

Savings Proposal

Cabinet Member	Councillor John Reynolds	Type:	Cut in Service					
Assistant Director	Nick Edwards							
Savings Owner	Andy Jervis							
Proposal: Review Graffiti removal service		2014/15 £000	2015/16 £000	2016/17 £000	2017/18 £000	2018/19 £000	Total	
<p>Details of proposal: Currently, the Council offers a free graffiti removal service to the private sector (subject to obtaining suitable indemnities). Graffiti is also removed from Council property. The service is funded by Regulatory Services and delivered via Public Realm Services. Currently, there is a council policy to remove offensive (eg racist) graffiti immediately. This proposal is to review the operation of the service with a view to potentially removing upto half the current Reg Services subsidy of £57K. This would hopefully allow the ongoing operation of the service at a reduced level - focussing on the WCC estate and continued free removal of offensive graffiti such as racist content and gang tagging etc. The proposal would also include exploring charged for graffiti removal from private property.</p>	Reduction in Revenue Expenditure (Show as Positive)	27					27	
	Additional Income (Show as Positive)						-	
	Net Saving	27	-	-	-	-	-	27
	Invest-to-save Funds Required							
	Revenue (Negative)						-	
	Capital (Negative)						-	
	Total Invest-to-save Funds Required	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Reduction in Staffing - Headcount	1					1	
	Reduction in Staffing - FTE	1					1	
	Staffing remaining - post savings FTE	1.0						
	Current Revenue Budget for Service Area (£000)	57						
	Revenue Budget for Service Area - post savings (£000)	30						
Communications Strategy Implications								
This savings proposal will need to be explained and communicated to all internal and external partners and stakeholders including Councillors								
Corporate Landlord Implications								
Potential implications exist in respect to the withdrawal of the current free service which would need to be recharged in future.								
Customer Implications								
Legal provisions exist to enable the Council to require graffiti to be removed from property or to remove the graffiti and recover the costs. The issue is that building owners are victims of graffiti whom the Council would no longer be in a position to assist.								
Economic Implications								
Free removal of graffiti maintains an attractive local environment. This helps encourage inward investment and residential occupancy.								
Environmental Implications								
Local environmental quality would fall as the number of graffiti'd sites would inevitably rise. There would be an associated risk of the 'broken window syndrome' scenario arising in certain areas as it has been established that areas already subject to environmental crime tend to attract more / other crime types and ASB. The service is currently also able to address other environmental issues such as dog fouling removal and fly-tipping if demand for graffiti removal permits the team to focus on these other activities.								
Equality Implications								
Some of the worst cases of graffiti exist in the more deprived parts of the city.								
Financial Implications								
The proposal represents a saving of £27,000. However, Regulatory Services are likely to receive more complaints to investigate.								
Health Implications								
There is an established link between mental health & wellbeing of an individual and the quality of the local environment in which they live. This would therefore potentially have an adverse impact on the health of certain residents.								
Legal Implications								
N/A								
Policy Implications								
The proposal has potential implications for the Council's policy of protecting the most vulnerable people in society. Current policy is to remove offensive/racist graffiti asap. This policy may be adversely affected if the service is withdrawn.								
Procurement Implications								
N/A								
Staffing Implications								
Public Realm Services may have to make posts redundant if the service can not be self funding.								