

<b>Item No.</b> 14.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 21 October 2014	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Cabinet
<b>Report title:</b>		Cabinet Response to the Housing, Environment, and Community Safety Scrutiny Sub Committee Report on the Southwark Community Warden Service	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>Cabinet Member:</b>		Councillor Michael Situ, Environment, Recycling, Community Safety and Volunteering	

## **FOREWORD – COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU, CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING**

I am delighted to present this report for cabinet's approval. The community wardens play an important role in Southwark in addressing environmental issues and anti-social behaviour. The wardens have also been a part of the council's response to critical and major incidents. The housing, environment, transport and community safety scrutiny sub-committee recognised that the warden service is a well-managed and highly effective service and its recommendations aim to build on this by improving the way the service is engaging with other bodies and the wider public. This is welcomed and the response below sets out how the council will seek to implement the recommendations.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

1. That cabinet approve the responses to the housing, environment, transport and community safety sub committee report on the Southwark wardens service set out in paragraphs 8-25 below.

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

2. In October 2013 the housing, environment, & community safety scrutiny sub-committee began a short focused scrutiny of the Southwark community wardens service.
3. The scrutiny review highlighted possible areas for consideration, including:
  - the balance of patrols
  - lack of public knowledge about the work of the service
  - ward councilors' input into the service, training
  - follow-up on issues raised by the wardens.
4. The overview and scrutiny committee considered the sub-committee's report at its meeting on 10 March 2014.
5. The sub-committee submitted a report to cabinet on 22 July 2014, setting out 9 recommendations. These recommendations have been reviewed by senior officers and the response is set out below.
6. The Southwark wardens service started in 2001 with the aim of ensuring that Southwark is clean and safe for its residents, businesses and visitors.

7. Since 2007 the service has had a greater emphasis on enforcement and were granted delegated police powers under the Community Safety Accredited Scheme (CSAS) in accordance with the Police Reform Act 2002. In addition to this wardens enforce local authority parks bye laws and environmental legislation, for dog fouling and litter. The CSAS powers were extended in 2012 to include, requiring details for begging, issuing a fixed penalty notice for cycling on a pavement where ASB is present, authority to control traffic and requiring details of persons failing to comply, requiring details of a person selling alcohol to either a person under 18 or a person who is drunk.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

8. **Recommendation 1:** That community wardens (not managers) attend local police team meetings as a matter of routine.
9. Response: The primary role of the Southwark wardens service, is to provide a visible patrolling presence. This helps reassure our residents and addresses environmental and anti social behavior which impacts on their daily lives. Whilst the services recognises the importance of attending meetings, such as safer neighbourhood panels, it is vital that we do not compromise the patrolling presence on our street. The wardens receive intelligence and tasking from the police through a wide range of processes. These include direct requests from police officers and local neighbourhood team sergeants, wardens attending the police fortnightly tasking and coordinating meetings, requests from specialist teams to carry out patrols and through the ward panels. The wardens carry out a range of functions, which include the issuing of fixed penalty notices for littering and environmental crime, visible patrols around town centres and schools at key times, visiting vulnerable residents, patrolling of parks and taking direct action in tackling nuisance behaviour including street drinking, aggressive begging and anti social behaviour. Wardens operate two eight hour shifts per day. The times of the shifts in the summer period are 08:30 –22:30 and the winter period, 08.30 –20.00. The service will look at how best to manage the demands to allow wardens to attend ward panels where it is possible or engage with the panel chairs to support local priorities.
10. **Recommendation 2:** That performance information be posted on the community wardens website on a monthly basis and advertised via social media.
11. Response: Performance information on the warden service can be provided through the website on a monthly basis and advertised through appropriate social media.
12. **Recommendation 3:** That managers produce a quarterly newsletter on the work of the wardens' service which should be made available online.
13. Response: Quarterly reports will be progressed as part of the council's communications strategy to address anti social behaviour.
14. **Recommendation 4:** That the Southwark Wardens Service maintains a Twitter and Facebook account.
15. Response: This will be progressed in partnership with the council's communication team, in terms of an effective social media strategy to promote the work of the service.

16. **Recommendation 5:** That the wardens service regularly email all councillors with performance information and prominently advertise the reporting routes.
17. Response: Officers will look to provide timely information in a format, which can provide ward based reported incidents to councillors.
18. **Recommendation 6:** That representatives of the Wardens Service attend TRA meetings where it is possible and display posters about the service on estate notice boards.
19. Response: As referred to in the response to recommendation 1, it is important that the wardens provide visible patrols that offer reassurance to our residents and help tackle anti social behaviour and environmental crime. Officers will look to provide information for TRA meetings about the service and support meetings where specific issues arise.
20. **Recommendation 7:** That each year managers review the current allocations of wardens to different parts of the borough and consider if changes are needed. This written report should be submitted to the cabinet member to decide if changes are needed.
21. Response: The cabinet member for community safety and volunteering will receive an annual update on the service demands and the rationale for changes to the warden service.
22. **Recommendation 8:** That a meeting takes place between managers from the wardens' service, street cleaning and other interested departments and produces an action plan to address problems relating to Peckham Town Centre Car Park. The action plan should be reported to the cabinet member and the sub-committee.
23. Response: The warden service will work with colleagues from community safety, public realm and sustainable services in terms of the Peckham town centre car park. The development of an action plan will need to be undertaken in terms of the current use of the car park and as part of the councils approach to finding a long term solution for this area.
24. **Recommendation 9:** That community wardens be trained regularly and educated about counter terrorism as well as crime prevention. Southwark Community Wardens should be included in "Project Griffin".
25. Response: Wardens have been included in Project Griffin and will work closely with partners and businesses in a range of preventative programmes related to counter terrorism.

### **Policy implications**

26. The response to the recommendations is in line with the council's fairer future promises, specifically in relation to the work undertaken by the warden service in making Southwark a place to be proud of.

### **Community impact statement**

27. This report is a response to the recommendations of the housing, environment, transport and community safety Sub committee report on the Southwark warden

service.

28. The recommendations do not directly impact on existing policies or service provision for communities across the borough.

### Resource implications

29. The response provided to the recommendations has no direct financial or staffing implications.

### Consultation

30. This report is a response to the recommendations of the housing, environment, transport and Community Safety Sub committee Report on the Southwark warden service. The response relates to the service provision and do not have legal, financial or corporate service impacts.
31. In light of the above, comments from the director of legal services or the strategic director of finance and corporate services have not been sought.

### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Documents	Held At	Contact
Overview & Scrutiny Committee Agenda 10 March 2014	Scrutiny Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Peter Roberts 020 7525 4350
Link: <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&amp;MId=4596&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=308&amp;MId=4596&amp;Ver=4</a>		
Cabinet Agenda 22 July 2014	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Paula Thornton 020 7525 4395
Link: <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4861&amp;Ver=4">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=302&amp;MId=4861&amp;Ver=4</a>		

### APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Councillor Michael Situ, Environment, Recycling, Community Safety and Volunteering	
<b>Lead Officer</b>	Deborah, Collins, Strategic Director for Environment and Leisure	
<b>Report Author</b>	Jonathon Toy Head of Community Safety and Enforcement	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	8 October 2014	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	No	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Legal Services	No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Corporate Services	No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	Yes
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	8 October 2014	