

**COMMITTEE:** REGENERATION AND CITIZENSHIP SCRUTINY

**DATE:** 5TH OCTOBER 2006

**SUBJECT:** WARDENS SCHEMES

**REPORT BY:** SCRUTINY OFFICER

**CONTACT OFFICER:** MICHELLE MCHUGH /ANGELA FRASER 546781

**IMPLICATIONS:**

LEGAL	✓	COMMUNITY SAFETY
EQUALITIES		ENVIRONMENT
FINANCIAL		CONSULTATIONS
STAFFING		OTHER

**WARDS AFFECTED:**

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**PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee with a summary of all the warden schemes operated by Luton Borough Council and to inform the Committee of a Junior Warden Scheme developed by Peterborough City Council.

**RECOMMENDATION(S)**

2. Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee is recommended to note the report.

**BACKGROUND**

3. Members of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee received a briefing note regarding Street Wardens on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006. At the subsequent meeting of the Committee (20<sup>th</sup> April 2006) members reflected that the briefing note was inadequate and that the Committee had not received any proper feedback. The Committee requested that a detailed monitoring report be brought to the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 06 meeting of the Committee. (35 Ref 9.6) The Parks Operation Manager attended the meeting of the Committee on 22<sup>nd</sup> June. Members enquired as to how many different types of schemes were in operation and the Parks Operation Manager responded that he was only able to provide information relevant to street services as this was the service area covered under his remit. Services operating warden schemes were individually responsible for their own services. The Committee resolved that the Scrutiny Officer be requested to prepare a report to the Committee providing detailed information on the various warden schemes in operation, how many wardens were in place, which service areas each warden scheme fell under, funding available for warden schemes and the exit strategies in place to protect resources on the expiration of funding schemes. (Minute 45. Ref 10.2)

## **REPORT**

4. Attached as Appendix A is a table listing the different types of warden schemes in operation. The table includes Dog Wardens, Community Wardens (previously called Street Wardens and Park Wardens), Neighbourhood Wardens and Enforcement Officers. Enforcement Officers are not classed as “wardens” but it was thought that the nature of their role might be of interest to the Committee.
5. The Committee might also be interested to learn about the Junior Street Warden Scheme that has been developed by Peterborough City Council. The Scheme lets children participate with street wardens on environmental projects and similar initiatives in and around the city centre.
6. The scheme started when two street wardens started working with children at a local primary school to increase their awareness of the quality of the local environment and the impact of anti-social behaviour. Initially involvement was just between the primary school teachers, school children and the street wardens, but as the scheme developed it included a local councillor, local residents, staff at a local swimming pool, market traders and senior citizens from a housing complex nearby. This increased level of involvement led the Junior Street Warden Scheme to evolve into a partnership involving a variety of council teams: contact services, environmental services, community services, the road safety team and the Britain in Bloom Officer. Its success relies on the goodwill of these partners, both for educational and practical work .

7. A huge effort is put into educational work aimed at trying to change behaviour and attitudes towards the street environment. The street wardens regularly visit the school to give talks and guidance on topics, from littering to personal safety – “stranger danger”, road safety and avoiding hazardous items such as discarded needles when litter picking. Additionally, as part of their learning small groups of children go out with the street wardens. They gain skills such as identifying “grot spots” that are in need of cleaning and helping with organised litter picks.
8. In the early days of the scheme a small grant from the Department for Communities and Local Government (formerly ODPM) was used to buy spades, “junior warden” tabards, caps and giveaways. Such incentives help engage the youngsters’ commitment and motivate others to join the scheme. For example, in 2005 some radio controlled rally cars were purchased for the youngsters to play with after their litter-pick sessions. The purchase was made possible by government funding for projects that help to combat anti-social behaviour.
9. Particular achievements of the Junior Warden Scheme include:
  - Regular litter picks at various locations
  - Landscaping in a shelter belt area close to the regional swimming pool, including planting bulbs and young trees
  - Junior Wardens working alongside the street wardens on the annual street warden day
  - Taking part in patrols to highlight environmental issues
  - Cleaning up school grounds
10. The success of the partnership between the adult and junior wardens won public recognition through an ENCAMS national award. It has led to other developments including a “walking bus” supervising the large numbers of pupils walking to school, road safety briefings and sport afternoons.

### **PROPOSAL/OPTION**

11. Options for the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee include:
  - i) Note the report
  - ii) Note the report and ask for more information.

### **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no legal implications to this report and this has been agreed with the relevant solicitor in Legal Services on 14 September 2006.

## **APPENDIX**

Appendix A – Table listing different types of Warden Schemes in operation in Luton

### **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972, SECTION 100D**

Members Briefing Paper on Street Wardens – 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006

Minutes of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee – 20<sup>th</sup> April 2006

Minutes of the Regeneration and Citizenship Scrutiny Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2006