

Report of the Town Clerk

Community Payback

Background

1. Community Payback is unpaid work like removing graffiti, clearing wasteland, or decorating public places and buildings - for example, a community centre. Individuals subject to perform community payback as a result of a court order usually work in their local area, and are managed by a Community Payback supervisor. Community Payback work will be arranged outside working hours if the individual has a job, for example evenings or weekends.
2. The community rehabilitation company for Northumbria has individuals performing community payback in Berwick, but is suffering from a dearth of suitable opportunities for their clients. Typically their client group is capable of performing manual labour and horticultural work, including the use of power tools, strimmers and mowers.
3. The CRC have approached the Town Council and Northumberland County Council (NCC) as potential partners who can nominate work suitable for their clients to undertake, which would not see the Community Payback group substituting for work NCC would routinely undertake.
4. An example of work which has been suggested is weed suppression and undergrowth cutting around the coastal path at Magdalene Fields.

Issues

1. Councillors are asked to indicate if they are happy with the notion of the Community Payback group performing work on projects nominated by Northumberland County Council and the town council together, via the local services board.