

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**23 SEPTEMBER 2014**

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, STREETCARE**

**TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENT OF EXTERNAL ENFORCEMENT COMPANY IN STREETCARE**

**Author: Mr Nigel Wheeler, Service Director, Streetcare 01443 827707**

**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

To inform Cabinet of the need to make a temporary operational arrangement in Streetcare, in order to facilitate the implementation of the recently approved side waste policy.

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To approve the temporary employment of an external enforcement company to cover the duties of the permanent enforcement staff who will be deployed on an awareness raising and implementation campaign for the introduction of the new 'side waste policy' in Waste Services (initial time period of 6 months and then to be reviewed)

**3. BACKGROUND**

**3.1** The introduction of the new Side Waste policy recently approved by Cabinet will require a significant awareness raising campaign across the county borough.

**3.2** The campaign will consist of letter drops to inform residents of the forthcoming changes to their waste collection service with follow up action on implementation.

**3.3** In the past such awareness campaigns have been undertaken by temporarily employing a team of agency staff from a recruitment agency. However, for this campaign, Waste Management have decided to carry out this process by deploying internal staff from Waste Services, Street Cleansing and the Enforcement Unit.

**3.4** The rationale behind this decision is that the internal staff would benefit from this process as they will have first hand information on any issues regarding the new policy.

- 3.5** In addition to this the staff will be better placed to give advice and to resolve issues and conflicts with their background knowledge of the service and procedures.
- 3.6** The current Enforcement Unit consists of four members of staff that cover the whole of RCT, who deal with litter, dog-fouling, fly-tipping, graffiti, and various other environmental complaints.
- 3.7** In order to cover these routine enforcement duties it is proposed to employ an external enforcement company for the period of the campaign.
- 3.8** Initial meetings have been held with 3GS, an experienced and reputable enforcement company who specialise in this field as well as other areas of enforcement.
- 3.9** They can provide RCT with Enforcement Wardens, recruited locally, fully equipped with uniform, which will have the RCT logo attached and body cameras.
- 3.10** These Wardens would carry out patrols that our full time staff would normally carry out and undertake the same enforcement duties such as undertaking patrols, issuing warnings, fines, and preparing case files to proceed to prosecution.
- 3.11** This team would be trained in the Council's procedures and would work closely with our team to ensure consistency and understanding of our approach to enforcement.
- 3.12** The appeals procedure which currently sits within Streetcare will remain the same with no change and not pass over to the external company, this is to ensure there is a level of consistency, that the council will maintain control of the process and the council will still have the ability to rescind a Fixed Penalty if the appeal was upheld.
- 3.13** There is no cost to the Council in employing the company as the cost of the team is offset by the revenue raised through fixed penalties.
- 3.14** The company also offers a contribution for community benefit if the revenue raised exceeds the agreed running costs of the team.