



STROUD DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Agenda Item 12

Member Question to Community Services and Licensing Committee – 8 September 2016

QUESTION FROM	QUESTION TO
Councillor Penny Wride	Councillor Steve Robinson
<p>“It has become apparent that Neighbourhood wardens are increasingly carrying out extra duties for the Housing department.</p> <p>Is this correct and for how long will it continue?”</p>	<p>In the last month, the Neighbourhood Warden team have been working more closely with colleagues in Tenant Services. Initially a 6 month trial, it is hoped the working arrangement will be mutually beneficial and continue beyond this. The wardens are undertaking work which is in line with their role; monitoring and contributing to the safety, quality and maintenance of communities and estates.</p> <p>Although early days, the wardens have found the inspections a useful catalyst for resident interaction and considering that our estates are now at least 50% private owner occupied, it provides access to a cross section of communities, all of whom are council tax payers.</p> <p>In return for specific HRA funding, each warden will be inspecting a number of council owned houses/flats on a monthly basis and reporting their findings to the appropriate Tenancy Management Officer.</p> <p>This arrangement represents a cross cutting, corporate approach to working, that was borne out of the Community and Facilities review. It is not anticipated that it will adversely affect other aspects of the service offered by the wardens.</p>

Supplementary Councillor Penny Wride	
Does the HRA cover the cost of neighbourhood wardens or are the Town and Parish Councils expected to bear the cost.	The Community and Facilities Manager replied to this question. Approximately 50% of the Town and Parish Councils are contributing to the service. Feedback received has been very positive and wardens are concentrating on their particular areas, helping the community, housing tenants, issuing FPNs and PCNs when necessary. This is a non statutory service which is valued by the community. Tenant Services are contributing towards time spent undertaking tenant services checks.