

URGENCY ITEMS - MINUTE OF DECISION

Delegation arrangements for dealing with matters of urgency

Paragraph 7.2.1 of the Council's Constitution provides that Chief Officers may take urgent decisions if they are of the opinion that circumstances exist which make it necessary for action to be taken by the Council prior to the time when such action could be approved through normal Council Procedures. They shall, where practicable, first consult with the Leader and Chairman (or in their absence the Vice-Chairman) and the Opposition Spokesperson of the appropriate committee.

Subject:

Additional Street Scene Staffing Requirement

Appropriate Committee:

Policy & Finance Committee

Details of Item (including reason(s) for use of urgency procedure):

- 1.1 The current Environmental Services Action Plan contains a desire to introduce a commercial approach to the business unit's work. In addition to agreeing enhanced internal SLA's which will allow the Council to maintain a consistent service across all Council owned sites, ES management have been working hard to win external work which will allow the unit to increase its income.
- 1.2 During the latter part of 2020 and the early part of 2021 the unit has been very successful in winning 13 external contracts from parish councils and schools within the District. Local Authorities are permitted, under the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 (as amended), to supply services to another local authority/public body - both to make use of surplus capacity and to secure the benefits of economy of scale. Parish councils and schools fall within the definition of public bodies covered by the Act. Ensuring that a keen eye is kept on external contract availability, dialogue began with schools and parish councils in the first instance, and this ground work has paid dividends with 13 contracts being secured. This is a significant achievement, given that it has all been done during the pandemic.
- 1.3 The business unit has also been successful in bringing the grounds maintenance work of the Council's Housing land back in house. In addition, during this same period, agreement has been reached with Newark Town Council to renew the SLA for the maintenance of its parks and open spaces (worth £170k pa). These achievements are a recognition of the excellent quality of the services being delivered.
- 1.4 To ensure that the BU is able to deliver all of its commitments, it is proposed to strengthen the team by a modest increase in establishment. In order to be in a position to sign all 13 contracts, (which are due to start on April 1st this year), an urgent decision is required to approve the increase in establishment and recruit into these new posts as soon as possible. The increased income from the 13 contracts totals £59,960, and this more than covers the additional cost of the increase proposed to the establishment of 1.7 staff members at a cost of £40,500. The materials required to

maintain the additional services totals £7,285. This means that we will increase net income to the authority by £12,173 per annum (20% profit margin).

2.0 Finance Comments (FIN20-21/4604)

The net effect of this request is an increase in income of £12,170 in 2021/22 onwards. As shown in the appendix, an extra full time post at NS5, and a temporary contract for 7 months will cost £40,500. Other expenditure budgets need to increase by £7,290, and income needs to increase by £59,960. The 2021/22 budget does not include any of these budgets as we were not aware of the extra contracts at the time of budget setting.

Decision

To approve the increase to the Environmental Services establishment by 1.7 FTE's, recognising that whilst this increases expenditure by £47,785 per annum it will be covered by increased income of £59,985.15 per annum.

Members Consulted

Councillor David Lloyd - Leader of the Council (24/02/21)

Councillor Keith Girling - Deputy Leader of the Council (24/02/21)

Councillor Paul Peacock - Opposition Spokesperson (24/02/21)

Signed:



Date: 25.02.21

Matthew Finch
Director - Customers