

Overview of Responses and Recommendations

Budget Proposals 16/17 Phase Two: West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme		Andy Day – Head of Strategic Support	24 March 2016 Version 2 (Executive/Council)
Proposal:	To remove the funding provided to Sovereign Housing for the West Berkshire Neighbourhood Wardens Scheme.		
Total budget 15/16:	£208,000	Recommended officer saving 16/17:	£208,000 (100%)
Initial proposed saving 16/17:	£208,000 (100%)	Final recommendation to Executive/Council:	To proceed with this savings proposal, but make £50,000 of transitional funding available in 2016/17
No. of responses:	<p>In total, 88 responses have been received, 37 of which included comment. Of those who responded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 77 from individuals • Seven from groups/organisations • One from a West Berkshire Council service • Three from Town/Parish Councils <p>21 responses were from non-users of the service.</p>		
Key issues raised	<p>The main issues to come out of the responses were that the public felt that the Wardens provided a visible presence and reassured the public in terms of safety. A significant number of the comments also refer to the vital work that the wardens did in picking up litter and preventing fly tipping.</p> <p>Other comments relate to the links that wardens had with young people and the schools.</p> <p>A number of those responding suggested that crime and anti-social behaviour might increase as a result of this proposal.</p>		
Equality issues:	No issues were raised during the consultation, that weren't already included in the EqIA stage one		
Suggestions for reducing the impact on service users:	Suggestion	Council response	
	None received.		

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Alternative options for applying the saving in this area:	Suggestion	Council response	
	Several responses suggested that Greenham Parish Council could be approached and asked to provide funding towards this service.	This suggestion would be for the Parish and Town Councils, who benefit from the scheme, to action.	
	Some responses suggested that Parish and Town Councils should pay more towards the Wardens Scheme.	A meeting with the Parish and Town Councils was held on 22 February to explore whether there was a will amongst the Parish and Town Councils to manage their own scheme(s).	
	Some responses suggested that volunteers could be used to operate the scheme.	This would be an issue for Sovereign Housing to decide as they employ the staff and manage the Wardens.	
	One response suggested that Proceeds of Crime funding could be used to support the scheme.	Proceeds of Crime funding is not a source of funding which could be used to fund a sustainable Wardens Scheme.	
Suggestions for how others may help contribute:	Apart from recruiting “volunteers” no other comments or suggestions were forthcoming.		
Officer conclusion:	<p>Feedback from the consultation process has not resulted in any issue being raised which would prevent the council from proceeding with the proposal. The feedback has also not generated any viable counter-proposal which would mitigate the proposal.</p> <p>However, having met with all of the appropriate Parish and Town Councils, it is suggested that transition funding be allocated to pump prime any proposals which may be forthcoming.</p>		

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