

Decision Maker: PUBLIC PROTECTION AND SAFETY POLICY DEVELOPMENT AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date: 4th March 2014

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: OPERATION PAYBACK UPDATE

Contact Officer: Amanda Mumford, Community Safety Coordinator
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Chief Officer: Nigel Davies, Executive Director for Environment & Community Services

Ward: All

1. Reason for report

- 1.1 As requested by the Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee, this report provides details of the current position with Bromley's Community Payback Scheme.
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2. **RECOMMENDATION**

Members of the Public Protection and Safety PDS Committee are asked to consider the contents of the report.

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy: Safer Bromley Partnership Community Safety
 2. BBB Priority: Safer Bromley :
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Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not applicable:
 2. Ongoing costs: £8.4k:
 3. Budget head/performance centre: Portfolio Holder grant for Operation Payback
 4. Total current budget for this head: £8.4k
 5. Source of funding: Existing revenue budget 2013/14
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Staff

1. Number of staff (current and additional): Not applicable
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: Not applicable
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Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Non-Statutory - Government Guidance:
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable:
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Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): The community at large benefit from the scheme; specifically, improvements in recycling across the borough are undertaken via the scheme.
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Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: Not applicable

3. COMMENTARY

- 3.1 The Community Payback Scheme is operated on behalf of the National Offender Management Service to deliver Community Sentences issued by the Court. Community Payback is unpaid work to improve the environment of a local community, usually in an area local to the offender. Offenders are sentenced to between 40 and 300 hours depending on how serious the crime is.
- 3.2 The scheme, which was previously run by London Probation, has been contracted out since October 2012, Serco have taken over delivery of this service in Bromley and across London. Serco currently hold this contract until October 2016.
- 3.3 Historically, Bromley Council had a very good relationship with partners in the London Probation Community Payback Team; as a result the team were regularly deployed to assist with maintenance of parks and clearance of neglected areas of land. As a large borough with lots of green space this was particularly beneficial to Bromley.
- 3.4 Since Community Payback has been run by Serco, in order for Bromley Council to deploy the team to dedicated projects – either one off or on-going – requests have been made for team supervisor costs to be covered, transport provided and other considerations made for refreshment breaks. As a result of the new requirements and concerns around the associated costs of community payback projects Bromley Council only benefits from Community Payback support with the sorting of materials for recycling, as opposed to the comprehensive service that was once received.
- 3.5 Community Payback continues to be utilised at the Depot. The primary function of the activity currently is to improve the cardboard recyclates that pass through the waste transfer station, which is generated from direct deliveries of the public at the Reuse & Recycling Centre or from the network of on-street recycling banks.
- 3.6 The Community Payback Scheme at this location is highly dependent on the ratio of offenders per day to supervision costs and it is the desire of Serco to increase the number of offenders on-site to an average of 10. Serco had made a request to reduce the operating days from 5 days to 3, but this would limit the viability of this project as the area set aside to operate the scheme would be redundant for 4 out of 7 days. This would not be an efficient use of the limited space available at the waste transfer station to support enhanced recycling activities.
- 3.7 In spite of challenges faced by working with offenders and by the change in management to Serco, we have experienced a better, more reliable supervision of the offenders on the site locally and we continue to have a constructive working relationship between our organisations.
- 3.8 The concerns raised in this report are being picked up at a London-wide level. Locally the Community Safety Team continues to work with the local Payback Manager to explore feasible opportunities for the Borough to benefit from the scheme.

3.9 Community Payback projects and number of hours worked across South East London

	Total hours in 2013	Number of offenders as of 09/07/2013	Types of Placements
Bexley	2,390.27	196	Churches, school, parks, charity shops
Bromley	2,959.13	249	Farms, charity shops, recycling and lunch clubs
Greenwich	3,530.78	274	Charity shops, estates, parks, sports clubs
Lambeth	4,448.87	332	Charity shops, community centres, parks
Lewisham	4,147.92	287	Crematoriums, gardens, playgrounds, churches, estates
Southwark	3,035.32	244	Estates, playgrounds, churches, charity shops and farms

4. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Community Payback Scheme aims to see that justice is done and is seen to be done by enforcing unpaid labour intensive work for those who commit less serious crimes. The scheme aims to punish criminals while also making them aware of the consequences of their actions - and at the same time give a boost to recycling levels in the borough.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 In 2013/14 an allocation of £8,400 has been made towards the costs of operating the community payback work at the waste disposal site at Waldo Road.

6. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The scheme is run by Probation in partnership with Bromley Council and Police.

Non-Applicable Sections:	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	