

Bid 1**Environmental Health**

Joint funding with West Devon BC for an Anti-Social Behaviour Officer Post; £17,000 for one year only and funded from Reserves

The Council currently employs an Anti-Social Behaviour officer jointly with West Devon. Funding for this post ceases in March 2010. The bid is to allow for the continuing employment of the current post-holder. The post-holder currently works 2.5 days for South Hams and 1.5 days for West Devon. A similar bid is also being considered by West Devon in respect of their contribution.

Although the Council has only been directly funding the post since April 2009, the post has been in existence for a number of years. Funding streams via the Home Office and Safer Devon Partnership have now ceased. Other Devon Districts have mainstreamed their ASB posts. The workload for the South Hams is illustrated below over the last 12 months.

1st Instance letters	75
2nd instance letters	8
Alcohol letters	32
Acceptable Behaviour Contracts	9
ASBO	1

A further 2 ASBO's are in the process of being applied for.

The Home Office has also recently announced that it expects all local partners to be working to a minimum set of standards from March 2010. These will include:

- reducing perceptions of ASB year on year
- regular updates for every community on what is being done to tackle antisocial behaviour – including an expectation to publicise ASBOs to the local community;
- Provide residents with a right of complaint to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRP) if effective action is not taken by local agencies through existing channels;
- support and help for victims of ASB;
- A clear expectation that local areas (CDRPs - council, police and social landlords) ensure court action is taken against those who break the law by breaching ASBOs;
- taking reports of ASB seriously by recording and investigating all cases and committing to keeping victims informed of action taken; and
- ensuring better links between neighbourhood policing and other local partners to deal swiftly with problems.

It is unlikely that this could be achieved without the support of the ASB Officer.

Contributions from other partners in the Community Safety Partnership have previously been sought, but have not been forthcoming. There is no current spare officer capacity elsewhere within the Councils to take on this role, although opportunities will continue to be explored.

Corporate Priorities

CP3 – Maintain the district's distinctive environment whilst enabling access and sensitive development

Statutory Powers

Crime and Disorder Act 1998

Risk assessment / Implications of not progressing the bid

The lack of an ASB post would mean that tackling anti-social behaviour would be severely restricted. Offenders under the present arrangements are dealt with during an 'escalation process' which results in the vast majority of problems being dealt with at an early stage before they become a problem for local communities. The ASB officer provides an expert link between a number of agencies, and coordinates actions to tackle anti-social behaviour effectively.

Public surveys in recent years have consistently highlighted that residents consider tackling anti-social behaviour a priority, although there is evidence that both South Hams and West Devon experience relatively low levels of anti-social behaviour compared to many areas.

Following the tragic death of Fiona Pilkington in Leicestershire as a result of continued anti-social behaviour, the local District Council was severely criticised for not responding to and effectively dealing with reported cases of ASB.

Bid 2**Environment Services****Street Sweeping - £20,000 per annum**

The purchase of four electric powered vacuum cleaners for the removal of litter and detritus from the highway.

The capital cost of the machines is £61,000. The life expectancy of the machines is likely to be in the order of 4 years and the capital cost will be written off over this period.

To improve the overall street sweeping service across the district a strategy will be implemented in two forms. The first will be to change methodology in sweeping and this will be done by.

- Coordinating manual sweepers to work in conjunction with mechanical sweepers.
- To build a dialogue up with the parish and town councils so we can direct resource to locations that need attention when the area is destined for a visit.
- To put more emphasis on sweeping\hoeing and removing detritus rather than spot sweeping and litter picking.

In addition members have already agreed to fund a second mechanical sweeper which will be used to increase the frequency of sweeping. The second step will be to make the manual sweepers more effective. Firstly with working in conjunction with the mechanical sweepers and secondly to also supply them with kit so that productivity and the outcome can be improved. Officers have studied other authorities to see what the best mechanical means to assist manual sweepers is and that would match South Hams circumstances. On balance an electric powered vacuum cleaner meets the required criteria.

Corporate Priorities

A clean district

Statutory Powers

Environmental Protection Act 1990 Section 89.

Risk assessment / Implications of not progressing the bid

The council does not discharge its duty correctly in the most economical and efficient manner.