summer, less time than expected was able to be assigned to Pest Control. In particular there was a temporary suspension of the treatment of wasps nests, which coincided with the peak period. A shortfall in income of £20,000 has been reported as part of the Budget Monitoring Process. A full Pest Control Service was resumed in October and all demand is currently being met.

This year, the Star Chamber proposal is to deliver a statutory Dog Service only. This should enable the Pest Control Service to be delivered throughout 2010-11 on a break-even basis and also reduce the existing contract costs of the Dog Service from £25,000 to £15,000. This will be achieved through negotiations with the kennels and other providers of the service who have entered the market during the past year.