

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE : **Finance and Resources** DATE: 11 March 2010

CORPORATE DIRECTOR: Pete Leonard

TITLE OF REPORT: – Seasonal Environment Staff – Further budget savings

REPORT No. H&E/10/037

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the Committee with an update to the agreed budget saving, ENV1, against seasonal environment staff and seek approval to progress with the proposed additional saving.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee:

- (i) approves the steps being taken to achieve these savings.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal will, if accepted, provide a budget saving of £10,000 in addition to the £33,000 saving detailed in ENV1.

4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT

This report supports the Community Plan's vision for land use and the environment, namely, for Aberdeen to be a City that protects, enhances and values its environment. It also links generally to the Council's policy statement, Vibrant, Dynamic and Forward Looking, in terms of its declared intention to be an efficient Council.

5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Staff training required. This will be dealt with in house and at no additional cost to the council.

6. REPORT

Budget saving ENV1 – Use of Agency Staff was put forward and accepted earlier in the year. The savings amount to £33,000.

This saving uses agency staff to cover seasonal grounds maintenance work. The saving is based on a very competitive rate for agency labour against the cost of fixed term seasonal staff.

Environmental Services is currently undergoing a review and as part of this process further seasonal budget savings have been identified.

Environment staff job descriptions have been redesigned to allow them to be flexible and able to undertake a variety of roles within Environmental Services i.e. street cleaning, grounds maintenance, graffiti removal etc This allows current Environment Operatives to undertake a variety of work including all seasonal gardening works.

By using approximately 40 current staff in the seasonal role, graded as G7, it allows for temporary staff on a lower grade G5, to be brought in on short term seasonal contracts to fulfil the street sweeping role i.e. Seasonal Street Sweeper.

This shift of staff will allow for a further budget saving of £10,000.

7.REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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8.BACKGROUND PAPERS

None