

	Meeting (No)	<b>Community &amp; Environment (4)</b>
	Date	<b>8 October 2024</b>
	Document	Ref No
	<b>Ranger Service</b>	<b>CE4/38c</b>

The Council Strategy Delivery Plan contains two specific references to a ranger service and the C&E Committee created a related objective for 2024 in order to meet the requirements of the Delivery Plan. Relevant extracts from the Delivery Plan and Committee objectives are copied below for ease of reference.

#### **DELIVERY PLAN REFERENCES TO A RANGER SERVICE**

##### *A TOWN TO ENJOY: CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROTECTION AND ENHANCEMENT OF OUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC SPACES*

Improve our town environment by ensuring the public spaces are clean, accessible and litter free and, to this end, introduce a Ranger service to work alongside CWaC.

- Define role of Ranger Service.
- Liaise with CWaC re future co-operation and waste disposal.
- Introduce a Ranger service to work alongside CWaC.

##### *A TOWN TO LIVE IN: WORK TO MAKE OUR TOWN SAFER*

Use the Ranger to support maintenance of signage.

#### **C&E OBJECTIVE FOR 2024: RANGER SERVICE**

##### *OBJECTIVE*

Define the role of a potential ranger service including purpose, remit and resources required.

##### *INTENDED OUTCOMES*

Creation of a job role tailored to the specific requirements of Neston that is able to support the existing functions of the Town Council whilst developing community-focused activities and co-operative working.

As per the C&E objective, a description has been drafted and is attached for consideration. The job description was created by reviewing similar roles and job descriptions from other town councils and adapting for the specific needs of Neston.

The Committee will need to consider the job role and decide on any recommendations to be made to Council.

Detailed below are several points that Members may wish to consider as part of the decision-making process.

How many hours per week does the Committee wish to commit to this role? A full job description has been created which can (and will need to be) scaled back relative to the number of hours that Council assigns to the role. It was felt, however, that it was important to produce a full job description at the outset to demonstrate how we envisage the post developing over time.

Does the Committee wish to recommend that a vehicle be purchased or should the job specification require access to a vehicle? There are pros and cons to both options: own vehicle would significantly reduce budget expenditure but would limit the types of work that could be undertaken; purchase of a vehicle would expand the types of work that could be undertaken and provide greater visibility but would incur a large initial expense and ongoing maintenance costs.

Whether or not a vehicle is purchased, there will need to be a budget for the purchase of initial equipment, uniform, PPE etc. In addition, there will need to be a Ranger Service budget line created within the C&E budget and there will also need to be a training budget in anticipation of any relevant work-based certificates that might be required.

One possibility might be to recommend that the post be temporary for 12-months in the first instance, 15 hours per week and with a requirement for a driver with access to own vehicle. This would provide a more affordable introduction of the service and would allow time to assess the impact of the role before committing a larger budget to the service.

Should Council wish to move forward with the introduction of a Ranger service in 25/26, cost savings will need to be sought across Council budgets in order to facilitate this new expenditure.

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