

## Agenda item 11

For decision - To recruit an additional part-time Town Ranger

Author: Chris Stringer, Environment Manager

### Summary

This report recommends the recruitment of an additional part-time Ranger – and details the reasons for this request.

### What we do

FTC looks after approximately 62 acres of the town's parks and green spaces (over 250,000 square metres). As such, the four-person Ranger team is seen around the town more than any other part of the Council and their work on open spaces is one of the best adverts for the Council. To ensure our open spaces are maintained to a high standard it is important we resource the Ranger team sufficiently.

As noted in the update that was presented at Council Matters on 9 May, the work of the Ranger team across the parks and open spaces has increased and will continue to increase in the coming months when land at Tower View on the Mount and land at Packsaddle comes on stream. We also need to take into account the amount of extra work resulting from being more involved with the day to day management of the Millennium Green.

Our Ranger led community engagement work is increasing as we host more volunteer programmes for a larger range of organisations. Lastly, most of the events other staff organise are held on FTC land and there's an expectation that the Ranger team will be available to support these. The extra work associated with the Boyle Cross project also needs to be taken into account.

The pressure on the Ranger team is building and they are struggling to keep on top of their planned work. Their ability to react to problems (and opportunities) and carry out work off the FTC estate such as painting railings, cleaning signage, clearing rubbish and cutting back scrub on the riverbank has diminished and extra resources are required.

### Proposal

It is proposed to recruit an additional permanent part time Ranger .

Including on-costs, the cost of a Ranger for 22 hours (three days) would be approximately £13k. This has not been accounted for in the 2018/19 staff budget. There is, however, a £30k surplus in the General Reserve and it is proposed that £13k is transferred from the General Reserve to the staff budget.

## Recommendations

1. Delegate to the Environment Manager the recruitment of a permanent Town Ranger (up to 22 hours per week).
2. Transfer £13k from the General Reserve to the staff budget